

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

April 2023 Newsletter



Reflections on Holy Week

Fr. Stephen

This year on April 2nd, we begin the celebration of Holy Week with Palm Sunday. Its liturgy directs us to pray “that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality.”¹ The Passion Gospel, often divided into parts, will be read this Sunday. Later in the week, on Maundy Thursday (a name derived from the Latin word for a mandate or command), we remember the Last Supper, when Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. On this night, our Lord gave us a “new commandment to love one another just as I have loved you.”² In a demonstration of what this new mandate means, Jesus said, “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”³ For “if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, then you ought also to wash one another’s feet.”⁴ Lastly, on Good Friday, our focus this year will be on one of the last sayings of Christ from the cross.

May we complete the observance of a Holy Lent with the satisfaction that we have run well the race set before us.

¹ The Collect for The Liturgy of the Palms, BCP, p. 270

² John 13:34

³ John 13:15

⁴ John 13:14

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11 and 25, Healing & Intercessory Prayer,

11:00 a.m. (2nd and 4th Tuesday each month)

April 2 – Palm Sunday - Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

April 2 -Sunday Brunch at Pine Crest Inn- 11:30 a.m.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM service of Holy Eucharist

April 7 –Good Friday, 12:00 noon, Good Friday liturgy and sermon by Bishop David Bane

April 9 –Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

April 15th -Memorial service for Ernie Martin, 11:00 a.m., Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes

April 23rd – Bishop Bane to lead Coffee and Contemplation using portions of his book as a discussion starter.

April 27 Vestry Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – *All Are Welcome!*

April 27 – *Articles for the May Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick*



April Birthdays

Jim Douglass	1
Skip Ragland	1
Ellen Becker	5
Jim Grigerick	7
Lia Fravel	13
Charlotte Kennedy	18
Bill Yarish	19



April Anniversaries

Jackie and Bill Wells 29



Dear Golfers,

We are excited to announce our St. Mary Magdalene **Annual Charity Golf Tournament**, supporting our local military organizations. The event will be held Sunday, **May 7, 2023** at Seven Lakes Golf Course.

Support has been strong for this event in the past and we want to give all an opportunity to get a foursome scheduled early. Details are forthcoming.

Help is needed to solicit sponsors and secure raffle items and prizes.

Questions? Contact Bob Rinaldi (brinaldi1614@gmail.com) or Steve Loomis (sloomis53@hotmail.com)
Looking forward to seeing you in May.
Thank you for your continued support.



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

St. MM will provide plastic eggs filled with candy for the residents of Seven Lakes Assisted Living and Memory Care for their annual Easter egg hunt. We ask your help by taking some of the eggs and filling them with pre-wrapped candy.

We also will give each resident an Easter greeting card. Please take a few Easter cards and sign them "Your friends at St. Mary Magdalene." The cards, bags of candy and more information can be found on the table in the Narthex.

Please return the filled eggs and the signed cards to the box on the table by **Sunday, April 2**. We will be making deliveries to the assisted living facility during the week before Easter.

Please consider joining us in delivering the gifts. Contact us if you have any questions. Thanks so much for your support of this important outreach. Linda Lindner (315-945-1320) and Sherol Grigerick (910-773-9152)

LENTEN SUPPERS



Pete, Bob, Maureen & Fr. Stephen in line



Christa, Tim & Bishop Bane enjoy the food and fellowship



John Bette Linda Julia

During March we gathered weekly for a meal of soup and bread followed by Bible study. Generous chefs prepared their specialties, with three kettles of soup provided each week. We thank the cooks, the dishwashers and the hall prep and clean-up workers.

We also thank Bishop Sam Rodman, Rev. Sarah Morris, Rev. Dr. Sherry Adams, and Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson for leading us, via zoom, with uplifting study and reflection.

Holy Week remembers the last week of Christ's earthly life.

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Lent) Holy Eucharist, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - 7:00 PM service of Holy Eucharist

Good Friday, 12:00 noon, Good Friday liturgy and sermon by Bishop David Bane

Easter Day - Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

OUTREACH

St. Mary Magdalene Charitable Fund

At the March Vestry Meeting it was voted to use the interest from our investments to create a special fund designated as **St. Mary Magdalene Charitable Fund**. This fund will be used to help those in need of financial assistance. It can also be supplemented by the funds designated for *Outreach* or by special/personal donations.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce, then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10

Sunday Brunches for April and May

The next Sunday Brunch will be Palm Sunday, April 2, 11:30, at the Pine Crest Inn. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the Narthex.

Bishop and Alice Bane will host the May's Sunday Brunch at their new home in Seven Lakes. All parishioners are invited. The date will be announced.



Take time to check out the refreshed bulletin board artfully prepared by Peggy and Julia. Thank you, Ladies.

An Opportunity



If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary, please sign up on the chart in the hall with your name and the occasion you are honoring. \$50.00 is the recommended gift.

Devotional Thoughts for Good Friday

Vicki Derka

As we make a final effort to observe a holy Lent on Good Friday, the contemplation of the cross, as portrayed in the picture below, enables us “to turn our daily lives into sacraments and use our whole selves in the effort to become pure.” Clinging to the cross allows us to “grasp the sacramental nature of our lives,” and it helps us “to live our lives in conscious witness to the grace of the living Lord.” **(Quotes from Vicki Derka’s blog article “Lent and the Incarnation”)**



TUESDAY MORNING HEALING-PRAYER SERVICE



Christa, Bette, Rev. Jim, Sherol, Shirley
Not pictured: Phyllis and Andrea

Recently we were honored to have Rev. Jim Bolyard of Carthage United Methodist Church as a guest at the Tuesday Morning Healing/Prayer Service.

All are welcome. Please join us, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. 11:00 a.m.



For lo, the winter has passed
The snow is over and gone
The flowers appear on the earth
The time for singing has come.
The time for singing has come.

An Invitation

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

The word 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, the 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 \(nccursillo.org\)](http://NC Episcopal Cursillo (nccursillo.org))



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

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

Newsletter Editors:
Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick



A man was telling his neighbor, “I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.” “Really,” answered the neighbor. ‘What kind is it?’ “Twelve thirty.”



Overheard in a local furniture store ---
Salesman: “This sofa will hold five friends without problems.”
Woman: “I don’t have five friends without problems.”

A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

