

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

April 2026 Newsletter

MORE LOVE IS THE PROMISE OF EASTER SEASON

It has been said that music is medicine for the soul. That is rarely truer than on Easter morning when we shout Alleluias, sing *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*, and belt out the beautiful verse, “*The strife is over, the battle won, the victory of life is won.*” Shortly after you receive this newsletter, we will be in the Easter season, that joyous time in the church year we celebrate new life and God’s promises of hope.

Just days before Palm Sunday, St. Mary Magdalene church brought music as medicine to residents of the Seven Lakes Assisted Living & Memory Care here in town. Armed with boxes of Easter eggs stuffed with goodies by our outreach friends, and with headsets in tow, Doug, Robbie, Daisy, Lydia, Crystal, Sherol and I headed over to meet with a group of residents. The stuffed eggs, along with Easter cards from “Your friends at St. Mary Magdalene” will be part of the community’s Easter celebration.

The headsets are individual personal devices that residents can wear to listen to favorite tunes from the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s. They were given through a partnership with our church and the “Engaged Brains Project,” a three-year program sponsored by The Foundation of First Health and led by neuropsychologist Dr. Karen D. Sullivan. The project is called “Music is Medicine” and celebrates the power of music to sooth and bring joy to those with dementia and brain changes.

“It was very touching for me to be there,” said Robbie about her experience, adding that she has had family members in memory care communities. “I’m comfortable around people of that age, and I’d like to think I brought a bit of sunshine to them that day.”

Also included in the Music is Medicine partnership was Pinecrest High School student Kenna Johnson, a Girl Scout who choose the headsets as part of her “Gold Award Program.”

Over the past few months, almost 200 headsets were delivered to memory care residents throughout Moore County. The Seven Lakes Community had originally ordered just 15. That was the number of residents in memory care at that time. Since then, the number jumped to 28, so St. Mary Magdalene church purchased the additional headsets.

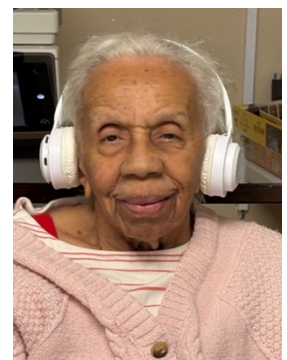
Upon receiving a headset one resident began swaying and singing “...nothing but a hound dog.” Another resident closed her eyes and smiled. Another danced with me all the way back to her room. Lydia’s friend talked to her the entire time they were together.

The Jesus who died on the cross and rose again so that all would have new life ... I think this Jesus celebrated the new life of our little ministry project. Henry David Thoreau said, “The is no remedy for love but to love more.”

This is the work of our church, to love more. More love is the gift of Easter. Love lives, love walks the earth, love is with us still – and because of this we can all sing a grand “Alleluia!”

Many blessings of peace and joy to you all and Happy Easter!

Love,
Rev. Colette



Seven Lakes Assisted Living & Memory Care residents enjoy new headsets

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2 – Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar 5:00 p.m.

April 3 - Good Friday service, Good Friday Liturgy 3:00 p.m.

April 5 – Easter Sunday, Easter Day Celebration- 10:00 a.m. Sunday

April 14 and 28 Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m. (Held 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month)

April 12 – Caregiver Support Group 1:00- 2:00 p.m.

April 15 - Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m. – (Third Monday of each Month) - *All Are Welcome!*

April 27– *Articles for May Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigrick*

LOOKING AHEAD

Bishop Sam to Visit St. MM in July

Bishop Sam Rodman will make his yearly visit to our parish on July 19. St. Mary Magdalene Feast Day, which is July 22, will be celebrated in connection with the Bishop's visit. Special activities to honor our namesake and to reach out to others with kindness are being planned. You will be invited to participate.



April Birthdays

- 1- Skip Ragland
- 1- Jim Douglass
- 7- Jim Grigrick
- 8 – Bruce Hughes
- 9- Robbie Caskey
- 13- Lia Fravel
- 16 – Nancy Peterson
- 18 – Charlotte Kennedy
- 23- Crystal Emery



April Anniversaries

- 26 - Rev. Colette and Todd
- 29 - Jackie and Bill Wells



OUTREACH

St. Mary Magdalene's outreach continues to grow, next month adding "Habitat for 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 supported by churches and clergy from around Moore County.

If you'd like a good laugh and want to see our Vicar 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 participating and you can join them any other day. 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 community. See Rev. Colette if you are interested or need to know how big a band-aid to buy for her!

Outreach for the 7 Sparrows ministry continues. Requested items: **Toilet paper, paper towels, fragrance free/skin sensitive laundry detergent** A collection basket sits near the front door.

Caregiver Support

Bi-monthly gatherings at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church 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- second and fourth Sundays of the month.

**Beginning Sunday April 12, 2026
1:00 – 2:00 PM
St. Mary Magdalene Church**



A NEW CHALICIST

Responding to a need, Charlotte Kennedy has volunteered to be a chalicist, having served previously at a former church. We heartily thank her for filling this important position. If others are willing to serve in this way, Rev. Colette will offer training.



St. MM helps Phyllis celebrate her second book

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in March our church hall was filled with joy and sharing when over thirty people attended a reading and book-signing for parishioner Phyllis Olson.

Earlier this winter, Phyllis published the sequel to her first novel, *The Faded Blue House*. The sequel, *On Adelphi Road*, continues the story of the Evans family readers met in the first book. Set in a small Arkansas town during WWII, it is a tale of love, hardships, resiliency, and reconciliation. Characters in the book are based on real members of Phyllis’ family and childhood community, though the story is a work of fiction.

At the March 14th event guests were invited to share stories of their own lives during WWII. Fellowship

and refreshments followed. In coming months Phyllis will offer book-signings throughout the region and will be featured in *Seven Lakes Insider* newspaper. Phyllis and husband Pete are long-time parishioners at St. Mary Magdalene.
Rev. Colette

Smiling Faces



Lenten Study Group



Lunch at Southside Bar and Grill following a Sunday Service



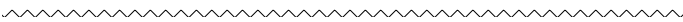
A REMINDER



More volunteers are needed to take charge of our treasured coffee hour, including clean-up afterwards. There is also an ongoing need for coffee treats. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the office.



FYI: Headsets for the hearing impaired will soon be placed in the sanctuary.



Live Today

Shake it out. Shake it off.
Think it through. Sort it out.
Change what you can;
make peace with what you cannot.
Slough off the rest.
Do your best every day.
Make peace with yesterday.
Take the blame for your errors.
Say, "I'm sorry," when necessary.
Acknowledge God.
Let Jesus be your counselor.
Live today.
Make peace always. **Copied**

Holy Week at St. Mary Magdalene

5:00 PM **Thursday** April 2 – Maundy Thursday
Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

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

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



*Christ, the Lord, is risen today,
...Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, ...
Alleluia!
Raise your voice and triumphs high,
...Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply,
...Alleluia!*



St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

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