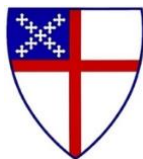


St. Mary Magdalene Newsletter

September 2026



Note from Rev. Colette

In August we sang the hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory” one Sunday. Ever notice how sometimes a hymn hits you right when you need it? Yup, that happened to me that Sunday. “Grant us wisdom, grant us courage ...” go the stanzas. We sing that we’d have wisdom and courage: *for the facing of this hour, for the facing of these days, lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal, and serving thee whom we adore.*

According to “Disciple Ministries,” the hymn was written by Harry Emerson Fosdick and first performed in New York city in 1930. Fosdick had served as a chaplain during WW I and wrote this hymn during the Great Depression. Those were the “hours” and “days” he lived through, a difficult time that required both wisdom and courage.

But as we sang it that August Sunday, I had the thought that isn’t it every day of our lives we need this wisdom and courage? With all the beautiful and amazing things that happen each and every day, so too come moments our hearts are heavy, there is another loss, another challenge, and always, things are changing.

Change. I recently looked at the donation rack in our narthex. It’s changed. The signs invite us to donate to school supplies, the thrift shop, animal shelter, and now 7 Sparrows for food. That’s a change. I don’t know for how many years, but for a long time that sign read “Coalition.” Pete Olson used to take the items there each week and with his passing and the new relationship with 7 Sparrows, the church decided to change where the food was donated. 7 Sparrows says their need for food is growing. So, the old sign came down, and a new one went up. It’s a different sign, but the blessing is the same...sharing our abundance, spreading love and care for others, being dedicated to the common good.

This month the season will change too ... cooler temperatures, nature will begin its journey through colors, another summer will be behind us. For what do you need wisdom and

courage this season; what will your hours and days be like? My prayer for you, whatever your change, whatever your challenge, my prayer is God's grace and God's glory. And as the hymn reminds us, *"from the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise."*

Peace and love,
Rev. Colette

Road Construction Underway



On Saturday, August 29, the rumbling of trucks arrived on our front lawn as the road expansion project in Seven Lakes finally made its way to our church. We will try and provide an update as soon as we can get some information on a timetable, but it is expected our front parking spaces (on the street side) will disappear this week. We will still have the spaces in front of our building and the handicap spots. We encourage parking in the lots to the left and right of the building, or on the side of the building, when you arrive on Sundays. Please let me know if you need special parking arrangements or help in any way; your safety is a priority. Rev. Colette

Rise Against Hunger Outreach



St.MM is once again participating with local churches in our community for the *Rise Against Hunger* 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. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up. 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 have questions.

Memorial Service for Tim Burgess

The Burgess family will be back in Seven Lakes to celebrate the life of **Tim Burgess**.
The congregation is welcome to join together:

Wednesday October 14, 2026 - 10:00 Burial Rite & Holy Eucharist
11:00 Time of fellowship
1:00 Interment, Emmanuel Church Southern Pines Memorial Garden



Remembering Tim

Bishop Sam Rodman to visit Sunday September 20th



Bishop Sam has rescheduled his parish visit for **Sunday September 20th**. The service will include the “Celebration of a New Ministry” which is traditionally done when a priest takes a new role in a parish. Bishop Sam will have time to meet with us all at coffee hour and he is eager to hear how things are going in Seven Lakes.

If you have any questions about Diocesan programs, events, or national church news, this is a time to ask. Please join us for this wonderful time together.

What does the Vestry do, anyway?

By Rev. Colette

Depending on the type of parish in the Episcopal world, vestries do a variety of things in a congregation. Typically there is a “Senior Warden” who is “the warden to the priest” and considered a liaison between the priest and the parish and serves as a co-leader on church matters. A “Junior Warden” is considered the “warden for the people,” and in most cases, especially in smaller parishes like ours, the junior warden often ends up as the sexton/buildings and grounds committee too.

Other vestry members are meant to help make parish decisions, review finances and budgets each month, often serve as a liaison to a committee, often are convention delegates, and generally support the work of the entire church. As I said earlier, vestries vary widely from church to church. Ours is about the easiest going vestry I’ve ever worked with, also fun, also very caring about our church family. Vestry remembers rotate off every three years; this assures a balance of power in a parish and invites everyone to have chances to be involved.

For 2027 we will need two new people to serve on our vestry as two are rotating off. Meetings are once a month on a Wednesday evening, generally from 5:30 – 6:30 (6:45). What do you say? As we move into an exciting year ahead, be part of the fun! See me if interested. Rev. Colette

Community Remembrances of Pete



By Sherol Grigerick

St.MM members have so many wonderful memories of Pete that it’s hard to single them out. Here are a few remembrances of several parishioners:

Bette Hanham has fond memories of all the rides to and from church that Pete has given her over the years. He not only drove her to Sunday worship, but also to the Tuesday prayer services. Bette says, “We had delightful conversations and shared a lot. He was my church buddy!”

Julia Poisson recalled that Pete was the best vacuum cleaner operator! He would faithfully get out the vacuum cleaner after coffee hour or whenever he noticed any crumbs on the carpet.

Steve Loomis remarked, “I remember Pete as someone funny, kind, and always ready to help. He was our best folding chair stacker after an event and first to grab the vacuum cleaner. After the church service, Pete and I would count the offering and always have a good laugh about how many times we had to recount the checks and cash until we finally got it right! He will be missed by all in our church, but especially by me.”

Jim Grigerick remembered, “When Bob Rinaldi’s men’s group met monthly on Saturday mornings, Pete would always provide the much-anticipated special morning treat—Granny’s doughnuts! Granny’s would only bake so many doughnuts each morning, and they would close as soon as they were sold out. Pete always made sure that he got there early enough to buy the doughnuts before they ran out. Thank you, Pete!”

Vick Derka commented, “Pete was my first-- and for a long time, ONLY--friend at St.MM. We were always the first two at church, parking our Subaru Crosstreks in the parking lot next door. I really looked forward to chatting and laughing with him each Sunday morning. Whenever he served as lector, he nervously rehearsed the passages over and over again, and I reassured him countless times that we all admired his reading. That nervousness was just a small example of his sweet and humble presence. I miss that kind and gentle man whom I knew for too short a time!”

Linda Sapp noted, “Pete’s warmth and caring always shone so brightly in our loving family that is St. Mary Magdalene.”

Sherol Grigerick recounted, “Pete and I both had birthdays in March, so we celebrated them at the same time, frequently at Vitos, and we exchanged gifts. I enjoyed picking out chocolates and note cards, which Pete loved. He would always write us a thank you note using our note cards.”

Crystal Emery reflected on the day that she went to the Pik N Pig with Phyllis and Pete for lunch. She said, “We ate lunch inside because it was cool and rainy. But when we came outside, small planes were arriving on the landing field next door. Pete watched them land with joy, and he remarked, “Next time we’ll eat out here so we can watch the planes!” Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have run the race; you have kept the faith. Welcome to Heaven! Welcome home, Pete!”

Fall Parish Bible Study Series

“Exploring the I AM Statements of Jesus”

Throughout the gospels Jesus uses the phrases “I Am” ... *I am the bread of life, I am the Good Shepherd, etc.* Come explore these statements and learn about their connection to Old Testament texts. A four-part series, noon – 1:00 pm **Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Nov. 1 and Nov. 15**
Please bring a snack or lunch for yourself if you need to eat during the conversation.

Spiritual Reflection Corner:
“Love Does That” by Meister Eckhart



All day long a little burro labors, sometimes
with heavy loads on her back and sometimes just with worries
about things that bother only
burros.

And worries, as we know, can be more exhausting
than physical labor.

Once in a while a kind monk comes
to her stable and brings
a pear, but more
than that,

he looks into the burro's eyes and touches her ears
and for a few seconds the burro is free
and even seems to laugh,
because love does
that.

Love frees.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 8 & 22 – Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m

September 7 & 21- Worship service Seven Lakes Memory Care 11:00 am.

September 20 – Bishop Visit at 10:00 am service

Next Vestry Meeting: Wed., September 23, 5:30 pm. All Are Welcome!

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

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.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

2 – Samantha Parsons
11- Bishop David Bane
23 – Martha Ragland
30 – Phyllis Olson

"We turn not older with years, but newer every day." – Emily Dickinson

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