

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

November 2025 Newsletter

ST. MM JOYFULLY WELCOMES NEW VICAR, REV. COLETTE BACHAND



A Message from Vicar Colette:

There are going to be so many stories to share over the next few months!

I'm so eager to hear about your faith journey, your joys, struggles, why church matters to you and a million other things. I'm eager to hear about your grandchildren, your garden, your favorite chicken soup recipe, how you did golfing last week, what's the latest book you've read, and what's your favorite hymn. Mostly, I will be honored to hear how I can enter your life as pastor, friend, source of support, companionship, and a fellow pilgrim. As we become a new community, there will be so much to share and how fortunate I feel!

I've been asked to provide a little about myself for the newsletter, so I've provided my "professional" mini-bio below. Along it, I'm happy to share that I'm currently a member of the Moore County "Engaged Brains Project" with First Health working to make our communities more dementia friendly. I love people and bringing people

together, and I believe kindness matters. I have been fervently studying French for years (*tres difficile!*) and go back to the country of my ancestors as often as I can. I love reading, going for long hikes in the woods with Todd, lingering at the beach and have a collection of antique Bibles and BCP's. My two daughters are my heroes and greatest teachers. Oh ... and I can't image a day without coffee... and prayers.

Look forward to seeing you on November 9!

Meet Our New Vicar

Rev. Colette Bachand is an Episcopal priest who recently served as Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge at Penick Village in Southern Pines. She joined Penick in December, 2018 bringing a career in ministry that included parish rector, hospice chaplain, geriatric care chaplain and dementia specialist in Massachusetts. She has traveled the country with the Episcopal Church Pension Group helping equip clergy and faith communities in care of people with dementia, offering presentations on her book, "Do This in Remembrance of Me: Spiritual Care of those with Alzheimer's and Dementia."

Colette has been featured on Alzheimer's Radio network, ourparents.org, and was a columnist for "Outreach NC," a monthly magazine for adults 55 and over in North Carolina. In addition to a Master's of Divinity degree, Colette holds a Certificate Degree in "Behavioral Health of Older Adults" from Boston University.

Prior to her career in ministry, Colette worked as a journalist and freelance writer in New England for 15 years. She lives in Pinehurst with her husband Todd Johnson.



First Sunday of Advent

November 30

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 2 – All Saints' Day

Nov. 9 – St. MM welcomes new Vicar, Rev. Colette Bachand

Nov. 4 and 18 – Tuesday Morning Prayer/Healing Service, 11:00 a.m.

Nov. 16 – Rv. Ryan Parker, Priest Celebrant. Stewardship Sunday Potluck brunch following the service

Nov. 23 – Morning Prayer led by Julia Poisson

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 30 – Rev. Colette, Celebrant, First Sunday in Advent

Nov. 27 -Articles for DECEMBER NEWSLETTER are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick.



Stewardship potluck lunch following morning worship, November 16. Sign-up sheet is on the round table.



November Birthdays

Julie Wahl 5

Josie Meeker 5

Lloyd Brewer 11

Tessa Ray 15

Holden Brown 30

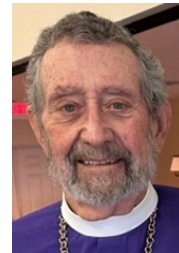


November Anniversaries

Andrea and Dale Schmidt - 4

Jean and Bob Brown - 9

Lydia and Jim Camp - 12



DO OTHERS SEE JESUS IN US?

I don't really think that evangelism has much to do with what we say. The scary part to me is that I believe it has to do with our behavior, especially when we are not even aware that other people are watching us. I suspect that it is possible that some who are reading this are angry at someone right now, or upset, or irritated, or frustrated. Actually, we all fall into that description some of the time, don't we? Feeling those things is not what sets us apart as Christians, but rather how we respond to them. That is what other people will notice, and believe it or not, that is evangelism. Tonight, before we close our eyes, why not review the day and ask, "What have I said or done today that set me apart in some way, that might have caused others to suspect that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life? What have I done that makes me think I hear Jesus saying to me, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You are indeed my light in this dark and broken world. Sleep well.'" The blessing is that if we didn't do that well today, tomorrow is another opportunity. Bishop David Bane



Thank you, Dear Julia, Senior Warden, for guiding us through ten months of search for a new Vicar. Well done!!! You were patient and steadfast, and on November 9, Rev. Colette Bachand will join us at St. MM.

All Parishioners,
Please be present to welcome Rev. Colette on November 9.

Welcome, Robbie and Doug



We joyfully welcome Robbie and Doug Caskey into our St. MM fellowship. They moved to Seven Lakes from Smithfield, VA where they had lived for 30 years and raised their two daughters. They were active members in their church there.

Welcome, Josie Meeker



St. MM joyfully welcomes Josie Meeker into our fellowship. Josie recently moved to Pinehurst from upstate New York where she was an active member in her church.

She shared, "I am thrilled and encouraged by the warm welcome I received here at St. MM. I look forward to being a part of the congregation." Outreach is near and dear to her heart, and she has shared with Sherol her willingness to participate in that mission. Welcome to St. MM, Josie.

OUTREACH

Many thanks to all parishioners who donated Halloween candy and treats for the residents of Seven Lakes Assisted Living. We are making Halloween treat bags for all of the residents, and we will also provide extra candy for treats and prizes for their Halloween games and activities.



Crystal Emery prepares candy bags for the residents



Photo by Lloyd Brewer
Following the Oct. 19, worship service, friends gathered at Seven Lakes Golf Club for brunch/lunch.

IN MEMORIAM



Tribute to Christa

St. MM. is saddened by the October 22, passing, of our dear friend and long-time parishioner Christa Burgess. Christa had been confined to her home and under hospice care for an extended period of time. From her hospital bed, she watched her favorite soap operas, dramas and reality shows, and read her favorite magazines and books.

She welcomed visitors and loved chatting about her family, friends and beloved cat Chablis. Christa was an avid supporter of the World Wildlife Fund and displayed an impressive collection of rare stuffed animals in her bedroom.

In years past, Christa helped her mother, Deacon Carol, lead the prayer services here at St.MM, and in recent times continued to be a part of the prayer group. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Tim, her devoted caregiver and father, her brother Greg, and the entire Burgess family. We pray for Christa in her new spiritual life.
Sherol Grigerick

Christa's memorial service will be at St.MM on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 10:00 a.m. with a reception following the service. The interment will follow at the columbarium at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines.

Share Your Special Occasions with us.

If you have had a special experience or celebrated a special occasion, please feel free to email a note and a photo to phyllisandpete@gmail.com. We will be happy to include your items in upcoming newsletters.



Every day is a beautiful gift,
Tender and precious and swift.
The light and the sound,
The sky and the ground,
Every hour cries out to be lived.
Though I may be over the hill,
Still I think I can and I will.
I've forgotten just what
I can and will, but
They remain a goal of mine still.
Garrison Keilor



Actual Church Bulletin Items:

- >A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favorite recipe, also a short antidote for it.
- >Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm -- prayer and medication to follow.
- >The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Alleluia! Alleluia!!



"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
Steve Loomis, Lloyd Brewer,
Jim Douglass and Linda Sapp

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

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*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of
North Carolina*



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Thanks be to God, Thanks be to God,
for creatures great and small.
Thanks be to God, Thanks be to God,
For blessings given to all.
Thanks be to God for the seeds we sow,
For rain and for harvest,
For things that grow
Thanks be to God, Thanks be to God

