

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

May 2026 Newsletter



If you take a peek around the back of our church building, you'll notice a new St. Francis statue in the small garden with three plants, two yellow rose bushes and a "lantana" that should bloom soon.

The statue is new to its location but actually belonged to The Rev. Fred Thompson and his wife Teeny when they lived in a cottage at Penick Village in Southern Pines. Those of you newer to the church won't have known that Father Fred was the priest at St. Mary Magdalene's for many years when the parish was new. Teeny passed away during the Covid pandemic and Father Fred passed away in January, 2025.

When the Thompson family cleaned out their cottage after Fred's passing, St. Francis remained on the front porch. With the family's permission, I offered to find the statue a new home.

That was a year ago, and to be honest, St. Francis has been driving around with me for the whole year. I already had a St. Francis in my *front* yard, and when Todd moved in two years ago, he brought his own St. Francis, now in our *back* yard. A third St. Francis seemed like a lot for one house. As I pondered a new home for the statue it remained in my car, and weeks turned to months to a full year.

In March, as I walked around our building thinking about the pending road construction I saw the yellow rose bushes blooming in our backyard and I remembered Fred's St. Francis, still in my car. I placed it in the garden. It looked great and I began watering the roses on the days I am at church.

In some ways, the Thompson statue finding a new garden here at St. Mary Magdalene feels like a homecoming. St. Francis is right where he should

be, and it made me think about the passing of time, how quickly the present becomes the past; how the present is taken for granted, how things of the future can be both exciting and worrisome.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says: *"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."* As a church we hold the past, present and future together— cherishing the good ol' days when Fred and Teeny (and many others now gone) were with us. We embrace the present, ... the gift of Sunday mornings together and the beauty of walking the road together. And the future, well, it's a time yet unknown, but ours to create. (See the St. Francis prayer elsewhere in the newsletter.)

I hope that the new St. Mary Magdalene Saint Francis statue serves as a reminder of the potential we have as a community rooted in love and service. After all it was St. Francis who said, "Preach the gospel at all times; use words only when necessary."

Peace and love,
Rev. Colette

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 3 and 17 – Bishop Bane, Celebrant and Preacher

May 5 and 19 ~ Healing & Intercessory Prayer Service, 11:00 a.m.

June 10 - Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m. All Are Welcome!

May 24 – Brunch at the Southside Bar and Grill at the Seven Lakes Golf Club.

May 27– Articles for June Newsletter are due. CONTACT Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigrick

The caregiver support group will continue on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Services at Seven Lakes Assisted Living will be the first and third Mondays of the month at 11:00 a.m. Parishioners are invited to assist with these events. (No service May 4 due to Rev. Colette's travels)



May Birthdays

- 10- Brenda Yarish
- 13-Scarlett Isabella – (Loomis’ granddaughter)
- 14-Doug Caskey
- 18-Peggy Loomis
- 30- Donna McClung



May Anniversaries

- 21- Julia and David Poisson
- 30- Jared and Crystal Fravel

LOOKING TOWARD JULY

Save the Dates for “A Month of Mary Magdalene”

In the Episcopal Church, July 22 is the feast day St. Mary Magdalene. To celebrate our ministry together here at the church that bears her name, our church is sponsoring a month-long celebration of the “Apostle to the Apostles.” More details to, follow but save these dates:



Button Brigade – Celebrate the spirit of Mary Magdalene throughout the month! 100 buttons have been ordered. In your day-to-day travels around town, let’s find 100 people doing good things. “Catch” them being kind and give them a button. Grab a selfie photo with them if possible!
Saturday July 18 10:00 – Noon: “Community Gratitude Breakfast” at church honoring four people from the greater Seven Lakes communities whose lives exemplify the spirit of Mary Magdalene.

Sunday July 19 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with Bishop Sam Rodman, Bishop of the Diocese of NC

Wednesday July 22 5:30 p.m. – Parish Holy Eucharist celebrating feast of St. Mary Magdalene, followed by a pool party and fellowship at the home of parishioner Charlotte Kennedy.

Saturday July 25, 10:00 a.m. to noon– “*The Spirituality of St. Mary Magdalene*” workshop with “Soul Kindling” artist Ally Markotich. Learn more about Mary Magdalene and create your own Mary Magdalene prayer card. No artistic skills required. Open to the wider community. A sign-up sheet will be forthcoming.



Tuesday Morning Prayer Group celebrates Sherol’s birthday

COFFEE HOUR PHOTOS

Smiling faces



Easter Sunday ~Someone wore a bonnet!



Guest, Phyllis Cusimano, and Todd



Kensley



Robbie and Doug

LINDA SAPP'S SPRINGTIME PHOTOS



Miniature swallowtail butterfly



Bluebird eggs (a nesting in progress)



Chickadee nest

Volunteers and Donations Requested for *Rise Against Hunger*

The West End Presbyterian Church will host a *Rise Against Hunger* event, Saturday, September 19. Churches are asked to inform them of plans to participate by May 15. Our Vestry voted to participate by providing workers and a cash donation.

West End Presbyterian will donate \$5,000 toward this event, and they are counting on community support to raise \$7,500 and package 18,000 meals with one hundred volunteers. Last year they greatly exceeded their goal, raising over \$10,000 and packaging over 28,000 meals with 155 volunteers. In 2025, with an outreach grant from the diocese, St. MM, was able to donate \$2500 toward the goal, and several parishioners volunteered to assemble meals, an enjoyable and gratifying experience.

Individual donations are requested. Checks, any amount, should be made to St. MM with *Rise Against Hunger* noted on the memo line. A volunteer signup sheet will be available soon. Please contact Sherol Grigerick if you have any questions.

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war so that you may reach out your hand to them and turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.



SOMETHING TO PONDER

Talk less, listen more.
Walk wherever. Drink more water.
Be grateful for what you have.
Take no day for granted.
Find something to celebrate.
Want less of what others have.
Be a kinder person, a better friend. Copied



A Sunday school teacher, teaching the Ten Commandments to five and six-year olds, explained the commandment to "Honor thy father and thy mother." Then she said, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"
One little boy shouted, "Thou shall not kill."

~

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” Mark Twain

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

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

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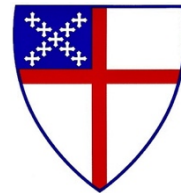
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The Rev. Colette Bachand, Vicar

Newsletter Editors:

Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North
Carolina*



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.
Come before His presence with singing!