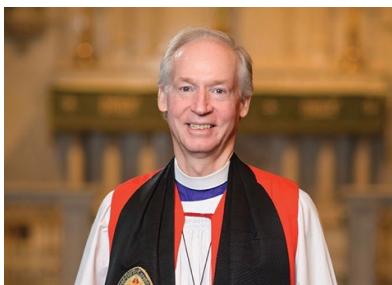


# Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

## October 2023 Newsletter



### BISHOP SAM VISITS ST. MM

The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, XII Bishop Diocesan of North Carolina, was our honored guest September 17. During his full morning with us, he led our service as Preacher and Celebrant and also received new members, Joan and Paul Fruiesen, into full fellowship of the Episcopal Church. Each received a Prayer Book as part of their reception into our Church.

Our musician, Vicky Derka, assembled a choir for the occasion.

Following the Holy Eucharist Service and Coffee Hour, Bishop Sam led a question and answer session, offering information and encouragement to the parishioners. We were truly honored to have Bishop Sam as our guest.



Photo by Ellen Becker

New Members, Joan and Paul Fruiesen with Bishop Rodman and Fr. Becker

### OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Oct. 10 and 24 - Tuesday Morning Healing & Intercessory Prayer Meeting, 11:00 a.m.*

*October – All Sundays – Discussion Time with Bishop Bane following worship service*

*Oct. 14 – Men's Breakfast – 9:00 a.m.*

*October 18 – Vestry Meeting 4:30 pm. **All Are Welcome!***

*Oct. 22 - Bishop Bane, Celebrant and Preacher (Fr. Stephen will be away Oct. 21-26)*

*Oct. 27– **Articles for November Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick.***

**Please note:** Bishop Bane will be holding small group sessions each week after the worship service to discuss a chapter of his book, *God, Life, You, and Me*. These short informal gatherings are a good way to grow in faith and understanding and to get to know one another on a deeper level. All are invited to attend.

### Looking ahead:

The next **Sunday Brunch** will be November 5, All Saints Sunday, at the Pine Crest Inn.

**Looking ahead:** Stewardship Sunday will be held on November 12. A potluck brunch will follow the service.



*New Member, Lloyd Brewer*

We share the joy of welcoming Lloyd Brewer into the St. MM Fellowship.



### October Birthdays

Jack Douglass 5  
 Jane Hanham 6  
 Tally Bandy 13  
 Bob Rinaldi 23  
 Tim Burgess 26



### October Anniversaries

Laura and Jim Douglass 10

## 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, and we thank them. Fr. Stephen will also attend.



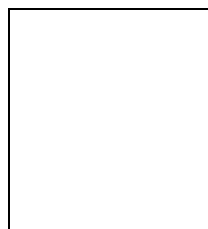
## Beautiful Lake Sequoia Chosen for Fall Fellowship Event

Parishioners will gather for a potluck supper at Sequoia Point, Seven Lakes North, Friday, September 29, 5:30 till sunset. This fall event has become a favorite as the days shorten, the spectacular sunsets intensify and cool weather delights. Thanks to all who helped prepare for this gathering, especially all the cooks.

## Catching up with old friends



On their recent trip to Florida, Peggy and Steve Loomis had lunch with former parishioners, Ed and Suzanne Clarke. The Clarkes are doing well and send greetings to St. MM



## FALL- CHRISTMAS BAZAAR PLANNED

Julia Poisson will again serve as chairperson for **Merry Market**, our Fall/Christmas Bazaar, to be held Saturday, November 18. This event supports our St. MM Outreach Program.

As always, we will need baked goods, craft items, volunteers to set up, take down, and be present on Merry Market Day.

Be a volunteer. Many hands make easier work.

If you know a crafter or artist who might be interesting in having a booth at our event, please contact Julia.

## ANOTHER REMINDER

Tim would appreciate help creating the weekly church bulletin. Contact him if you could volunteer to help.

### Add to your church directory:

Joan and Paul Fruiesen  
4 Eliot Ct.  
Foxfire Village, NC 27281  
Phone- 910-466-9038 (home phone)  
E-mail-- [pjfruiessen@nc.rr.com](mailto:pjfruiessen@nc.rr.com)

Lloyd Brewer  
133 Fawnwood Dr.  
Seven Lakes West 145 East Plaza Dr., Suite E83  
Seven Lakes, NC 27376  
Cell --765-491-3579  
[lloydbb44@icloud.com](mailto:lloydbb44@icloud.com)

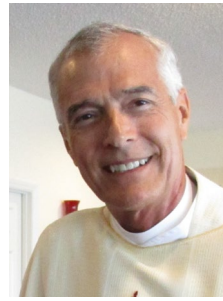
### LOOKING AHEAD

**FYI** The spring golf tournament will be Saturday, May 4, 2024, beginning at 8:30 am. In the past this event has been held on Sunday.

**FYI** The men's breakfast will start again on Saturday, October 14, at 9:00 am. This will begin another multi-session study by a Christian author. Make plans to attend. Mark your calendar.

### Change in the Vestry

Our Vestry Outreach Chairperson, Linda Lindner, has resigned due to a health issue. Bill Lindner will fill out Linda's three-year term which ends in December. Linda has been a spectacularly creative leader of our outreach program, teaching us that simple acts of love can be great gifts. We heartily thank Linda for her faithful service. We also thank Bill for stepping in to fill out the term.



### Words from the Vicar

Recently, Ellen and I saw a movie about a young prince who wanted to marry a princess from another country, but she was not interested nor impressed by the wealth and majesty of his kingdom. So he took another tactic to win her love. He put on the garments of a peasant and served as an apprentice of an artist who was painting her portrait. She eventually began to notice and see inner qualities in him that she admired. Eventually, they fell in love.

This story gives us a small picture of Christ's love for us. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to or use for his advantage. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being."<sup>1</sup>

Paul's words give us a classic nutshell view of the Gospel, where Christ humbled himself to the point of death for those he wanted to save. It is a love story of love stories. Yet, a similar love story can begin in us if we, too, will humble ourselves and take on forms of service that value others above ourselves. It is a mindset that makes loving God and others the chief aim of our lives.



<sup>1</sup> Philippians 2:6-7 New Living Translation



**Church Sign in Orion, Wisconsin** "If every member was just like me, what kind of a church would this church be?"



When I worked for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I took my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!" **copied**



**Kensley and Scarlett share a book**



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-17).



**Come, ye thankful people come,  
Raise the song of harvest home.**



## **Vestry Members**

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

Vestry Secretary – Sherol Grigerick  
Treasurer- David Poisson

## **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church**

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Telephone: 910 673 3838

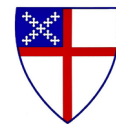
Website: <http://WWW.STMMSEVENLAKES.ORG>

Email: [saintmarymagdalenenc@gmail.com](mailto:saintmarymagdalenenc@gmail.com)

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

Newsletter Editors: Phyllis Olson  
and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North  
Carolina*



It is a good thing to give thanks  
to the Lord,  
and to sing praises to your Name,  
O Most High. Psalm 92:1