

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

March 2021 Newsletter

Twenty-seven Participate in Ash Wednesday Drive-by Holy Communion

On Ash Wednesday afternoon, February 17, Holy Communion and application of ashes were offered by Rector, Fr. Stephen Becker in our church lot. Twenty-seven participated. The next Drive-by Holy Communion, March 17, 4:30.



Phyllis and Jean-Charles arrive for Holy Communion



Bob Rinaldi assists Fr. Stephen in serving Holy Communion

First Virtual Lenten Service Held Feb. 25

Our first Lenten service, led by Bishop Sam Rodman, focused on Beloved Fellowship. Fifteen parishioners joined in sharing the joys of St. MM's "Beloved Fellowship" and reflected on ways we might be more connected with our community by seeking way to serve our neighbors.

There will be four more virtual Lenten services, as listed in the calendar above. Watch for a link to join in.

Fr. Fred Thompson will lead the next service March 4, when we will discuss the importance of "Hope."

Due to Covid 19, church gatherings have been suspended until further notice

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Tuesday Morning – Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m., from home. Prayer list is available. Contact Phyllis Marion
March Lenten schedule listed below. You will receive a link to attend:
March 17-Drive-by Communion 4:30
March 24 – Virtual Vestry Meeting, 3:00 p.m. –*All Are Welcome! If you wish to join in, contact Bob Rinaldi for a Zoom link.*
March 27- Articles for April Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson.

DATES FOR LENTEN SPEAKERS:

Mark your calendars.

Thursday, March 4 th	The Rev. Fred Thompson
Thursday, March 11 th	Canon David Sellery
Thursday, March 18 th	The Rev. Barbara Cooke
Thursday, March 25 th	Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple

SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT PLANNED

Bob Rinaldi

Hello SMM Golfers and others,
Yes, we are excited to try again and kick off spring with our Annual Charity Golf Tournament that helps us support local military organizations. The tournament will be played at Seven Lakes Golf Club on Sunday, March 28, 2021. We feel that it has rained so much this year that it can't rain that Sunday !!!

We would like to have as many teams and groupings as possible, Men's, Women's and Mixed, so please spread the word and email either Bob Rinaldi or Charlotte Kennedy your team roster. Name, Handicap and Email addresses are needed.

We appreciate your help in making this year's tournament the best ever. Looking forward to seeing you on the course.

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church Golf Committee.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Lindsay Douglas
 Lin Cox
 Barbara Keiffer
 Peter Olson
 Andrea Schmidt
 Sherol Grigerick



No March Anniversaries

Sharing the Light of Christ

Fr. Stephen

One question we were asked to reflect upon as we prepared for our first Lenten program with Bishop Sam was, "Can you think of examples from scripture that show us what Beloved Community looks like?" One of the scriptures that I chose in response to this question is from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where he says, ***"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."***¹ We saw a living example of this in our community when Linda and Bill Lindner, and many others, led our church to offer practical expressions of love to a local nursing home. These small acts of love made such an impact that even a local newspaper wrote a front-page article to cover the event. It seems that we are often unaware that a small act of kindness, a kind smile, or a gentle word of encouragement can make a difference that can change people's lives. Jesus is telling us in this verse that God designs us to be radiant beacons that spread his love and hope in the darkest of places. The light that we are given in Christ is not for ourselves but others so that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.

Yours in Christ,

¹ Matthew 5:14 New KJV

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND, TEENY



Teeny Thompson, wife of former St. MM Rector, The Rev. Fred Thompson, passed away February 7, 2021. We loved and admired Teeny and grieve at her passing.

The Rev. Tally Bandy: When Claude and I moved to North Carolina 27 years ago, I was told that there were two people I HAD to meet, Teeny and Fred Thompson. Meeting them, I immediately understood why. Over my long years in the church I have heard plenty of negative comments about priests and their wives. I can put my hand on the Bible and say I've never heard an unkind word about Teeny and Fred. We have all loved them both. I grieve that Teeny is no longer in our sight but she will always be in my heart. Her sense of humor still makes me laugh. After Fred preached I would say to Teeny, "What a good sermon," and she would say, "I've heard better." With no disrespect to Fred, I learned early on that Teeny wore the pants in that family. When they were in high school she asked him if he would like to go on a hayride. He asked who he would go with. "With me," she said. Teeny knew a good thing when she saw it even when they were just kids and Fred knew he had found his life-companion. My memories go on and on.

Phyllis Olson: In 2008, Teeny asked if I would help her make a quilt. I agreed, and she came to my house with her fabric and we got started. All afternoon we cut, sewed, pressed, and worked really hard creating the beginning of a beautiful quilt. At the end of the day she said, "This is not as much fun as bridge." A couple of weeks later I asked if it was time to work on the quilt again. She said, "Oh, I gave that project to Jean Brown. I'd rather play bridge."

Donna McClung: Joyful, loving, thoughtful, and spicy,...that's how I would describe Teeny. She and Jeanne Helmstetter encouraged me to volunteer at the Thrift Shop soon after I joined St. MM. Teeny was my mentor at the shop and in life. Memories of happiness and laughter at our shop coffee breaks fill my heart. Her joy and

laughter were contagious, her love of Fred, family, friends and God were inspiring. She always had a twinkle in her eyes and a bit of spice in her conversations. What wonderful memories Fred, their family and all her friends must have! Thank you, Teeny for your counsel. We miss you every day. Donna

Julia Poisson: When Fr. Fred and Teeny were serving in my previous church in Wadesboro, my mother-in-law was Teeny's best friend.

Bob Rinaldi: Once I asked Teeny if the Thompsons had had a good Christmas. She said, "We had a nice gathering at our house, but the best part of the day was seeing the tail-lights of the cars as they drove away."

Bette Hanham: It's hard to think of Teeny and not smile. She told outrageous stories about the antics of her childhood, and, of course, such boldness, candor and sense of fun continued throughout her life. She was gregarious and sometimes Fred had a hard time dragging her away from coffee hour. He would patiently stand at the door, waiting for Teeny to make her rounds talking to everyone present.

Martha Ragland: It was a delight to work with Teeny at the Thrift Shop. I always enjoyed her down to earth comments and her wonderful sense of humor. When she switched work days, our Monday group really missed her. At church, at the shop, or wherever she was, she always brightened the day, and I'm thankful I had an opportunity to know her.

Fr. Bob Brown:

When I think of Teeny Thompson, whom I knew for over 17 years when I lived in North Carolina, I think of a most gracious Southern Lady. She was hospitality personified, always ready to be of assistance no matter the need, ready with a smile and a kind word, and faithful to the activities at St. MM. She was polite and just, well you know, nice. She had a marvelous sense of humor and came up with some extremely funny things.

The one trait I will always honor and hold in my heart is Teeny's quiet, persistent love for Fred Thompson. People don't really appreciate what it means to a woman when her husband comes home and announces he is committed to becoming a priest. Adjustments come as he trudges off to school for years preparing to be a clergyman. Teeny made those adjustments. After Fred's training, with each new assignment, she had to leave her friends and relatives, pack up and move to a strange place

and start all over again. Being the pastor's wife means proofreading sermons and sometimes offering advice. All these things Teeny did with grace (and probably with her sense of humor shining through). She also did these things because she was strong, and fiercely in love with her husband. She honored her vow, "to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death."

I think Teeny loved Jesus in a quiet but steadfast way, and I think she loved Him because He taught her how to love. And she realized that her life was an abundant life because she had learned how to love.

I thank God that I came south and had a friend called Teeny Thompson.



OUTREACH

St. MM Begins Nursing Home Project

Linda Lindner and Julia Poisson are leading our ongoing outreach project at Seven Lakes Assisted Living and Memory Care. The following items have been requested to enhance the activity program there:

*Adult Coloring Books
Colored Pencils/Markers/Crayons/Sharpies
Board Games/Checkers/Flashcards/Dominoes
Card Stock/ Paper /Construction Paper/
Books /Puzzles/Sudoku/Crossword
Non-Toxic Paint Play Dough/ Stationery and
Stamps/ Nail Polish and Remover/
Play Sand and Seashells/Clothespins/ Glue Sticks
/Paint Brushes/Paint Sponges/ Felt Paper Crafts/
Q-Tips /Cotton Balls/ Glue*

These donated items can be left in the box on the round table in the parish hall at the church or in the box outside by the front door of the church.

Monthly deliveries will be made. **Please call Linda**

(315-945-1320) or Julia (910-673-0425) if you need more info.

(FYI: St. MM was featured in the most recent issue of *The Seven Lakes Times* regarding this project. You can read the article on line.)



Kim on duty, videoing the February virtual worship service

ST. MM PROVIDES SPACE FOR TaxAide PROGRAM

AARP Foundation's TaxAide program will be using the church for tax preparation Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:30 until 2:00, through April 9th. There is no "client interaction" at this site, only a maximum of four preparers working. If you wish to have the program assist you with your taxes, you should call the AARP Foundation TaxAide number (910-466-1441) and set up an appointment to drop off your paperwork at Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Please note that they are giving priority to those who have used them in the past, and later slots will fill up quickly.

Something to Ponder:

Life is short.

There is little time to gladden the heart

Of those who go the journey with us.

So be quick to love,

And make haste to be kind.

AROUND THE PARISH



Dale Schmidt inherited his mother's extensive journals and has turned them into an account of the family, for the family. There will be a total of three books with the first one, a 250 page volume, now complete. There will be two more volumes, each approximately 250 pages. Daughter Renee is assisting him, serving as editor. Writing a book is a monumental undertaking and we heartily commend him.

Sherol Grigerick has also inherited her late father's journals with a request from him that she assemble them into a family record. Sherol is nearing completion of the book which contains heart-warming accounts of her father's experiences as a Baptist minister. Sherol hopes to publish this book in 2021.



Schmidt grandson, Giuseppe



Olson grandchildren, Sam and Katie



Jim Grigerick and Evan 2014



Ellen, Fr. Stephen, Molly and Cyrus
Christmas 2020

file photos



Peggy, Julia and Suzanne enjoy coffee hour 2015



Shrove Tuesday 2017
Ray cooks the pancakes

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Vestry Members

Senior Warden –Bob Rinaldi
Junior Warden –Julia Poisson
Charlotte Kennedy, Linda Lindner, Phyllis Marion, Skip Ragland, and John Sapp

Treasurer- David Poisson



Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.” **Comedian Steven Wright**



In a Non-smoking Area:
"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."

Copied from the internet

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Thanks, Tim Burgess, for continuing to update our sign.

A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

