

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

December 2021 Newsletter



MERRY MARKET EARNS MONEY FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Julia happily finds a buyer for two holiday table runners

Saturday before Thanksgiving, St. MM held its Annual fall Bazaar, **MERRY MARKET**, following a year's break due to Covid 19.

Fees from vendor rentals, plus the sale of arts and craft items and baked good provided by parishioners, brought in a record breaking amount surpassing \$1,000. All net proceeds will be used for community outreach.

We thank Julia for once again leading us through this endeavor, and we thank all who prepared items for sale, those who set up and took down, those who worked on publicity, and those who shopped. Shared work made it a pleasant experience for everyone. Julia reports the vendors were happy with the turn-out and eager for next year's event.



Linda Stevens tends the Linus Project table

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 5 – Birthday Celebration for Fr. Stephen during coffee hour
Dec. 12 ----Combined Annual Meeting and Vestry Meeting following Worship Service
Dec. 14 and 28 - Healing and Intercessory Prayer Service, 11:00 a.m. Prayer list available. Contact Phyllis Marion.
Dec. 19 – Church decoration following coffee hour
December 24 – Christmas Eve Service –Music 8:00 to 8:30 – Holy Eucharist 8:30
December 27- Articles for January Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson



Decorating the Church

Dec. 19, following the worship service we will decorate St. MM for Christmas. Please stay after the service to help. We will need everyone to participate!



December Birthdays

Jane Fisher
Stephen Becker
Dale Schmidt
Mary Ann Matthewson
Fred Thompson
Kensley Wahl



December Anniversaries

Linda and Bob Rinaldi
Maureen and Bob Miller



Vicar's Message

An Advent Story

I once heard a story of a person who woke up sometime between 4:00 and 5:00 a.m., to the singing and chirping of birds. She stepped to the back door to listen, and though there was no evidence of dawn in the morning sky the birds somehow knew daybreak was on its way and they were greeting it with song.

Aren't we as Christians singing in the dark? Aren't we waiting, knowing dawn will break even when there is no evidence of it? Aren't we, in the darkest month of the year, celebrating the hope we have in Christ by lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath?

Our trust in Christ teaches us that we are not without hope even amid the darkest of times. Human history and human life are not meaningless. Instead, we have a direction and purpose that will culminate with the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,



OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTREACH

A collection box has been placed in the church for Christmas gifts of toiletries for the Seven Lakes Assisted Living residents. Gifts should be brought in by December 12.

Additionally, St.MM will be providing gifts for a family recommended by staff at West End Elementary School. A Christmas tree in the fellowship hall holds decorative paper angels, each indicating a specific toy or clothing gift for a child. Parishioners may participate by taking an angel off the tree then indicating their commitment by signing the gift list sheet. The unwrapped gifts should be brought to the church by December 12. They will be taken to the school for delivery to the

family before Christmas. St.MM will also use outreach funds to provide a gift card from Food Lion for the family. Please contact Linda Lindner for further information.

FYI:

Kim Doolittle and Andrea Schmidt are Vestry candidates to replace Bob Rinaldi and Skip Ragland. They will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, December 12.

Bishop Anne will visit St.MM, March 6, 2022.

The Vestry, at the recommendation of the Worship Committee, approved the purchase of thirty-five copies of *Wonder Love and Praise*, a supplement to the 1982 Episcopal Hymnal. *The Liturgical Music Guide* gives weekly suggestions for the use of this supplement for sequence and communion hymns.

The church directory will be updated in January. If you have new information, or if you desire an updated picture, please contact Phyllis Olson.

STEWARSHIP SUNDAY CELEBRATED WITH PARISH BRUNCH

On November 7, St. MM enjoyed sweet fellowship at our Annual Stewardship Brunch following the morning worship service. Once again we learned there are good cooks among us as the table was laden with covered dish specialties.

Pledge cards, made available earlier, were passed on to David, our Treasurer. Pledge cards are still available for anyone who wishes one. The written pledges are helpful as the Budget Committee creates the budget for the coming year.

We thank all who worked to make this event successful, especially Stewardship Chair John Sapp, Linda Sapp who created table decorations, Peggy Loomis, Bob Rinaldi, Julia Poisson and all cooks and workers.

Joy

Looking toward a New Year

Have adventures. Be dazzled by literature, music and art. Dream new dreams. Enjoy people. Laugh often. Know God is on you your side. Love more. Live with joy. **Karen Katafiasz**



---And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men." Luke 2: 13-14

Peace on Earth



If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

Today is the oldest you've ever been, and the youngest you'll ever be again." **Eleanor Roosevelt**

"Old age is always fifteen years older than I am."
Oliver Wendell Holmes

Vestry Members

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

Treasurer- David Poisson

Merry Christmas

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A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

