

# Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

## March 2026 Newsletter

### Dust and ash, a holy place ... By Rev. Colette

After a special time together in church on Ash Wednesday, I packed up and left for my drive home. My route generally takes me out the back way of town, to Mackenzie Mills Road, then route 73.

In the Ash Wednesday liturgy, we had just heard about *dust to dust* and ashes as a symbol of the Lenten journey. My sermon was titled "Trust the Dust" and I shared my faith and deep trust that from the darkest of places new life can begin. Ashes, we reflected, are fertile for growth, rich in nutrients waiting to create something new. Ashes may seem dark and desolate, but when we trust the dust, we know better – something waits beneath the dust.

With a full heart, I began my drive home wondering about what lies ahead and what the Lenten journey will bring for all of us, personally and as a church family. As I turned on Mckenzie Mills Road, large bellows of smoke filled the road. Initially I worried about a house fire but then saw flames in the pine forest ahead. *Perhaps someone was having a bonfire* I wondered, but then saw acres and acres of flames.

I've never seen what I think most call a "prescribed burn," a planned and controlled fire to clear brush and growth. It was awesome and breath taking. I had to stop and watch for a while, smell the smoke, hear the crackle, feel the heat. It was beautiful, and a little scary. But I couldn't help feel it was a message, a pause, an "ah, ha!" moment.

Yes, sometimes we are in the wilderness. Yes, sometimes we aren't sure what comes next. And yes, way too often, it's hard to see new life and easier to lament what's gone.

But we must trust the dust! It was loud and clear and burning right in front of me. It seemed a very good sign for St. Mary Magdalene Church. Something new is ahead ... a time of new energy, new life, new mission. And I heard again, words from the sermon, words at the heart of Ash Wednesday ... "*World, wait until you see what rises from the dust on Easter morning!*"



"The scene on McKenzie Mills Rd on Ash Wednesday."

### MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 8 – Morning Prayer**

**March 15 & 22, Soup and Lenten study following coffee hour**

**March 10 & 24 - Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m.**

**March 14 – Book signing event for Phyllis' new book, 1:00 p.m.**

**March 18 Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m. - *All Are Welcome!***

**March 29, Palm Sunday**

**March 27– *Articles for April Newsletter are due. CONTACT Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigrick***

### Holy Week at St. Mary Magdalene

**Sunday March 29 - Palm Sunday, 10:00 AM**

Liturgy of the Palms and Reading of the Passion

**Thursday April 2 –Maundy Thursday 5:00 PM**

Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

**Friday April 3 – Good Friday, 3:00 PM**

Good Friday Liturgy

**Sunday April 5 – Easter Sunday 10:00 AM**

Easter Day Celebration



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY March Birthdays

Lindsay Douglass. 3

Pete Olson 10

Andrea Schmidt. 19

Sherol Grigerick. 28



No March Anniversaries



St. Mary Magdalene's outreach continues to grow, next month adding "Habitat of Humanity of the Sandhills" to its list of local organizations supported by the parish.

Rev. Colette is an ongoing member of Habitat's "Apostle's Build." Through this program, a home is built every year that is supported by churches and clergy from around Moore County.

If you'd like a good laugh and want to see Rev. Colette try and use a hammer (bring band-aids!) you are invited to join her and Todd on Thursday April 23, from 8:00 - 1:00 at the build site in Aberdeen. From April 23 - 25, we have an opportunity to help, so if you want to participate but can't make the 23rd, Emmanuel Church will also be coming and you can join them any other day. Habitat promises there are chores and tasks to be done for people of all levels of skills and abilities. What a great gift it is to help fight homelessness right in our own communities.

See Rev. Colette if you are interested or need to know how big a band-aid to buy for her!

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### **Easter Outreach for Seven Lakes Assisted Living**

St. MM parishioners will again donate plastic eggs, wrapped candy, and cards for Easter to the residents of Seven Lakes Assisted Living. Please bring in packages of plastic eggs and wrapped candy that will fit in the eggs. Easter cards are also needed for the residents. An Easter basket will be placed on the table in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, March 1. Please bring all donations by Sunday, March 22. The Outreach Committee will fill the eggs and deliver them in time for the residents' egg hunt. Contact Linda Sapp or Sherol Grigerick if you have any questions.

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### ***NEW!* Caregiver Support Group in Seven Lakes**

A NEW twice a month support group for caregivers will begin in April 2026, for residents of Seven Lakes, Carthage, West End and surrounding towns.

The bi-monthly gatherings will be at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church and are intended for spouses, children, parents, siblings, and friends of those who provide care and support to loved ones or family members with chronic health conditions.

Numbers continue to increase in Moore County of those providing direct care in situations like a spouse with dementia, a sibling with cancer, a parent with aging needs, and more. Caregiving can be isolating and exhausting. Having others to journey with can make all the difference. Drop in as you are able; no sign up necessary.

Meetings are the second and fourth Sundays of the month and are facilitated by St. Mary Magdalene's priest Rev. Colette Bachand who has a career in health care chaplaincy including support group work, hospice care, geriatric care, and spiritual care of those with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

**Beginning Sunday April 12, 2026  
1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**St. Mary Magdalene Church  
1145 Seven Lakes Drive,  
Seven Lakes, NC**

For More Information call:  
St. Mary Magdalene Church: 910-673-3838  
or visit  
[saintmarymagdalenenc@gmail.com](mailto:saintmarymagdalenenc@gmail.com)

## COFFEE HOUR PHOTOS



**Sherol leads the Tuesday Intercessory Prayer/Healing Service.** This ministry continues to grow, with eleven attendees at the Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please join us, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. 11:00 a.m.



Following the meeting on Feb. 24, the women gathered at The Southside Bar and Grill at the Seven Lakes Golf Club to celebrate Rev. Colette's birthday.



Grandmother, Robbie Caskey, with Harper and Charlotte



**Outreach Committee** prepares Valentine treat bags for Seven Lakes Assisted Living residents



## OUTREACH PROJECT FOR ST. MM

Beginning this month our parish will be collecting donations for the "7 Sparrows" program here in Seven Lakes. This center is located down the street from us and is a "boutique" style shop that provides free necessities like clothing, food, toys and home goods for families in need. St. Mary Magdalene outreach committee agreed to support the program with monthly donations. At this time the center needs **toilet paper, paper towels and laundry detergent, fragrance free/skin sensitive.** A bin will be located at the narthex for these donations. Thank you. See Rev. Colette for more details.



Kensley assists as usher

**Heads up:**

Watch for a new St. MM Directory ~ coming soon. If you have changes, or if you would like a new photo, please contact Phyllis. [phyllisandpete@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisandpete@gmail.com)

**Vestry Members**

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

Vestry Secretary – Sherol Grigerick  
Treasurer- David Poisson  
Web Master – Jim Douglass



*The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the fly comes close. – Mark Twain*



GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded & bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

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"God stands in the shadows keeping watch over His own." **James Russel Lowell**



*Make a joyful noise. Come into His presence with singing!*

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The Rev. Colette Bachand, Vicar

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*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina*

