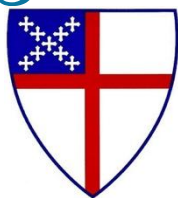


St. Mary Magdalene Newsletter

August 2026



Bette Hanham, Maggie Beamguard, and Ciara Sheerin are awarded the "Spirit of Mary Magdalene Award" at the community appreciation brunch last month. (Photo by Peggy Loomis)

Note from Rev. Colette

Dear Friends,

I am your guest editor this month, so thank you for contending with this out of the usual parish newsletter. Phyllis and Sherol so gratefully create this for you each month, and at the moment, Phyllis is taking a break to be with family and rest. With Pete's passing on Tuesday July 28th the parish grieves with her as we experience another loss. As I've mentioned before, be mindful of your own heart for grief has a way of sneaking up on us. New losses often trigger old losses; it is a time to seek love and support and give it.

As July closed and August was in sight, I reflected on what a month it had been, and I think it is a positive sign when there are so many pictures being sent to me from the parish that the newsletter could be ten pages long!

July was a "Month of Mary Magdalene" with our button brigade; our community appreciation brunch; the Mary Magdalene Feast Day Eucharist and gathering at Charlotte's house; and finally, our create a Mary Magdalene prayer card program with artist Ally Markotich. And closing out the month, the parish was so kind to throw a beautiful baby shower for my daughter Adrienne. She was beyond words with what she described as such kindness being given her. Through it all we were reminded of the steadfast witness of our patron saint and her dedication to the mission and ministry of Jesus' way of love.

Fun stories came in about the people who received buttons, including a family friend who helped to drive a parishioner a long way for a haircut; a special needs woman who helps serve at the thrift shop in Southern Pines with some of our parishioners, a helpful Food Lion employee, and a button left on a door of a car that had hand painted cheerful signs on its windows. Others

were of family members helping each other and pins given to people who spend each and every day offering kindness. A whole page of photos follows in this newsletter.

I hope our time together brought us closer and let the light shine over our little parish. I am deeply honored to be part of such a band of very special souls and dedicated pilgrims. Let us continue to be of hope and care. As 1 Thessalonians 5:11 reminds: *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact, you are doing."*

Peace and love,
Rev. Colette

Rise Against Hunger Outreach

St.MM is once again participating with local churches in our community for the *Rise Against Hunger* outreach event.

It will take place on Saturday, September 19 from 8:30 to 11:00 am at the West End Presbyterian Church. Around 150 volunteers are needed to prepare and package approximately 25,000 meals made of rice and nutritious dried vegetables. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex soon for volunteers to register for this event. ST.MM parishioners and their family and friends are invited to attend. There are easy and fun tasks for all ages.

The community fundraising goal this year is \$11,500. St.MM has pledged \$500, so any individual donations toward this goal are deeply appreciated. Contributors may write checks to ST.MM with *Rise Against Hunger* on their memo line. The packaged meals will be sent to areas of the world where there is great food insufficiency. Please see Sherol or Colette if you would like to participate or have questions.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!



A word of gratitude to EVERYONE for all you did last month to make our Mary Magdalene events all they were! From preparing food, setting up the church, making donations, hosting and participating ... you all did SO much. Thank you for your dedication and energy. Now get some rest! Rev. Colette

Funeral Service for Pete Olson



The funeral for Pete will be held at St. Mary Magdalene Church on **Saturday August 29th** at 2:00 PM and will be followed by a time of fellowship in the parish hall. More details will follow closer to the date. *May his soul, and the soul of all the departed rest in peace!*

Fond Memories of Pete Olson- By Sherol

We at St.MM will always remember Pete for his kindness, keen wit, deep faith, and service to our church and community. Throughout many years, Pete served on the Vestry and participated in the service as a lector, chaliceist, and usher. He counted the offering, brought weekly donations to the Coalition, and transported members to church. Pete also spent countless hours serving meals-on-wheels and volunteering for the First Health Cancer Center and Hospice House. When he entered the Hospice House as a patient, the staff knew him well after almost twenty years of service. ST. MM will miss Pete greatly, but we are comforted by knowing that he is now in the everlasting arms of Jesus. We send our deepest sympathy to Phyllis and their family.

Outreach Reminder:

A reminder that we continue to collect nonperishable food items, diapers, and baby wipes that will be donated to 7 Sparrows each month. A bin is provided in the Narthex

Scenes from our July events:

Community Appreciation Brunch





Bette Hanham was honored for her founding of the parish!!!

The Button Brigade





A car parked at Ace Hardware had all kinds of nice things written on the windows. Our little pin is in the window waiting for the driver to return.

Mary Magdalene Spirituality Art Class



Wonderful baby shower for Adrienne!



AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 11 & 25 – Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: Wed., August 12, 5:30 pm. All Are Welcome!

August 27– Articles for September Newsletter are due. CONTACT Colette, Phyllis, or Sherol



August Birthdays

11- Lilith
Fravel
13- Julia Poisson
19- Kaelynn Phillips
21- Bob Miller
22 – Todd Johnson



August

Anniversaries

26-Martha and Skip Ragland

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The Rev. Colette Bachand, Vicar

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