

# Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

## September 2023 Newsletter



### BISHOP SAM RODMAN SCHEDULED TO VISIT ST. MM IN SEPTEMBER

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Sam Rodman will visit our parish on Sunday, September 17, and will serve as our Preacher/Celebrant that day.

Following Morning Eucharist there will be a question and answer session with the Bishop. He will then participate in a short meeting with the Vestry.

Please make every effort to be present on this important Sunday. Your attendance matters.



We're in need of a Sunday School worker. Sherol Grigerick faithfully prepares the lessons using materials from the Diocese. Sometimes it is necessary for her to be away. Would you consider supporting this important ministry by helping out from time to time? Please contact Sherol.

### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Sept. 3 - Bishop Bane, Celebrant/Preacher*

*Sept. 10 - Fr. Stephen, Celebrant/Preacher*

*Sept. 12 and 26 - Healing & Intercessory Prayer*

*Service, 11:00 a.m. - (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month).*

*Sept. 17 - Rt. Rev. Bishop Sam Rodman will be our Preacher/Celebrant*

*Sept 20. -- Vestry Meeting, 4:30 p.m. - **All Are Welcome!***

*Sept. 27th - Articles for October Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick*

Bishop Bane is available for pastoral care in Fr. Stephen's absence. Fr. Stephen will return to lead the service on September 10.

### Summer/Fall Gathering

Our annual summer/fall gathering will be held at Sequoia Beach in Seven Lakes North, Friday evening, September 29th. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the table in the narthex. You are asked to indicate your plan to attend and the potluck dish you will bring.

Gathering by the lake to eat together and enjoy the sunset has always been a joyous occasion. Please do plan to attend.

### JOIN THE CHOIR



In celebration of Bishop Rodman's visit September 17, we will have a choir. Singers, please be in touch with Vicki Derka to let her know you will participate.



## September Birthdays

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Samantha Parsons. | 2  |
| David Bane.       | 11 |
| Bill Lindner      | 20 |
| Martha Ragland    | 23 |
| Phyllis Olson     | 30 |



## September Anniversaries

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Brenda and Bill Yarish. | 5  |
| Fr. Stephen and Ellen.  | 17 |

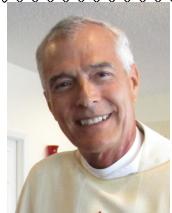


### News from our friend, Monica McCarthy:

Dear Friends,

We now live in Longs, SC, which is North Myrtle Beach. It'll be two years in September. Today I'm going to a place for lunch with some friends. We go out twice a month. I joined a book club and all the ladies are great, much to my delight. We are doing well. Jim has health issues but stays on top of that.

I still miss St. Mary Magdalene.  
*Monica*



### A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

When you read this article, Ellen and I will be on the tail end of our visit to England. For us, this trip represents a high mountain in our travel experiences. We will have seen everything from Big Ben to the glory of cathedrals, mansions, and museums that house priceless treasures. Our prayer book tells us, "God's glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go."<sup>1</sup> Hopefully, we will return with more stories about God's loving care as he protects us from every danger and brings us back safely to our journey's end.

We will join you again for worship on Sunday, September 10th, and sing the wonders of his love with you again.

*Stephen*

<sup>1</sup> Prayer for Travelers, BCP, p. 831



### CATCHING UP WITH FR. BOB AND JEAN

**Jean:** I rejoined the quilting group this spring. We've been making quilts for the Veterans Hospital in Coatesville and also for our skilled care facility. Currently we are getting ready for the Quilt and Craft Show held here at Brittany Pointe (Our living facility) every September.

I enjoy meeting weekly with a knitting group to work on hats and scarves for the Seamen Church Institute in Philadelphia. Sometimes we work on our own projects and I am ready to finish a UFO that I have carried around for at least 15 years.

Most fun of all is seeing our grandchildren in school plays, playing soccer, and just visiting.

**Fr. Bob:** Jean and I are doing fine. We stick rather close to our Brittany Pointe home. I am supplying quite often and have been at St. Dunstan's Church, Blue Bell most of June and all of July. They have no priest and seek help getting someone each Sunday. Of course I like to celebrate and preach so I often say yes to an appeal.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday I must arise by seven to be ready for my "Toning" class, 9-10, followed by my English writing class here at the Pointe from 10-12. There are six of us residents who gather each week to review (criticize and advise about) what we have written from the assignments given by the professor from a nearby community college. She was hired by "Corporate" to provide a class in English writing for residents of our community. It keeps me occupied each week, especially when I have to create a sermon for Sunday (but I enjoy the challenge).

All our children are well.

## Sunday Brunch

Parishioners gathered for Sunday Brunch on July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Pinecrest Inn in Pinehurst. All enjoyed the food and fellowship and we thank the Sapps for arranging the event.

A date for the next Sunday Brunch will be announced later this fall.

## Diocesan Convention Delegates

Laura and Jim Douglass will represent our congregation at the Diocesan Convention to be held in Winston-Salem, November 17-18, 2023. Fr. Stephen will also attend.

## Words to Ponder

*"In the end, you and I will not be measured or remembered by things tangible. No one will really care about what degrees we earned, how big our house was, or what kind of car we drove. They will remember the intangible: the wake of kindness we left in our passing. They will remember the love we imparted into their lives, the compassion we showed when they were in need, the values we kept with such virtue it marked their own lives with hope. Let us live to leave what lasts."*

- Bishop Steven Charleston

Borrowed from The Cornerstone, St. David's Episcopal Church, Laurinburg

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*Don't ever underestimate the importance of an encouraging word, given or received.*



*"In order to maintain a well-balanced perspective, the person who has a dog to worship him should also have a cat to ignore him." —Peterborough Examiner, Canada*



BACK TO SCHOOL: A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"



Don't forget to visit our website, maintained for us by Jim Douglass.

Website: <http://WWW.STMMSEVENLAKES.ORG>

## A note from our vacationing Vicar:

I usually bring a book along with me while on vacation. I just finished a book that I would like to recommend to the congregation -- *In His Image*, by Jen Wilkin. It tells us ten ways God calls us to reflect his character.

Ellen and I have seen cathedrals, museums, and met people along the way who immediately made us feel like best friends. We are thankful and blessed.

Stephen

### 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

## St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

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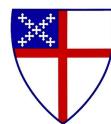
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The Rev. Stephen Becker, Vicar  
The Rt. Rev. David C. Bane, Jr.  
Bishop in Residence

Newsletter Editors:  
Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina*



goodbye  
**August**  
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