

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

July 2025 Newsletter

GOD BLESS AMERICA



Happy 4th of July!

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen* BCP, page 816

Search for a Vicar

With Bishop Sam Rodman's approval, the description for a part-time Vicar will be placed on the Diocesan website and other appropriate websites.

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church is seeking a half-time Vicar to serve a minimum of two Sunday Eucharists per month, including Holy Week and Christmas Eve. Additional time spent would include liturgy and sermon preparation, consultation with the organist, visitation and fellowship with parishioners, and long-range planning. We are seeking a Vicar who will become part of our local community.

The annual compensation for half-time Vicar is \$36,294.

Julia Poisson, Senior Warden, remains in consultation with Rev. Marion Sprott, Diocesan Transitions Officer.

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4 – Independence Day

July 8 & 22 - Tuesday Healing/Prayer Service, 11:00 a.m.

*July 14 - Meeting to plan *Rise Against Hunger* event, West End Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m. (The *Rise Against Hunger* event will be Sept. 20, 2025.)*

July 27 - Articles for August Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick.

LOOKING AHEAD

Supply Priest Schedule for July

7/6 -- Rev. John Gibson

7/13 -- Bishop Bane

7/20 -- Rev. Franklin Colebrook

7/27 -- Rev. Lito Santos

Thank you, Julia Poisson, Senior Warden, for securing the Preacher/Celebrants for the coming weeks as St. MM awaits the selection of a priest.

St. MM will hold its annual Fall Fellowship Fundraiser at Sequoia Point either on 9/19 or 9/26. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

A local *Rise Against Hunger* event is scheduled for Sept. 20. You are invited to attend an organizational meeting for this event, West End Presbyterian Church, Monday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m.



July Birthdays

David Poisson

Laura Douglass

Laura Mayer

Jared Fravel

Alice Bane

Joan Fruisen

Jim Camp



Linda and John Sapp

Peggy and Steve Loomis



Words from Bishop Bane

THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

Thanksgiving transforms lives. Like any other skill, it takes practice to learn how to live a life of gratitude and thanksgiving. Jesus was clear that thanking God as a way of life enables us to live fuller and more peaceful lives. Why is that? For one thing, thanksgiving cannot be done outside of relationship. We simply cannot be lonely,

isolated, and self-centered while noticing the good things and wonderful people in our lives. When we are stuck in a negative place, the last thing on our minds is giving thanks to anyone for anything. On the other hand, if we are expressing thanksgiving from our hearts, we are virtually outside of ourselves, and it is impossible to remain totally self-focused. The same thing holds true for anger and bitterness and jealousy and feeling sorry for ourselves. All of those negative feelings and emotions are closely tied to self-centeredness. Jesus was very clear that the only way to live fully and joyfully is with an orientation outside of ourselves. Actually, I think we all know that.....

Shalom, +David

AROUND THE PARISH

Vicki Derka is taking organ lessons, making great progress. The organ was recently serviced and repaired.



Lloyd Brewer and Bette Hanham are enjoying their book club, now reading *The Women*, a historical novel about nurses during the Vietnam War. They often see Valerie Doolittle, a former St. MM member, who is a member of the same book club. Valerie travels from Mint Hill, NC, on meeting days. Sometimes she hosts the meeting, and the Seven Lakes members travel to Mint Hill.

The Tuesday Morning Healing/Prayer Service continues to thrive, usually with six or seven attending. Sherol is continually in contact with parishioners regarding their prayer needs.

During our transition time, Jim Douglass will keep the website updated regarding the

schedule of visiting priests. Visit the website and see the regular postings. Thanks, Jim.

PHOTO GALLERY



Photo by Peggy Loomis

Eighteen parishioners plus our guest priest and his wife gather for brunch June 22. If you missed this one, please plan to join the next one, planned for August 24 or 31. Watch for a sign-up sheet.



Bride and Groom, Tessa and Caiden, and the Fravel Family

In June, Julia and David Poisson's granddaughter, Tessa, married her high school sweetheart, Caiden Ray, in a beautiful service held at the Fair Barn in Pinehurst. Congratulations, Tessa and Caiden! Love and best wishes from your Parish.



Bob and Linda Rinaldi recently traveled north and met Fr. Bob Brown and Jean in Valley Forge, near Lansdale, PA, where Father Bob and Jean live. Photo by Linda



Lia Fravel on Graduation Day

Lia, granddaughter of Julia and David Poisson, graduated from high school in June. She will attend Western Carolina University in the fall. Congratulations, Lia. Love and best wishes from your Parish.

ST. MM TO SUBMIT GRANT
PROPOSAL TO NC DIOCESE
Sherol Grigerick

After the sale of the Diocesan House in Raleigh in 2023, the Diocese set up five million dollars in grants and matching funds to support projects and ministries of parishes and missions in the Diocese. These projects must be aligned with at least one of the Missions Strategy Goals. These grants have been appropriated in three phases. St. MM is applying for a \$10,000 grant in phase 3, and we are aligning our grant request with the goal of becoming educated about racial, ethnic, social and economic injustice. Our mission will be to use all of these funds for outreach to financially assist five non-profit organizations, four of them local, which serve people of color. These organizations are all financially struggling due to a decrease in federal funding. Grant applications for Phase 3 must be received by August 15. We are hopeful to receive this grant and thereby continue our commitment of Christian love and generosity to those in need.



Flowers for Worship

If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary, please sign up and indicate your chosen date on the sign-up sheet in the hallway near the office. A \$50.00 donation is requested.



“A day without sunshine is like, you know, night.”
—Steve Martin

“If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving definitely isn't for you.” - Steven Wright



Worry never climbed a hill
Worry never paid a bill
Worry never dried a tear
Worry never calmed a fear
Worry never darned a heel
Worry never cooked a meal
Worry never led a horse to water
Worry never done a thing you'd think it oughta.

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*The Bread which we break,
Alleluia,
Is our communion with the Body of
Christ.*

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



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



Helping Hands Needed

*To keep our church running smoothly we
always need helping hands to share the
work. Some ways you can join in:*

Donate flowers for the altar
Set up or bring treats for Coffee Hour
Serve as a Greeter/Usher
Donate your time as a Eucharistic Minister
Help prepare the altar with the Altar Guild
Volunteer at Emmanuel Thrift Shop
Serve on the Vestry
Participate in Special Events

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

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<http://WWW.STMMSEVENLAKES.ORG>

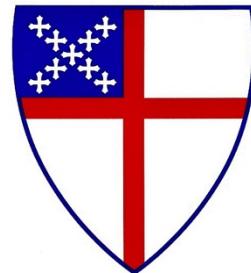
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Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of
North Carolina*



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