

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

November 2021 Newsletter



Joyful Celebration at Sequoia Point Raises Money for Outreach

On October 8, St. MM parishioners gathered at Sequoia Point Park to celebrate the end (hopefully) of a long season of isolation and to focus on fund-raising for community outreach.

The covered-dish event replaced the annual yard sale as a fund-raiser, as many faithful workers expressed weariness at the demands of staging a yard sale, feeling the return was not commensurate with the time and effort involved.

Instead, personal pledges were requested and parishioners gladly joined in, donating over \$2,700. After a study, the vestry will allocate the funds according to community needs.

We heartily thank all who planned, participated, and donated to this event, and we celebrate the generosity of our congregation.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Julie Wahl
Tessa Fravel
Lucy Dunn Martin
Holden Brown



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Lin and Phil Cox
Andrea and Dale Schmidt

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 7 – *Stewardship Potluck luncheon following worship service – sign-up sheets on round table*
Nov. 9 and Nov. 23 - *Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m. Prayer list available. Contact Phyllis Marion*
Nov. 13 – *Men's Breakfast – 9:00 a.m. (starting a new study) Join us!*
Nov. 17 - *Vestry Meeting, 3:00 p.m. – (Third Wednesday of each Month) - All Are Welcome!*
Nov. 19 - *Prep for Merry Market – Info coming your way*
Nov. 20 – *Merry Market at the church*
Nov. 27 – *Articles for December Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson.*



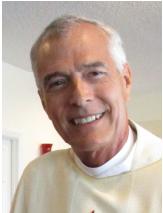
MERRY MARKET

Plans for the fall bazaar, **Merry Market**, are underway with Julia Poisson as chairperson. The date is November 20. Mark your calendars and please avail yourself to help in any way you can. Vendors are still needed.

Craftsmen/women are asked to create items to be sold with Christmas gifts in mind. Baked items always attract buyers. A great way to help is by being a shopper on Merry Market day.

Ads for this event will be in the *Seven Lakes Insider*, the *Seven Lakes News* and *The Pilot*.

Julia will keep us informed regarding what we can do. Let's make it a merry time. The money raised will go to community outreach.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE VICAR

November begins with the celebration of All Saints' Day on November 1st. Since All Saints' Day is classed in our Prayer Book as a Principal Feast, its observance may be transferred to the following Sunday.¹ This year that day happens to be November 7th when we will also be celebrating Stewardship Sunday.

My favorite definition of a saint came from a young child who gazing at a stained glass window in his church commented, "A saint is someone who lets the light shine through." Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."² Like that stained glass image of a saint, we may be broken and marred, yet the light of Christ still shines through us. And when it happens, it is all because God's grace and mercy have triumphantly reigned.

Therefore the saints that we celebrate on this particular feast day are not those known for their great notoriety and have a feast day named for them. Instead, this is a day for celebrating those who might be considered more down-to-earth. These are the people who have expressed their love for God in very humble, practical and tangible ways without fanfare. In many ways this is a feast day that celebrates the kind of folks we have at St. MM. As your pastor, it always gives me great joy to see your love for each other shine through small acts of kindness. And when your conduct radiates the fragrance of Christ, it always inspires many expressions of thanks to God.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen Becker

1 BCP, p. 15 "The Calendar of the Church Year," 1997, p 410

2 Mathew 5:14

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
Micah 6:9

photo gallery

A good time at Sequoia Point Park



Rain didn't stop the party.



David and John



Lindsay



Kensley and Peggy



Almost sundown – good conversations among Bob, Charlotte, David, and Steve



Sunset on Lake Sequoia --

It was difficult to leave such a beautiful place and such a fine party!

(photos by Charlotte Kennedy and Kim Doolittle)

Healing Service Renewed

In-person Tuesday morning healing service returned on October 12 with six in attendance. Meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Outreach:

Linda Lindner, Outreach The Vestry is considering adopting one or more families to sponsor for Christmas gifts. Linda Lindner obtained information from the "Christmas for Moore" program, and she is also seeking out needy families from guidance counselors at West End Elementary. Contact Linda for any suggestions for this Christmas outreach.

FYI: Individuals continue to create "fidget quilts" for the memory care residents at the Seven Lakes facility, with a goal of one quilt for each resident. Please contact Linda Lindner if you are willing to help.

FYI: Bob Rinaldi and Skip Ragland rotate off the vestry in January 2022. The search is on for replacements.



FYI: A 70th birthday celebration is planned for Fr. Stephen after the service on Sunday, December 5 at the Seven Lakes Country Club.



AUTUMN

The rusty leaves crunch and crackle,
Blue haze hangs from the dimmed sky,
The fields are matted with sun-tanned stalks—
The wind rushes by.
The last red berries hang from the thorn-tree,
The last red leaves fall to the ground.
Bleakness, through the trees and bushes,
Comes without a sound.

God's Love

If God had a refrigerator,
your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet,
your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring, and a sunrise
every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll
listen.

He could live anywhere in the universe, and He
chose your heart.

What about the Christmas gift
He sent you in Bethlehem?

Not to mention that Friday at Calvary.
Face it, He's crazy about you.

Copied



A true optimist is the guy who
falls off a skyscraper and after fifty floors
thinks to himself, *Well, so far so good!*



Don't worry if plan A fails. There
are twenty-five more letters in the alphabet.



*Come, ye thankful people, come. Raise the
song of harvest home.*

Vestry Members

Senior Warden – Bob Rinaldi

Junior Warden – Julia Poisson

Charlotte Kennedy, Phyllis Marion, Linda

Lindner, Skip Ragland, and John Sapp

Treasurer- David Poisson

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*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North
Carolina*

