

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

January 2026 Newsletter



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.



St. MM Annual Meeting

At our annual meeting Dec. 7, we welcomed Lloyd Brewer as Senior Warden and Julia Poisson as Junior Warden for 2026. Jim Grigerick joins the Vestry for a three-year term. We thank Linda Sapp and Jim Douglass who remain to complete their three-year commitment.

David Poisson, Treasurer, presented the 2026 budget which unanimously passed.

Julia recognized Steve Loomis and Sherol Grigerick for their three-year commitment to the Vestry. Julia was presented flowers and a gift card in thanks for her outstanding work and leadership as Senior Warden for the past two years.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 13 and Jan. 27– Healing & Intercessory Prayer Service 11:00 a.m. (2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month)

*Jan. 21- Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m. - **All Are Welcome!***

Jan. 18 - Bishop Bane- Celebrant

Jan. 25 – Sunday Brunch Seven Lakes Golf Club

*Jan. 27– **Articles for February Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis or Sherol***



January Birthdays

2 Linda Sapp

14 Linda Lindner

29 Steve Loomis



January Anniversaries

7 Jane and Henry Fisher

OUTREACH

St. MM parishioners generously provided Christmas gifts, including clothes, shoes, hair accessories, toys and games for eight children in our community. Cash donations were used for Food Lion gift cards for their families. In addition, Seven Lakes Assisted Living residents received gift bags containing gloves, socks, toiletries and Christmas candy.

Outreach remains a strength of St. MM, and parishioners proved once again their magnanimous spirit. Thanks to the Outreach Committee: Sherol, Brenda, Josie, and Crystal for making this happen. (See additional Outreach report on Page 5.)



WE *DID* HAVE A GLORIOUS HOLIDAY PARTY AT LLOYD'S !!!

December 12, Lloyd Brewer hosted a Christmas Party at her beautiful home overlooking Lake Auman. Parishioners enjoyed warm fellowship, delicious food, and gracious hospitality. (SEE PHOTOS - PAGE 3)



A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR:

When the outreach committee was putting together the Christmas gift bags for Seven Lakes Assisted Living and Memory Care residents last month, we fumbled with ribbons, wondered how much candy to put in, and worried whether its recipient would find the gifts helpful. But amidst the bow tying, we finally agreed the bags didn't have to be perfect. The message the bags sent, we knew, *was* perfect – it meant the person receiving it wouldn't feel alone and would know someone *saw* them and was thinking of them. For many people living in residential settings, it can be easy to feel invisible to the world. Our little gift bags, imperfect bows and all, sent the message that they still mattered.

As the New Year begins, we greet it with hope and sometimes big plans about how we are going to do better this year ... we vow to be better at exercising, better at keeping in touch with far

away friends, eating better, and better at, *finally*, organizing that junk drawer in the kitchen. While all those efforts are worthy and admirable, there is something else I hope for you this year. I hope that you will remember that you are God's beloved. That you were created in God's image, which means you are exactly who you were meant to be; that you are beautiful and part of God's plan for the world.

We are all vulnerable to feeling "less than" from time to time. Other people seem more talented at what we are trying to be good at. Other church members seem to have a stronger faith, when we have so many questions. As we age and our abilities change, it's easy to feel diminished, especially by a culture that worships youth and productivity.

But that wasn't the Christmas story. The Christmas story was that God came to dwell among us (yes, you!), that God wants to be our constant companion and that because of Christmas we are made new and refreshed for the new year. The Christmas story is that we are loved and beloved by God.

So, while I hope you exercise more and eat less chocolate in the New Year (*nah, never mind the less chocolate part*) I hope your deeper experience will be remembering you are a reflection of what God is, you are God's beloved. What are you passionate about; what do you care deeply about and where does your passion intersect with the places in our world that need us? How can we help others know their belovedness?

In some room at the assisted living community on Christmas morning, some resident opened a little bag with chocolates and a set of socks, and I'd bet they didn't notice if the bow was a little misshaped. A card attached said, "From your friends at St. Mary Magdalene Church." This is how we change the world. God doesn't demand perfection, only passionate hearts to do God's work. Happy New Year my dear family of St. Mary Magdalene.

Love, Rev. Colette

AROUND THE PARISH

Recently, Henry and Jane Fisher visited Henry's mother at a senior living facility in Lansdale, PA, by co-incidence, the same facility where Fr. Bob and Jean Brown live. Henry recognized Fr. Bob from across the dining room. They met and enjoyed a heartwarming reunion. It's a small world, isn't it?!

~ ~ ~ ~

T'is the season to be jolly, ... have a party, ... and wear red.

The kitchen was a popular hangout.



Jackie and Bill



Julia and Linda



A gathering in the sunroom



Linda and Jackie



Jim, Lindsay, and Laura



Rev. Colette, Doug & Robbie Caskey



Awwww!



Thank you, Lloyd, for your hospitality! Co-host, Dinger the cat, stayed for the whole party, moving about, not shy, ready to be stroked.





Greening of the Church

**Following coffee hour, Dec. 14 ~ Advent
Sunday of Joy ~ parishioners joined to
decorate and prepare.**



Pete and Bette untangle some
twisted wires.



Sherol prepares our
Outreach gifts for delivery

Teams decorate two Christmas trees:



Who is that photo bomber?



Julia decorates the organ



Peggy arranges a creche.



Josie shares her
ever-present smile.



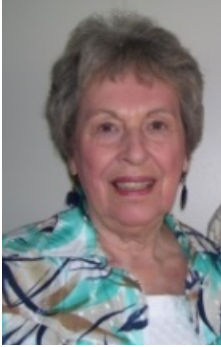
And Vicki prepares music for Christmas Eve



It was a busy, happy place!



IN MEMORIAM



We are saddened by the passing of our friend and fellow parishioner, Maureen Miller, who died at home December 14, 2025, with her family by her side. Maureen had a deep faith and knew that God was in control of her life. She faced her rapidly deteriorating health with peace, joy and gratitude for her life. Family was everything to Maureen. She was excited to travel to New England last summer for a wonderful family reunion with her son and daughter-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She felt blessed having daughter Mary Ann nearby to be a loving caregiver. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Maureen's devoted husband Bob, her children Mary Ann and Greg, and their families. We pray for Maureen in her new spiritual life.

VESTRY NEWS

At their meeting on December 10, the Vestry approved the following officers: Lloyd Brewer as Senior Warden and Julia Poisson as Junior Warden. Sherol Grigerick will continue as Vestry Secretary and David Poisson as Treasurer. Vestry members will have the following responsibilities:

Property- Jim Grigerick

Fellowship- Julia and Lloyd

Outreach- Linda Sapp (Working with Sherol and committee).

Webmaster- Jim Douglass

Stewardship- Julia and Rev. Colette

Pastoral Care- Rev. Colette (Working with Sherol)

OUTREACH REPORT

St.MM members have once again displayed their generosity as a parish. Year-end donations totaling \$4,000 have been sent to six local non-profits. These non-profits provide vital services to those in need, including West End Methodist Church Food Pantry, The Care Group (Moore Buddies/Literacy Group), Moore Free and Charitable Clinic, Friend to Friend, Military Missions in Action, and the Vietnam Vets of Moore County. An itemized list of donations will be displayed on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

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. We celebrate and give thanks for Rev. Colette, our new Vicar.



What the New Year brings to you depends a great deal on what you bring to the New Year.

Vern McLellan



"Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest." **Mark Twain**



Lucy: Do you know anything about angels?
Toby: Not much, but I do know one of them is named Harold.



*Joy to the World,
The Lord has come.
Let earth receive her King!*

Vestry Members

Senior Warden – Lloyd Brewer
Junior Warden – Julia Poisson
Jim Douglass, Linda Sapp, Jim Grigerick

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

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

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*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North
Carolina*

