

# Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

## September 2024 Newsletter



### From the Book of Common Prayer

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives, that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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### ST. MM ENJOYS VISIT FROM EMMANUEL'S PRIEST

On Sunday, August 18, St. MM participated in a pulpit/priest exchange with Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Southern Pines. We welcomed The Rev. Morris Thompson, while our Vicar, Fr. Stephen Becker served as Preacher/Celebrant at Emmanuel.

Forty people attended our service that day to welcome The Rev. Morris Thompson and his family as guests. Other guests from Emmanuel included Deacon Tally Bandy and Jessie Mackay. We also were happy to welcome former St.MM parishioner, Lin Cox.

Special thanks goes to Julia who taught Sunday School as Sherol enjoyed vacation time.

Fr. Stephen expressed his joy at sharing in the Emmanuel exchange, feeling such exchanges will build a stronger bond of fellowship among the members of both churches.

### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*September 1 – Preacher/Celebrant, Bishop Bane  
--Coffee and contemplation following Holy Eucharist*

*Sept. 10 and 24 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tues. each month)  
Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m.*

*September 20 – Fundraiser and Fellowship  
Potluck at Sequoia Point, 6:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet  
on the round table*

*September 20 - Vestry Meeting 4:30 pm., Sequoia  
Point, prior to the potluck meal **All Are Welcome!***

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

### LOOKING AHEAD:

#### Fellowship – Fundraiser Event

A lakeside fellowship/fundraiser will be held at Sequoia Point in Seven Lakes North on Friday, **September 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.** A vestry meeting will precede the picnic - 4:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Sign-up sheets are on the round table. Please indicate what you will bring to share.

David Poisson will acquire two golf carts to shuttle attendees from the parking lot to the pavilion.

**Fellowship Brunches:** Sunday brunches will continue on a regular basis, with Linda and John Sapp leading in the planning, seeking venues that provide a pleasant, but not too costly experience. The next fellowship brunch will be in October.

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## September Birthdays

Samantha Parsons (2)  
 Bill Lindner. (20)  
 Martha Ragland. (23)  
 Phyllis Olson. (30)  
 Bishop David Bane (11)



## September Anniversaries

Brenda and Bill Yarish. (5)  
 Vicki and Pavel Derka (5)  
 Fr. Stephen and Ellen Becker (17)



## The Vicar's Corner

When our former rector, Bob Brown, preached at Edwin Matthewson's funeral this past month, he used the comforting words spoken by our Lord the night before he died: "Do not let your hearts be troubled; believe in God; believe also in me."<sup>i</sup> Jesus said these words knowing that the darkest hours of his earthly life, and that of the disciples as well, lay ahead. He was about to leave them, and his disciples were frightened. Their world was about to be turned upside-down.

Things don't seem very different today, as our world constantly changes, and some in our midst are experiencing an hour of grief and darkness. Over the past few months, we have experienced losses from loved ones who are now gone from our sight. Others are presently in that valley where death's shadows linger. During these times, we lovingly care for each other, trusting in all that our Lord has promised. Though the changes and challenges of this mortal life may come, we have the assurance that God's love and presence will faithfully bring us through, and one day, we shall all "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."<sup>ii</sup>

Stephen

<sup>i</sup> John 14:1

<sup>ii</sup> Psalm 23:6



**Following the Memorial Service for our friend, Lucy Dunn Martin, her daughter Leigh Lowe, hosted a gathering at the family home. Some of the guests are pictured above.**

## FR. BOB VISITS ST. MM



Our beloved former Vicar, The Rev. Robert Brown returned to Seven Lakes recently to deliver the homily and eulogy for our friend, Edwin Matthewson, who recently passed. Fr. Bob and Jean drove from their home in Pennsylvania to be a part of Ed's service.

The visit provided a joyous reunion as we gathered at the church following the graveside service to enjoy lunch hosted by the Matthewson Family.





Moore County Coalition is always in need of food to distribute to needy families in our community.

Among needed items:

Pasta  
Pasta sauce  
Canned goods  
Rice  
Peanut butter  
Cereal

**Toothbrushes and toothpaste are also requested.**



Consider providing flowers for the sanctuary. We all have events to honor and situations for which we are truly thankful. Flowers are a gift we all enjoy. The sign-up sheet is in the hall by the office. A donation of \$50.00 is suggested.

**God stands in the shadows  
Keeping watch o'er His own.  
James Russell Lowell**

goodbye  
**August**  
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"The days grow hot in long July, and dusty August gets so dry we long for fair September."

**Copied**



**DON'T YOU JUST LOVE IT....**

Don't you just love it when someone, with genuine interest, asks about your child or grandchild?  
Don't you just love it when you fill the birdfeeder and within minutes the chickadees, juncos, and cardinals are gathered around?  
Don't you feel a little sad when you see the squirrel raiding the birdfeeder and somehow you begrudge him his breakfast? **Phyllis**



*It's an awkward moment when Siri says: "In 400 feet, please pull over and let me out of the car."* **Karen Friday Randall**

## Words to Ponder

This item was borrowed from *The Cornerstone*,  
St. David's Episcopal Church, Laurinburg, NC.

*"We need you. All of us who labor together in the far fields of the sacred, in the narrow streets where justice is seldom seen, in the shadow lands between hope and resignation: we need you. We need your determination not to quit. We need your sense of humor, your wisdom grown from experience, your willingness to share what you have. When you must step away from us you are missed. When you come through the door you are like good news walking. We need you and are ever grateful that you have made this community your home."*

- Bishop Steven Charleston

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The Rev. Stephen Becker, Vicar

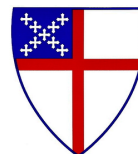
The Rt. Rev. David C. Bane, Jr.,

Bishop in Residence

Newsletter Editors:

Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North  
Carolina*



### Vestry Members

Senior Warden – Julia Poisson  
Junior Warden – Sherol Grigerick  
Bill Lindner, Steve Loomis, Lloyd Brewer,  
Jim Douglass

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

