

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

January 2025 Newsletter



The Vicar's Corner

The new year will bring many changes to us all. Ellen and I will say our last goodbyes on Sunday, January 26th, at a celebration that will take place after the morning worship service. As we prepare for this event, we are reminded how Bob Hope said his goodbyes saying, "Thanks for the Memories," before bowing out at the end of each performance. It was a theme song that he and his guests personalized with different lyrics that described some of the endearing moments they had as they worked together. One of my favorite Bible verses states how Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy "cared so deeply (for the believers in Thessalonica) that they were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but their own lives as well" (1 Thess. 2:8). You, also, have become very dear to us as we have shared our lives with you. So please allow me the sappy privilege of borrowing some of the sentimental verses of Bob Hope's theme song, which mentions "how lovely it was," "laughing over big and little things," and "the faults that you forgave." You all have been so very kind. Our lives have been forever changed as you have given us the privilege of serving you over these past six-plus years. We could never thank God enough for you, and we will never forget how blessed we have been to know and love each and every one of you.

Your forever friends,

Stephen and Ellen

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 1 -NEW YEAR'S DAY

Jan. 6 - Epiphany

Jan. 7 and 21 Healing/Prayer service 11:00 a.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays in January)

Jan. 12 – Training session for Lay

Ministers following morning worship

Jan. 26 – Celebration for Fr. Stephen's and Ellen's ministry at St. MM to follow morning worship

*Jan. 27 - **Articles for February Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick.***



From [*The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*](#) by Howard Thurman

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.



January Birthdays

- 2 Linda Sapp
- 14 Linda Lindner
- 29 Steve Loomis
- 30 Paul Fruiesen



January Anniversaries

- 7 Jane and Henry Fisher



St. MM Mourns the Loss of Faithful Parishioner, Bill Lindner

Our dear parishioner, Bill Lindner, died peacefully on Saturday, November 30th surrounded by his immediate family. Bill was a recent Vestry member. He, along with his wife Linda, were the driving force of St. MM's very active outreach program. He will be remembered as a soft-spoken gentleman, with kind words of encouragement, a man of compassion, and a willing worker. Our parish will sorely miss him.

A memorial service will be held at Saint Mary Magdalene, Sunday, January 19th, 2 PM, with a reception immediately following at the church.

St. MM Annual Meeting

At our annual meeting held Dec. 8, Linda Sapp was installed as a new Vestry member. Jim Douglass has volunteered to serve another three-year term. Julia Poisson, Senior Warden, and Sherol Grigerick, Junior Warden, will continue in their positions for another year.

David Poisson, Treasurer, presented the 2025 budget and it was unanimously passed.

Fr. Stephen reminisced about his tenure at St. MM and discussed his impending retirement. Bob Rinaldi will lead the search committee in seeking a new priest.

SEARCH BEGINS FOR NEW PRIEST

On December 16, the Vestry and Bob Rinaldi met via Zoom with Bishop Sam Rodman and the Rev. Marion Sprott, Transition Ministry Officer for the Diocese. Rev. Sprott will direct and support St. MM throughout the process of selecting another part-time priest. She will be our guest as Celebrant and Preacher, Feb. 9, and remain following the service to meet with the Vestry and Search Committee members.

OUTREACH

St. MM parishioners generously provided Christmas gifts, including clothes, shoes, hair accessories, toys, and games, for seven children in our community. Cash donations were used for Food Lion gift cards for designated families in our community.

In addition, Seven Lakes Assisted Living residents received small gifts of gloves, socks, toiletries and Christmas candy.

St. MM parishioners proved once again their generous spirit and we are very grateful for all donations. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT LLOYD'S

Lloyd Brewer and David and Julia Poisson hosted a St. MM Christmas Party, Dec. 13, at Lloyd's beautiful new home overlooking Lake Auman. Parishioners enjoyed a happy time of fellowship, delicious food, and the beauty and joy of the holiday season. A heartfelt thank you to the hosts.



Alice & Grandson RJ

Lay Minister Training Session Planned for January 12

In preparation for his departure January 26, Fr. Stephen will train Lay Ministers who will be licensed to lead morning prayer if a supply priest is unavailable during the interim period. The training session will follow the Sunday morning worship service, January 12th.

Those participating include Bob Rinaldi, Vicki Derka, Laura Douglass, Lloyd Brewer, Sherol Grigerick, and Julia Poisson.

We thank these faithful servants of St. MM, and we thank Fr. Stephen for his thoughtful attention to their training.



A PRAYER OFFERED AS WE SEARCH FOR A NEW VICAR

Gracious and loving God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide the Search Committee, Vestry, and people of St. Mary Magdalene Church through this time of transition and discernment. We pray that

your Holy Spirit continues to open our hearts and minds to new opportunities and ideas that we may follow where you lead, knowing that Jesus Christ walks with us each step of the way. Amen



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The New Year is a good time to renew our hopes for St. MM as we work together, always praying for strength and guidance as we move forward.



WISDOM FOR THE NEW YEAR

“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.” —Vern McLellan

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.” —Benjamin Franklin

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

PO Address: Box 456,
West End, NC 27376

Telephone: 910 673 3838

Website:

<http://WWW.STMMSEVENLAKES.ORG>

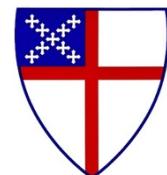
Email:

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*



Vestry Members

Senior Warden – Julia Poisson

Junior Warden – Sherol Grigerick

Steve Loomis, Lloyd Brewer, Jim Douglass and
Linda Sapp

Vestry Secretary – Sherol Grigerick

Treasurer- David Poisson

Webmaster – Jim Douglass