

# Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

## June 2022 Newsletter



### A message from the Vicar

A quote from C.S. Lewis profoundly speaks to me regarding disappointing circumstances. It says, “If you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you find it quite intolerable: think of it as a place of training and correction and it is not so bad.”<sup>1</sup>

The quote came to my attention recently while Ellen and I were on vacation. At Lake Tahoe, an unusual cold front blew in from Canada causing the temperature to drop down to 16° degrees over-night. Ellen hates the cold and was quite upset, wondering if we had made a mistake planning the trip. I told her, “Let’s do what Paul did when he encouraged the believers in the New Testament: “Give thanks in all circumstances.”<sup>2</sup> Honestly, our feelings were not in it, but we did it anyway. And, as C.S. Lewis commented, it took some “correction and discipline” in our outlook.

I said to Ellen, “Let’s let God surprise us.” The next day we woke up to one of the most beautiful winter landscapes we had ever seen. When I posted a picture of it on Facebook, a friend teasingly commented that it must be a picture of a Thomas Kinkade painting.

Giving God thanks, even when it’s hard, has a way of turning things around. It changes our perspective and opens our eyes to see the glory of God at work in the most surprising circumstances. Isaiah declared, “the whole earth is filled with his glory.”<sup>3</sup> It is waiting to be seen by those who have a thankful heart.

Yours in Christ,

<sup>1</sup>C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*, page 52, (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1994).

<sup>2</sup>1 Thessalonians 5:18

<sup>3</sup>Isaiah 6:3

### JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 5 – The Day of Pentecost, Holy Eucharist**

**June 12 - Trinity Sunday, Holy Eucharist**

**June 15 – (Wednesday) Coffee and Contemplation planned for the afternoon - Details forthcoming**

**June 14 and June 28 - Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m. (Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month)**

**No Vestry Meeting planned for June**

**June 27– Articles for July Newsletter are due.**

**Contact Phyllis Olson.**



### Sunday June 5 -The Day of Pentecost,

On the day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame. It’s a day to wear your red garments.



### June Birthdays

Dodie Lynn

Jessie Mackay

Henry Fisher

Crystal Fravel

Bette Hanham

John Sapp



### June Anniversaries

Phyllis and Jean-Charles Marion

## **REGARDING THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ON SEVEN LAKES DRIVE:**

Construction on Seven Lakes Drive will likely begin in September or October. The impact on our services during and after this period is unclear. Vestry members are looking into alternative sites for temporary use during this period and may also consider permanent sites as the impact becomes more clear.

Kim Doolittle continues to be the liaison with the State of NC. The Diocese will be included in all considerations.

St.MM congregation will be advised of all proceedings and given opportunities for input regarding right-of-way construction, its impact on St.MM, and the search for temporary rental space and other contingencies during this process.

Contact persons: John Sapp, Senior Warden, and Kim Doolittle, Liaison with the State of NC.



### **ERNIE MILLER, ST. MM CHARTER MEMBER, PASSES**

Ernest Oliver Miller, our friend and a founding member of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, died May 1, 2022, at the age of 96. He was the beloved husband of the late Doris (Gildersleeve) and the brother-in-law of our former member, Jeanne Helmstetter.

He had a long career with the AT&T/Bell System. Upon retirement, Ernie and Doris moved from Michigan to Seven Lakes, where he enjoyed his golden years in a lakeside cottage home. He was an enthusiastic golfer and a long-time member of Seven Lakes Golf Club.

As an active member of St. MM, he served several terms on the vestry and for a time was the church treasurer. He loved singing with men's choral

groups (The Tar Heel Chorus and the Rivermen) and enjoying playing bingo at River Landing.

Ernie will be interred in the Seven Lakes Cemetery Columbarium next to Doris.

## **OUTREACH**



Charlotte Kennedy and Linda Rinaldi attend to registration at the golf tournament

### **Distribution of Net Proceeds from Spring Golf Tournament determined at May Vestry Meeting**

Church Treasurer, David Poisson, reported that net profit from the golf tournament was \$4,080. We heartily thank Jim Douglass, Bob Rinaldi, Charlotte Kennedy, Bill Lindner, and others for their work and efforts.

The vestry voted to split the net profits from the golf tournament into thirds: Approximately \$1300 to the Vietnam Vets, \$1300 to Military Missions in Action, and the balance to local charities.

Jim Douglass, vestry member and spokesperson for the event, reported the weather was pleasant, the participation impressive, and the raffle very successful. Seven Lakes Golf Club management and facility were accommodating and Jim heartily recommends returning to Seven Lakes Golf Club for next year's event.



### **A REMINDER**

There is a collection box in the narthex for non-perishable food items which will be made available to needy families through The Moore County Coalition. Please consider your blessings and be generous in this outreach effort.



**Tessa is 2022 June Graduate**

Tessa Fravel, daughter of Crystal and Jared Fravel and granddaughter of Julia and David Poisson, is a 2022 graduate of Pinecrest High School. At PHS she was an active member of the school drama team. Deacon Carol Burgess was Tessa's early violin teacher, and Tessa has continued this pursuit, sometimes honoring St. MM with violin music for special services.

She has been an employee of the Seven Lakes Stables for three years and will continue her job there throughout the summer. In September she will be a student at Lenoir Rhyne University with plans to become an Occupational Therapist.

Well done, Tessa. Congratulations, and Godspeed!

### **Coffee and Contemplation planned for a Wednesday afternoon**

Fr. Stephen plans to begin a Coffee and Contemplation study group on **Wednesday, June 15,** at the church. The topic will center on spiritual growth.

Parishioners may make appointments to drop in during that afternoon for a conversation with him. Specific plans will be made known.



The Grigerick grandchildren, Evan and Elana, sing an Easter Anthem

### **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."



Good judgment comes from experience, which is often a direct result of bad judgment.

You never really know what you have, until you clean your house.

Copied – Karen Friday Randall

### **Vestry Members**

Senior Warden – John Sapp  
Junior Warden – Julia Poisson  
Phyllis Marion, Linda Lindner, Kim Doolittle, Tim Burgess and Jim Douglass

Vestry Secretary – Sherol Grigerick  
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***

