

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

March 2022 Newsletter

Message from our Vicar

One of my favorite childhood games involved my brother and me spinning round and round then seeing which one could be first to reach a designated spot such as a tree or a pole. Often we were so dizzy from the experience we could hardly stand up. I later learned that one of the tricks to maintaining balance is to focus on a single point as you make a full spin.

As I reflect on the experience, it seems that we all face twists and turns in life that tend to throw us off balance. During such times a reference point outside of ourselves is needed in our Christian journey. That reference point is Christ. He is the rock of our salvation on which we build our trust.

It has been a custom of the Church to use the season of Lent, which begins on Wednesday, March 2nd, to reconnect us to the reference points that lead us to Him. I hope you will join us for the Thursday night Lenten series which starts on March 10th, when we will be talking more about those reference points.

Stephen



Please make every effort to be present March 6, when Bishop Anne will be our Preacher/ Celebrant and our coffee hour guest at which time we will also have a parish meeting.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.
March 6 - First Sunday in Lent - Bishop Anne Hodges-Coppell, Preacher and Celebrant
March 8 and 22 - 11:00 a.m., Tuesday Healing & Intercessory Prayer Service
March 21 - Vestry Meeting, 3:00 p.m. – (Third Monday of each Month) - *All Are Welcome!*
***Lenten suppers on March 10, 17, 24, and 31 – 6:00 p.m. Watch the weekly E-notes for more information.**

March 27 – Articles for April Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson.



March Birthdays

Lindsay Douglass
Lin Cox
Peter Olson
Andrea Schmidt
Sherol Grigerick



March Anniversaries

None this month

Lenten Suppers Planned

for Thursday evenings during Lent

As in the past, during Lent we will gather on Thursday evenings, 6:00 p.m., for soup and bread suppers. (See the dates listed in the calendar above) We'll need two pots of soup each week plus bread. Sign-up sheets will be on the round table near the front door.

Supper will be followed by a study time.

The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth, Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Hillsborough, NC, will lead the first Lenten study on March 10th.

OUTREACH REPORT

It was a Happy Valentine's Day for Seven Lakes Assisted Living and Memory Care residents thanks to the generous donations of eighty Valentine's Day cards from SMM parishioners and local residents. Cards were delivered to all residents plus thirty-three staff members thanks to your donations. These beautiful, colorful cards will bring continued happiness to all -- many residents do not normally receive cards on these occasions.

We are always looking for help and ideas for Birthday cards, St. Patrick's Day (March 17th), Palm Sunday (April 10th) and Easter Sunday (April 17th). Please let me know your ideas and suggestions; we can do more together. God's Love is a Blessing to Share! Thank you for sharing.

Linda Lindner
315-945-1320
blindner@ottcmail.com

Parishioners again enjoy the blessing of fellowship time



Jim and Kim



Linda Sapp and Fr. Stephen



Brenda, Phyllis and Sherol

*Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.*

Desmond Tutu, South Africa



Steve Loomis faithfully secures the doors at the end of each service. Thank you, Steve.



Bob Miller provides taxi service for Maureen to Tuesday Prayer/Healing Service

HEALING AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER SERVICES RESUME

Phyllis Olson

Healing and Intercessory Prayer Services have resumed -- now being held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 11:00 A.M. **All Are Welcome!!**

Recently we shared our gains and losses during Covid isolation. One worried over her grandchildren's separation from peers and the disruption of educational opportunities. Another fell sorrow when her teenage grandson's European choir tour was shelved, a chance of a lifetime lost forever. Some experienced a loss of social time with friends, often feeling stranded in place. These personal experiences, and much more, created genuine sadness.

On a brighter side, some experienced personal growth, more time for prayer and reflection, reading, enjoying home and companions with few outside expectations and pressures - in general a new freedom.

Through it all, maybe we've learned something about ourselves and those on whom we depend. Perhaps some have gained admiration for our Presiding Bishop who continually considered what was best for "his Flock." Maybe we learned to appreciate each day's blessings, maybe the blessing of life itself.

FYI

*Phyllis Marion, who maintains our parish prayer list aided by the Tuesday Prayer Service attendees, reminds us it is important to keep the list up to date. Those requesting prayers are asked to remove names when appropriate. The list is sent out on Saturday mornings; updates are needed prior to that. Thank you for your help.

*On a recent Wednesday, the Men's Breakfast group helped Rev. Tally move from her Whispering Pines home to Penick Village.

Her new address is:

528 Katavolos St. Apt. 8208
Southern Pines, NC 28387
Cell 910-603-5993

*Dr. Moses Motonya, Tanzania, sends love to St. MM and hopes to visit soon. (Per Rev. Tally)

* Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 24. Bob Rinaldi, Jim Douglass and Bill Lindner will be co-chairs of this event. Details will be forthcoming.



HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT NOW IN USE
Copies of *Wonder Love and Praise*, a supplement to the Episcopal Hymnal 1982, have arrived and are now the source of new music for our worship services. Sherol Grigerick spearheaded this effort and we thank her.



Someone asked me, "If you were stranded on a desert island what book would you bring?"
"How to Build a Boat" *Stephen Wright*

I'm going to stand outside, so if anyone asks, I am outstanding. *Internet*

"I'm not superstitious, but I am little stitious."
Michael Scott (Steve Carell) The Office



Ellen and Fr. Stephen board their RV, heading for a winter break in Florida

Vestry Members

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

Vestry Secretary – Sherol Grigerick
Treasurer- David Poisson

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A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

