

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

February 2025 Newsletter



**A GRATEFUL CONGREGATION
SAYS, "THANK YOU, ELLEN AND
FR. STEPHEN FOR YOUR FAITHFUL
WORK AT ST. MM."**



On January 26, Fr. Stephen's last day as our priest, parishioners and guests gather for a fellowship luncheon



Julia serves the special celebration cake provided by Linda and Bob Rinaldi

**Godspeed, Ellen and Fr. Stephen.
We love you and we will miss you.**

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 2 - Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Bishop's Visit

Feb. 9 - Rev. Marion Sprott, Preacher/Celebrant, to remain for the Vestry Meeting and a Search Committee meeting

Feb. 15 – 11:00 a.m., Memorial Service for Fr. Fred Thompson, Penick Village

Feb. 16- Bishop Bane, Preacher/Celebrant

Feb. 23- John Gibson (Supply Priest)

Feb. 23- Sunday Brunch- Pine Crest Inn

***Articles for March Newsletter are due.
Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick.***

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ST. MM MOURNS THE PASSING OF  
FORMER PRIEST,  
FR. FRED THOMPSON



Fr. Fred Thompson, our beloved priest who served St. MM as priest for a number of years passed away, January 6, and we mourn our loss. Fr. Fred served alongside Fr. Bob Brown. A memorial service will be held at Penick Village, February 15, 11:00 A.M.

A NOTE FROM FR. STEPHEN & ELLEN  
To the Members and Saints of St. MM,

Thank you so much for making this past Sunday's "Send-Off" an endearing and memorable event. I don't have time to mention everything, but we need to say something about a few things that deeply blessed us: The flowers were glorious, the food delicious, and the cake was the best. As always, special hugs, and words of appreciation and affection meant more than words could ever say. Our memories together these past six-plus years will never be forgotten.

With grateful hearts and bonds of love,

Stephen and Ellen Becker

### FAREWELL LUNCHEON

On January 26, Fr. Stephen's last day as our Vicar, the congregation and guests joined in a fellowship luncheon to celebrate his time with us and wish him and Ellen joy in retirement.

We are grateful to Lloyd Brewer and Linda Sapp for planning and leading in the luncheon. Thank you, ladies.

As always, parishioners did their part in preparation, providing food and assisting with set up/clean-up. Thank you to all who helped.

St. MM is truly grateful to Fr. Stephen and Ellen for their faithful, loving service, and we say, "Godspeed," as they look toward retirement with new projects and adventures.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### March

March 5 - Ash Wednesday - Bishop Bane, Preacher and Celebrant

March 16- Rev. Ken Koontz, Supply Priest

March 19- Vestry Meeting- 5:30 p.m.

#### Lenten Study Planned

Vicki Derka will lead a study on Julian of Norwich following the morning worship services on designated Sundays during Lent.



Vicki Derka Feb. 19

Mary Lou Steinkamp Feb. 23

Jackie Wells Feb. 25



Sherol and Jim Grigerick Feb. 19

Alice and Bishop Bane Feb. 6



**"Do this in remembrance of Me."**

## Tuesday Prayer Group Enjoyed a New Year Celebration Lunch Out



L. to R. Our Guest Daisy Kirit, Jackie, Phyllis, Bette, Crystal, Sherol, and Shirley



### TELL HIM SO

If you hear a kind word spoken  
Of some worthy soul you know,  
It may fill his heart with sunshine  
If you only tell him so.

If a deed, however humble,  
Helps you on your way to go,  
Seek the one whose hand has helped you,  
Seek him out and tell him so!

If your heart is touched and tender  
Toward a sinner, lost and low,  
It might help him to do better  
If you'd only tell him so!

O, my sisters, oh, my brothers,  
As o'er life's rough path you go,  
If God's love has saved and kept you,  
Do not fail to tell men so! *Unknown*



Henry David Thoreau said: "In winter we lead a more inward life. Our hearts are warm and cheery, like cottages under drifts, whose windows and doors are half concealed, but from whose chimneys the smoke cheerfully ascends."



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

### 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

# **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church**

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**The Rt. Rev. David C. Bane, Jr.  
Bishop in Residence**

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Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of  
North Carolina*

