

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

August 2021 Newsletter

Altar Guild Stays on Task



Peggy and Julia prepare the altar for worship

A weekly task perhaps some parishioners take for granted is the preparation of the altar for the Sunday services. **Altar Guild duties** include preparing and setting out the elements of Holy Eucharist and preparing the altar vestments which coordinate with the liturgical seasons. They make sure fresh flowers are in place, attend to the candles and rotate the wall hangings.

They are responsible for washing the used linens and disposing of the leftover communion elements according to specified tradition.

The women currently serving St.MM are Jackie Wells, Peggy Loomis, and Julia Poisson. Valerie Doolittle prepares the fresh flowers. We thank all these ladies for their service. There is always a need for more workers. Men are also encouraged to volunteer. Contact Julia.



Shirley and Fr. Ken Kroohs

On July 25, we welcomed Fr. Ken Kroohs as our guest Preacher/Celebrant

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Tuesday Morning – Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m., from home. For the prayer list contact Phyllis Marion.

August 2 – 10:00 a.m. Crafter Monday

*August 11 - Vestry Meeting, 3:00 p.m. **All Are Welcome!***

August 14 – Men’s Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.

August 27 – Articles for September Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson.

FYI: *Plans are underway to resume Coffee and Contemplation.*

Nov. 19-20- Diocesan Convention – Delegates are Phyllis Marion and Connie Windham

Fall Bazaar, The Merry Market returns - planned for Nov. 20th

Page 3 contains an Emmanuel Thrift Shop story contributed by Donna McClung



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Linda Rinaldi

Lilith Fravel

Julia Poisson

Ed Matthewson

Maureen Miller

Kaelynn Phillips

Bob Miller

Christa Burgess

Phil Cox



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Donna and Ray McClung

Phyllis and Pete Olson

Martha and Skip Ragland

outreach

Linda Lindner, Outreach Chairperson, continues to lead our ministry to Seven Lakes Assisted Living and Memory Care. On July 6, a Fun Day at Seven Lakes Assisted Living was a success with Bob and Linda Rinaldi, Bill and Linda Lindner and Fr. Stephen attending to the chores. Many members of St. MM contributed prizes and food for the event. Another such event will be scheduled in the future.

Linda is making arrangements for some residents to attend Sunday services at St. MM. Fr. Stephen has offered to hold a short worship service at the facility once a month which will include hymn singing.

David Poisson, Church Treasurer, reminds us there is a special fund in the church budget allocated for the residents and their activities. Parishioners are invited to donate to this fund. (Ask Linda Lindner for information)

On Sunday, July 25, "Fidget Quilts" prepared for the Memory Care residents, were blessed by Fr. Ken Kroohs. These small quilts, hand made by Julia Poisson, Jackie Wells and Phyllis Olson, have been delivered to Seven Lakes Assisted Living.

There are many opportunities to help with this project such as sending birthday and holiday cards to the residents. If you would like to know more about helping with this project please let Linda know. (315-945-1320)



The colorful, heavily adorned, tactile quilts are designed to keep restless hands occupied

COFFEE HOUR PHOTOS

St. MM parishioners are happy to resume the traditional after-worship coffee hour.



Linda Lindner and Samantha Parsons enjoy a visit



A lighthearted moment for Brenda



Holden and Kaelynn Skip coffee hour for a little piano practice



Lin, Phil, and Tim



Linda and Martha



Christian Banach sings an inspiring *How Great Thou Art* for worship service, July 11. Christian, son-in-law of Sherol and Jim Grigerick, is a music instructor in Northern Virginia.

Vicar's Reflections

I always bring a good book along with me for spiritual renewal when I'm away on vacation. This past month, when at Myrtle Beach, I chose the book *Hope in Times of Fear*, by Timothy Keller. Keller describes what the Church is called to be by quoting from the Apostle Paul, who makes a stark contrast between "those whose mind is set on earthly things," and those whose "citizenship is in heaven."¹ The original word he uses for citizenship is "politeuma,"² which could also be translated as a commonwealth. The English word for politics evolved from this word, and it depicts something about God's intention for the Church.

We are meant to be a community that has both laws and loyalties based on the life of heaven. The Church is not simply a collection of individuals who are forgiven. We have a more significant objective than mere self-fulfillment. Saint Peter calls us "a holy nation, distinct and set apart for the purpose of declaring the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."³ We are far from perfect, but God is not finished with us yet. There is much work to be done as we endeavor to show the world what a new humanity can be as we allow the Holy Spirit to heal the sinful effects of sin that cause us all to fall short of His glory.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen".



Two men meet on opposite sides of a river. One shouts to the other, "I need you to help me get to the other side!" The other guy replies, "You're on the other side!"

EMMA, THE STOWAWAY KITTY A Thrift Shop Story

I am a proud volunteer at Emmanuel Thrift Shop. I work on Wednesday mornings when we receive, sort, and price the items so generously donated by area residents. On a recent Wednesday I was working alongside several other volunteers when a lady stuck her head inside the door and asked, "Does anyone in here own a blue Lexus?"

We exchanged glances before someone said, "Yes, I do."

"Well, you need to come out here. I think a cat's stuck under your vehicle."

"Oh my!" she said. "As I was driving in I thought I heard a cat meowing, but I couldn't believe my ears so I kept driving."

Curious, my co-workers and I went outside. When the car hood was raised there was no kitty in sight. Then we heard a faint meow. Two firemen nearby saw the hood up and walked over, ready to help someone in distress. When we told them the real problem, without hesitation they hit the steamy July pavement and scooted under the Lexus. "Yep, there's a cat under here."

"Can you get him out?"

"Yes, but it's not going to be easy. She's just out of reach. It's a calico."

Soon a fireman emerged holding the frightened kitten, who quickly freed herself and scampered into the bushes. The chase was on. To make a long story shorter, we captured the kitty, and thanked the wonderful firemen. A co-worker retrieved a pet crate from her car, which unfortunately was too big for our purpose and the desperate kitty squeezed through the bars and escaped again. It took bread and butter from a nearby restaurant to lure her back. Now the whole community was involved!

Soon a church staff member dropped off a donation and I boldly asked, "Would you like a kitty?"

¹ Philippians 3:19-20

² Strong's Concordance, # 4175,

³ 1 Peter 2:9

“As a matter of fact, I might. Our cat was diagnosed with cancer and it’s really hit the family hard.” About an hour later that church staff member returned.

“So you’ve come back for the kitty?” someone asked.

“Yes, we had a family meeting and decided we’d give it a try.”

“That’s wonderful!” I said. “What are you going to name her? You know once you name a kitty you’ll be attached and there’s no turning back.”

“Yes, I know,” he said. “We plan to name her “Emma” short for Emmanuel Church or Emmanuel Thrift Shop.”

We all agreed that was a “purrfect” name for the Lexus stowaway kitty.

There are hundreds of stories regarding Emmanuel Thrift Shop, stories gathered over the many decades the Thrift Shop has served the Moore County area. This is just the latest one. And I was glad to be a part of it. **SANDY FOWLER**



Visit our Website:

<http://WWW.STMMSEVENLAKES.ORG>

The Diocese of North Carolina
Website: www.episdionc.org

~~~~~

## Vestry Members

Senior Warden – Bob Rinaldi

Junior Warden – Julia Poisson

Charlotte Kennedy, Phyllis Marion, Linda Lindner, Skip Ragland, and John Sapp

Treasurer- David Poisson

**St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church**  
**1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, NC**  
**PO Address: Box 456, West End, NC 27376**  
**Telephone: 910 673 3838**

**Website:** <http://WWW.STMMSEVENLAKES.ORG>  
**Email:** [saintmarymagdalenenc@gmail.com](mailto:saintmarymagdalenenc@gmail.com)

The Rev. Stephen Becker, Vicar

Newsletter Editor: Phyllis Olson

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina*

