

# Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

## January 2022 Newsletter

### NEW VESTRY MEMBERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING



Kim Doolittle



Andrea Schmidt

Our Annual Meeting was held December 12, at which time we elected two new vestry members, Kim Doolittle and Andrea Schmidt, to replace outgoing members, Bob Rinaldi and Skip Ragland, faithful servants for the last three years.

Kim has served a number of times at St. MM and at previous churches. Andrea will take on the task for the first time. A hearty thanks to Andrea and Kim for their willingness to serve.

Bob, outgoing Senior Warden, gave a review of our 2021 accomplishments, impressive considering the lingering challenges of the Covid 19 epidemic.

Personal giving remained high throughout the year, outreach projects were more ambitious than ever, and we proved once again we are a loving congregation, tuned in to the needs of our community. And now we begin the challenges of 2022. Pray for God's guidance.

### AS WE ENTER A NEW YEAR:

#### An Irish Blessing:

"May God grant you always...

A sunbeam to warm you,

A moonbeam to charm you,

A sheltering Angel, so nothing can harm you,

Laughter to cheer you,

Faithful friends near you,

And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you.

**The January calendar has been altered considering the recent protocols from the Diocese. Read St. MM's weekly E-notes to learn of updates and clarifications.**

### JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday Morning Healing Services are scheduled for Jan. 11 and Jan. 25, 11:00 a.m. You will be notified by leaders if these will be in person or from home. Intercessory prayer continues. Contact Phyllis Marion for information. [jaymar41@earthlink.net](mailto:jaymar41@earthlink.net)**

**January Vestry Meeting – Date to be announced - All Are Welcome! You will receive by e-mail or E-Note the necessary info regarding this meeting.**

**January 27– Articles for February Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson.**

**Looking ahead: Bishop Anne Copple-Hodges will visit St. MM, March 6, 2022.**



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Linda Sapp  
Linda Lindner  
Steve Loomis



### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jane and Henry Fisher  
Linda and Bill Lindner

**FYI:** The church directory is being updated. Contact Phyllis Olson if your information has changed.



### FR. BOB AND JEAN BROWN VISIT ST. MM

On December 5, our friend and former priest, The Rev. Robert Brown and his wife Jeanne, paid us a visit and we were honored. Coffee hour provided a time for visiting, sharing memories and plans, and enjoying warm fellowship. It was a joy to have them visit. They are now retired, residing in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, near family.

### OUTREACH REPORT



### Phyllis & Linda with fidget quilts sewn for residents at Seven Lakes Memory Loss Unit

### December opportunities for outreach:

The **Toys for Tots** box was picked up December 12, filled with soccer balls, Hot Wheels, puzzles, dolls etc. Our wish was to brighten Christmas for some precious children in our community.

“**Angel Tree**” gifts were purchased using the wish list provided by a local family whom we adopted for the season. The gifts were taken to West End Elementary School to be delivered for Christmas.

Again, it was our privilege to minister to these precious children. The family also received a generous Food Lion gift-certificate.

Continuing our commitment to the residents of **Seven Lakes Assisted Living**, Linda Lindner led in the collection of personal items and toiletries so that

each resident would receive a gift from St. MM. In addition, Linda collected over a dozen “Fidget Quilts and Fidget Boards,” lovingly made by parish women and men to bring comfort to the residents of the memory loss unit.

At year’s end, we have a report that reflects the loving spirit of St. MM. Thanks to all who shopped, wrapped, stitched, donated, delivered and stood ready to help. Linda, our Outreach Chair, is a good team leader. Thank you, Linda Lindner.

### Epiphany Reflections from the Vicar:

The Feast of Epiphany is celebrated on January 6. It’s a feast day that commemorates Christ’s first manifestation to the gentiles as the promised Messiah. The event is described for us in Matthew’s Gospel, where Wise Men from the east were led to Christ by a heavenly sign—a Star that lit the way before them. It guided them first to Jerusalem, where they asked, “*Where is he that is born King of the Jews?*”<sup>1</sup> then the chief priest and scribes directed them to Bethlehem as it was written by the prophet Micah.

It was through the manifestation of a star along with light from Holy Scripture that they were given specific directions needed for the journey. Matthew then says, “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh”<sup>2</sup>

May God also guide us through his word and Spirit as we venture into the New Year to that place where we will see the light of the knowledge of the glory of god in the face of Jesus Christ in each new day.

Fr. Stephen

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 2:2

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 2:11



**Dec. 5, we celebrated Fr. Stephen's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Blessings on you, Fr. Stephen!**



Peggy and her faithful helper decorate the tree in fellowship hall.

**All hands on deck made easy work!**

## **DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> -- DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS**



### **Children Highlight the Christmas Eve Service**

Holden, Kaelynn, Kensley, Lia, Lilith and Tessa brightened our Christmas Eve music program with their beauty and their talents. We heartily thank them.



Poinsettias adorn the altar.  
The creche is in place.



Ornaments are carefully placed.



**When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoners,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart**

***Howard Thurman***



“Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born.” **Albert Einstein**

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The grand essentials in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

**Addison**



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The Rev. Stephen Becker, Vicar

Newsletter Editor: Phyllis Olson

**Vestry Members**

Julia Poisson, Charlotte Kennedy, Phyllis Marion, Linda Lindner, John Sapp, Andrea Schmidt and Kim Doolittle.

Vestry Secretary – Sherol Grigerick

Treasurer- David Poisson

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