

# Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

## December 2024 Newsletter

**Hope    Peace    Joy    Love**



Advent is a period of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, marking the four Sundays before December 25th. Each week of Advent emphasizes themes such as **hope, peace, joy, and love**, helping us prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas. This year, December 1, is the First Sunday in Advent.

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH**  
**DEC. 15**



**We will decorate the church for Christmas on December 17. Please plan to remain after coffee hour to help adorn the church for Christmastide.**

### **DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*A reminder: Morning Worship now begins at 10:00 a.m.*

**December 1 – First Sunday in Advent**

**Dec. 3 and 17 Healing / Prayer Service-- (First and third Tuesdays in December)**

**December 8 -- ST. MM Annual Meeting after Service**

**December 13 - Friday – Church Christmas party - 4:00 p.m. at Lloyd Brewer's Home**  
*A sign-up is requested. Check the round table.*

**Dec. 15 Church Greening following the morning service**

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.**

**December 25 - Christmas Day – No service**  
*Articles for November Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick.*

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **Retirement Celebration**

**January 26 will be Fr. Stephen's and Ellen's last Sunday with us. A celebration is planned for that day.**

**Next Vestry Meeting: Wednesday,**

**January 15, 5:30 p.m.**

**All are welcome.**



**"Do this in Remembrance of Me"**



## Delegates to the Diocesan Convention November 15-16

We thank our delegates, Bob and Linda Rinaldi, Jim and Laura Douglass, and Fr. Stephen for representing us at the Annual Diocesan Convention held Nov. 15-16, with Bishop Michael Curry as a special guest and speaker. Linda gave a report to the congregation on Sunday, Nov. 24.

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



St.MM parishioners have generously picked up all the angel tags for the children adopted for Christmas. You are asked to bring in the unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 8th. Please attach the angel tag to your item and place it in the appropriate family's box. The gifts will be delivered before Christmas.

Gifts for the residents of Seven Lakes Assisted Living will be collected until Sunday, December 15. Suggested items are gloves, mittens, socks, and toiletries, as well as Christmas cards and candy. Residents can also use gently used clothing. The box

for these items is located on the table in the Narthex. A committee will wrap and deliver the items.

## TUESDAY MORNING HEALING SERVICE



Tuesday Morning Healing Service is thriving under Sherol's leadership. Recently we had ten attendees. We have been blessed to have Mary Douglass, Jim's mother, join us while she is in transition to her new home in New York State.

Front: Bette Hanham, Sherol Grigerick, Crystal Emery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Brenda Yarish, Linda Rinaldi, Martha Ragland, Jackie Wells Back Row: Mary Douglass and Lloyd Brewer. Phyllis Olson, not pictured

You may add names of those in need of prayer to a list available in the narthex, and you are encouraged to attend 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 11:00 a.m., for prayer time and fellowship. All are welcome.

## PRAY FOR PEACE ON EARTH



### *Coffee and Contemplation*

Once a month Bishop Bane leads an inspirational coffee and contemplation session after the Sunday service. He reads a chapter from his book, *God, Life, You, and Me*, which encourages readers to discover who they truly are and to find God in all aspects of their lives. Bishop Bane encourages participants to offer their viewpoints and personal reflections on the message of each chapter. St. MM parishioners look forward to these spiritually rewarding discussions each month.



### **December Birthdays**

3	Jane Fisher
6	Stephen Becker
7	Kade Phillips
15	Dale Schmidt
20	Fr. Fred Thompson
21	Kensley Wahl



### **December Anniversaries**

8	Linda and Bob Rinaldi
29	Maureen and Bob Miller



Linda Rinaldi and her granddaughter, Donna McClung, and Martha Ragland enjoy the Stewardship Sunday luncheon, November 10<sup>th</sup>.



### **Vicar's Corner: A**

Glorious Hope – Our Advent Theme  
Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ushers in the beginning of our Church year. Since Advent means “coming” in Latin, we begin our church year by anticipating and preparing for the coming and birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. But we also remember that during this season, we still wait for the completion of the work begun in Christ, when Christ will come again with power and great glory. In this respect, it is a season of hope. Paul tells us, “For in this hope we are saved.”<sup>1</sup> It, therefore, has a surprising practical effect, imparting an eternal perspective on what is presently happening in our dying world. This hope acts like an anchor that rests deep in the water and prevents us from drifting with the currents, yet it can be raised to sail confidently into the future. The currents of our culture can carry us along swiftly during this season. There is no other season as hurried as the days before Christmas, but that anchor of hope keeps us grounded. One of our Advent hymns expresses this sentiment beautifully, “The Bridegroom is

arising, and soon he will draw nigh; up, watch in expectation! At midnight comes the cry.” “With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth’s redemption and ever be with thee!”<sup>ii</sup>

*Stephen*

i Peter 1:6

ii Church Hymnal, “Rejoice! rejoice, believers,” #68, verses 1 and 3



“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.” — **George Burns**

“As you get older, three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can’t remember the other two.” — **Norman Wisdom**

“It’s that special time of the year when your whole family gathers together in one place to look at their cellphones.” **Jimmy Kimmel**



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2: 11-12 NIV



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

### **Vestry Members**

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

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

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## St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

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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*

