

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

January 2024 Newsletter

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS



Lloyd



Bill



Julia

At the Annual Meeting, December 3, outgoing Senior Warden, Bob Rinaldi introduced Julia Poisson, Lloyd Brewer, and Bill Lindner as incoming Vestry members for a three-year term. Julia will serve as Senior Warden, 2024, having longtime knowledge and experience in most areas of church life. Bill has served the last few months in Linda Lindner's place as she recovered from eye surgery. The new Vestry members replace John Sapp, Linda Lindner, and Bob Rinaldi and we heartily thank them for their service.



When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart. **Howard Thurman**

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 7 – Coffee and Contemplation discussion with Bishop Bane
Jan. 9 and 23 - Healing & Intercessory Prayer (2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month) 11:00 a.m.
Jan. 13 -Men's breakfast and Study - 9:00 a.m.
*Jan. 14 - Vestry Meeting, 4:30 p.m.... **All are Welcome***
Jan. 28 Bishop Bane – Preacher and Celebrant (Also on February 4.)
Jan. 27th- Articles for the February Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick

LOOKING AHEAD

Look for an updated church directory, delivered via email, around Feb. 1st. If your info needs updating, please contact Phyllis Olson. phyllisandpete@gmail.com



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Linda Sapp 2
Linda Lindner 14
Steve Loomis 29



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jane and Henry Fisher 7
Linda and Bill Lindner 29

OUTREACH



The Outreach Committee, Sherol, Linda, Bill, Julia and David, plan the distribution of outreach funds for the 2023 year

Linda and Bill report that all gifts for the families we adopted for Christmas have been delivered. In addition, several loads of gifts, supplies, and cards have been taken to Seven Lakes Assisted Living. The members of St. MM have been very generous this Christmas, and the recipients are most grateful.

St. MM's Monthly Child Sponsorship:

Our parish commitment to Emanda, a seven-year-old Ethiopian child continues. Her tutor advises us her medical check-up went well, and she is receiving medical, educational, and spiritual guidance at the Compassion Project Center in her village. Her photo is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Vicar's Corner

On January 6th, our Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany. "Epiphany" comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal." The feast day marks the time when the Magi followed a star to visit and worship the baby Jesus. By this star, God revealed his Son to

the peoples of the earth. The Apostle John tells us, "*In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it*" (John 1:4-5).

The spiritual life referenced by John was illustrated by a prominent German pastor, Martin Niemoller, who spent nearly eight years in Nazi concentration camps because he openly opposed Hitler. One bleak Christmas Eve, Niemoller shared the following message with his fellow prisoners: "Out of the brilliance that surrounded the shepherds, a shining ray will fall into our darkness."ⁱ His words remind us of the prophet Isaiah, who prophetically said, "*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned*" (Isa. 9:2).

The Collect (prayer) for the second Sunday after Epiphany beautifully summarizes our role in spreading this light. It reads, "*Grant that your people, illumined by his word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth*" (BCP, p. 215). Amen.

End of Year Remarks at the Annual Meeting

Outgoing Senior Warden, Bob Rinaldi: "St. MM is a small and mighty lay-led church. Everyone contributes and does their part to make things happen. We thank Vicki Derka as she continues her role as accompanist/musician, and we also thank Tim Burgess for preparing the bulletin each week. We thank the faithful members of the altar guild, and the coffee hour volunteers, and all faithful parishioners who serve."

Bob noted that there is uncertainty in the year ahead as far as the impact of the parking lot construction. But whether we enter through the front door or will need to use the back door, St.MM members should still be able to continue worshipping in this sanctuary

Fr. Stephen thanked Bishop Bane for leading the services in his absence and for also leading the contemplative spiritual discussions after the service. Father Stephen also acknowledged that St.MM is a lay-led church and thanked everyone for their part.



Thanks to Tim Burgess for his faithful service to St. MM

Our friend, Tim Burgess, recently announced his need to give up his duties as lector and Sunday bulletin creator. We honor his service and dedication.

Pete Olson: Phyllis and I joined St. MM in 2006. We learned right away that Tim was a hardworking leader. Through the years he proved it over and over. Thank you for your faithfulness, Tim. You are a good example for the rest of us.

Bette Hanham: When we were working hard to get St. MM started, Tim and Carol showed up, ready to work. They were absolutely instrumental in getting our church started and I will be forever grateful for that. Throughout the years Tim has offered his many, many skills and contributed greatly to our efforts here. He has the heart of a servant. Thank you, Tim.

Bob Rinaldi: Tim Burgess was one of the first persons in St. Mary Magdalene to

welcome us when arrived. It wasn't long before we realized if you wanted to know how, what & when to do anything at St.MM, he was the man to ask. Lay persons of his dedication, commitment, & love for St. Mary Magdalene are few & far between. Linda & I want to thank Tim for giving us the example to follow as a true servant to God & his Church.

Jim and Sherol Grigerick: Tim has not only been a faithful and dedicated member of St.MM, he is also a great friend and neighbor, cheerfully helping out whenever we ask. We are most grateful for this kind and caring friend.

Phyllis Olson: Since 2006, I have observed Tim's dedication to St. MM. During that time he has served as treasurer, vestry several times, Lay Preacher, lector, bulletin creator, choir member, delegate to the convention, cabinet maker for the sacristy and office shelving and the media cart. He also created wood art for Merry Market, worked on the men's outreach projects and quietly worked on projects we will probably never know about. To me, Tim is an example of "a good and faithful servant."

Thank you, Tim.

Note:

In addition to his responsibilities as treasurer, David Poisson is taking over the Sunday bulletin duties. Lloyd Brewer has agreed to become a lector, beginning in January. Thank you, David and Lloyd, for assuming these duties. We are most grateful!



Alter Adorned for Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE

We thank Sherol, Vicki, and Linda for leading the parish grandchildren's choir on Christmas Eve. It was a blessing to all.



CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICIANS
Sherol, Vicki, three Grigerick grandchildren
and soloist Christian Banach



Organist, Linda Rinaldi, and singers Ella, Elise, Daniel Evan, and Peter



"No one has ever seen God; but if we love each other, God lives in us!"
1 John 4:12



Laughter is a wonderful way to add years to your life, and life to your years.
Joel Goodman

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

Bill Vaughan



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God's Peaceable Kingdom
The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and liontogether, and a little child shall lead them. **Isaiah 11:6**

Vestry Members

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

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

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

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

Newsletter Editors:
Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of
North Carolina*

