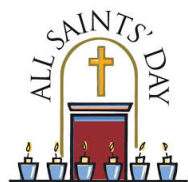


# Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

## November 2024 Newsletter



... commemorates all saints, known and unknown, on Nov. 1. All Saints' Day is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year, and one of the four days recommended for the administration of baptism. All Saints' Day may also be celebrated on the Sunday following Nov. 1.

### FR. STEPHEN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT PLANS

On Sunday, October 6, Fr. Stephen announced his plans to retire in January, 2025. His ministry at St. MM began December 2018 and we have been blessed to have his capable and caring leadership during this time.

When the Covid pandemic arrived in 2020 Fr. Stephen adjusted our congregation to worshipping over Zoom. He brought us back to full in-person services during the following year. Throughout his ministry at St. MM he has faithfully dedicated time to pastoral care and tending to the needs of our older congregation.

Ellen has graced us with her gift of music, both vocally and by playing the guitar.

Fr. Stephen shared that St. MM has been one of his most enjoyable parishes, and he hopes to maintain friendships with our members.

We will miss them both, and we look forward to staying connected with them and seeing what lies ahead for them.

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Nov. 3 – All Saints' Sunday - Bishop Bane, Celebrant*

*Nov. 3 – New schedule - Worship Service begins at 10:00 a.m. (Note change)*

*November 6 - Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm. **All Are Welcome!***

*November 10 - Stewardship Sunday - Pot luck lunch after church. Please sign up.*

*Nov. 5 - Voting Day*

*Nov. 5 and 19 - Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m. - For this month only, we are meeting 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.*

*Nov. 24 – Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 4:00 p.m. Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, Jackson Springs*

*Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Day*

*Nov. 27 **Articles for December Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick.***

### LOOKING AHEAD

**December 8 - Sunday– St. MM  
Annual Meeting after Service.**



**December 13 - Friday – Church  
Christmas party - 5:00 p.m. at  
Lloyd Brewer's Home**



**November 5, 2024  
Voting Day All Across  
America**

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10

Dear Members and Friends of Saint Mary Magdalene,

At this time of year, our church emphasizes stewardship in preparation for establishing a budget. An online dictionary defines stewardship as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”

The collective work of the church involves taking responsibility for each other’s well-being as we nurture and build one another up in love. It also involves communicating your commitment as the church goes through a transitional time.

Let us strive to bring glory to God and provide for the essential needs of our mission by returning pledge cards in time for our celebration of Stewardship Sunday November 10th. A potluck brunch will follow the service.

Yours in Christ,

*Stephen*



### November Birthdays

Julie Wahl - 5  
Lloyd Brewer – 11  
Tessa Fravel - 15  
Holden Brown – 30



### November Anniversaries

Andrea and Dale Schmidt - 4  
Jean and Bob Brown - 9



### CHRISTMAS OUTREACH *Sherol Grigerick*

St.MM will sponsor four families for Christmas this year. Sherol Grigerick and Brenda Yarish, with the guidance of Linda Lindner, are organizing the list of items needed for each family. On Sunday, November 17 angel tags will be displayed for each family. Parishioners may choose one or more angel tags and buy the indicated gifts for the children in the families.

All unwrapped gifts should be brought to church and placed in the appropriate family's box by Sunday, December 1st. All angel tags should be attached to the appropriate gifts.

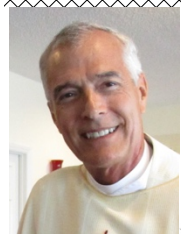
St. MM will also donate small gifts to the residents of Seven Lakes Assisted Living. Gloves, mittens, socks, toiletries, and wrapped Christmas candy are requested. These gifts, along with Christmas cards, may be placed in the box labeled for Seven Lakes Assisted Living. Please bring these donations by Sunday, December 15.

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 24, 4:00 pm. at Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church in Jackson Springs. At this service local congregations join together in prayers of thanksgiving. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year for this event, designed to encourage our whole community to share their various traditions. Everyone is welcome! Please bring canned goods as your offering for the Sandhills/Moore Coalition.



Jackie Wells displays her fiber art "Prissy Pachyderm" quilt at the Fall Quilt Show in Pinehurst. Good job, Jackie.



### Vicar's Corner

November begins with the celebration of All Saints' Day on November 1st. Since All Saints' Day is classified in

our Prayer Book as a Principal Feast, its observance may be transferred to the following Sunday.<sup>i</sup> This year, that day happens to be November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The saints celebrated on this particular feast day are not those known for their great notoriety and have feast days named after them. Instead, this day commemorates those we might consider a little more clay-footed and down-to-earth because they tend to express their love for God in practical and tangible ways without much fanfare. So, in many ways, this feast day celebrates the kind of folks we have (and are) at Saint Mary Magdalene. For this reason, my favorite hymn for this feast is "I sing a song of the saints of God," #293 in our hymnal. The third verse says, "You can meet them at school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too."

The Collect for this feast day reminds us to pray for the grace needed to "follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living" because these acts "knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship."<sup>ii</sup> So, I hope you know that your small, thoughtful acts of kindness have inspired me and caused many expressions of thanks to God.

*Stephen*

<sup>i</sup> BCP, p. 15

<sup>ii</sup> BCP, p. 245, Collect for All Saints Day

## Thank you, Linda and Laura

Linda Rinaldi and Laura Douglass will be delegates to the 209th Annual Diocesan Convention on November 22-23. It will take place at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. We thank them for representing St.MM at this important event.



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



Everyone seems normal until you get to know them. **Copied**

*Blessed are we who can laugh at ourselves,  
for we shall never cease to be amused.*  
**Copied**

"Life is just a short walk from the cradle to the grave, and it sure behooves us to be kind to one another along the way." **Alice Childress**



**As always, there is a need for food at Moore County Coalition. You are asked to bring food items and place them in the basket in the narthex. Pete will deliver them each Monday.**



**Happy Thanksgiving**  
**November 28**

### **Vestry Members**

Senior Warden – Julia Poisson  
Junior Warden – Sherol Grigerick  
Steve Loomis, Lloyd Brewer and Jim Douglass and David Poisson

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



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



**St. Mary Magdalene  
Episcopal Church**  
1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, NC  
PO Address: Box 456, West End, NC  
27376  
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 C. Bane, Jr.  
Bishop in Residence**

Newsletter Editors:  
Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of  
North Carolina*

