

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

March 2023 Newsletter



FROM THE VICAR

The Church calendar year was designed to impart spiritual balance as it reinforces major themes in salvation history. Church seasons function much like Israel's feast days that reminded its citizens of everything that God had done for them. This memory was the basis of their worship and was the cause for great rejoicing. The Psalmist David exclaimed, "May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, 'The LORD is great!'"¹

Due to the presence of sin there were sub-themes in their worship, sometimes somber in tone. Israel had the Day of Atonement. Liturgical churches today have the Season of Lent, emphasizing repentance.

Throughout our lives, there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance."² Feeling sorrow for one's sin, along with rejoicing in God's loving kindness, brings wholeness. Both take time to develop. Soul-searching and repentance are difficult, but in the end, they are gifts.

Therefore, let's not neglect this aspect of spiritual discipline as we prepare for a Holy Lent. Let's allow ourselves time for God to bring healing and wholeness to all areas of our lives.

¹ Psalm 70:4

² Ecclesiastes 3:4

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 14 and 28, Healing & Intercessory Prayer
(2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month) 11:00 a.m.

March 12 - Bishop Bane will lead Coffee and Contemplation using portions of his book as a discussion starter. (He will also lead Coffee and Contemplation April 23rd using the same book.)

Lenten Dinners – March 2, 9, 16, 23 - 5:30 p.m.

March 22 - Vestry Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – All Are Welcome!

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



March Birthdays

Lindsay Douglass.	3
Pete Olson	10
Andrea Schmidt.	19
Sherol Grigerick.	28



March Anniversaries

No anniversaries in March



During the Season of Lent, the beautiful floral arrangements which normally adorn our chancel area are replaced with plain foliage each Sunday.



Volunteers are needed to bring soup and bread for the four Lenten suppers. Please sign-up. Bishop Sam Rodman will lead the first program via Zoom. The remaining three programs will be lead by Rev. Sarah Morris, Rev. Dr. Sherry Adams, and Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson.

Tuesday Healing-Prayer Service Thrives



Andrea, Shirley, Bette, Phyllis, Maureen & Christa, attend Tuesday Healing Service along with Sherol (not pictured) the leader.

Often the group departs for lunch together at a place of their choosing. All are invited to participate and be refreshed.



THANK YOU



Thanks to Bob Rinaldi for leading us in a successful **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. Thanks also to all who worked with him to make it happen. Seventeen attended, including one guest from the Literacy Council class that meets in our building on Tuesday evenings.



Bob and Steve man two pancake griddles



Jane, Peggy, and Bette wait for the pancakes to be served



Jim helps set the tables



Sherol's student, Alma, is our special guest.



An Invitation to Cursillo --April 20-23, 2023 Camp Walter Johnson, Denton NC

Cursillo means "a short course." It is a renewal moment in the church that presents a short course to help men and women understand their calling to grow deeper in their relationship with God, and it supports an ongoing development of Christian leadership.

During the weekend, participants experience community as they learn, pray, sing, and share personal insights into what it means to live for Christ in fruitful service.

If you would like to learn more about how you can be a participant, don't hesitate to contact Stephen or go directly to the Cursillo website at [NC Episcopal Cursillo \(nccursillo.org\)](https://www.nccursillo.org). Scholarships are available.

OPPORTUNITIES:



Greeters/Ushers Always Needed

Consider serving as an usher, the one in place early to greet worshippers with a bulletin, a smile and a warm welcome to St. MM.



Coalition Food Bank

With food prices soaring, some families struggle with food security. Your donated food items can be placed in the designated basket and Pete Olson will deliver them to the Coalition on Monday morning.



Coffee Hour Treats

We can have coffee hour without cookies, but cookies make it more pleasant. Store-bought treats are just fine. There's a sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Ernie Martin Memorial Service

St.MM has been asked to provide food for the reception following the April 15th memorial service for Ernie Martin at the Chapel in the Pines. Specific details will be provided.



To make you smile:

An elderly gentleman had suffered a hearing loss for a number of years. He went to the doctor and was fitted for hearing aids that allowed him to hear 100%. After a time, he went back for a routine check-up and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

Copied



Our dear friend, Jeanne Helmstetter passed away in November and left this framed picture of our altar. Her daughter is making it available to someone who would treasure it. Be in touch with Fr. Stephen if you are interested.

Vestry Members

Senior Warden – Bob Rinaldi
Junior Warden – Sherol Grigerick
Linda Lindner, John Sapp, Steve Loomis and
Jim Douglass

Vestry Secretary – Sherol Grigerick
Treasurer- David Poisson
Jim Douglass - Webmaster

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

The Rev. Stephen Becker, Vicar
The Rt. Rev. David C. Bane, Jr.
Bishop in Residence

Newsletter Editors:
Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

***A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North
Carolina***

