

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

2022 Newsletter



MERRY MARKET EARNS MONEY FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Led by Chairperson, Julia Poisson, St. MM resumed **The Merry Market**, our annual fundraiser for community outreach. In our tradition, it was held the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Fifteen vendors participated, (ten of whom were returnees) with St. MM gleaning funds from the table rentals. Parishioners provided an array of arts, crafts, and baked goods and shoppers responded well.

We thank Julia Poisson, Laura Douglass and others for their enthusiastic advertising and promotion of the event. We also thank those who provided sale items, those who came to work and shop, and those who labored “setting up” then “taking down.”

The money earned, over \$1,300, will be thoughtfully designated by the vestry for community outreach.



Jane Fisher shops early; Julia tends the till.

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DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 4 – Annual Church Meeting following morning worship service*
Dec. 5 – Advent and Christmas Music celebration plus a light supper - 5:30 p.m. All are invited.
Dec. 13- Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m. (Normally held 2ND and 4TH Tuesday of each month. – Only one meeting in December.)
Dec. 14 - Vestry Meeting
Dec. 18 – Decoration of the church following the morning worship service. Your help is requested.
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist - 8:00 p.m. A thirty- minute music program of Carols and hymns will precede the Communion service.
Dec. 25 – Christmas Day - No service
Dec. 27– Articles for January Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson or Sherol Grigerick.



Holy Communion will be celebrated Christmas Eve, 8:00. A thirty-minute music program will precede the Communion Service.



Episcopal Diocese of NC holds its 207th Annual Convention

The Annual Diocesan Convention was held Nov. 18-19, at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. John Sapp and Bob Rinaldi served as our delegates and we thank them.



*O, come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

OUTREACH



As always, there is a need for food at Moore County Coalition. You are asked to bring food items and place them in the basket in the narthex. Pete will deliver them each Monday.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Sherol Grigerick

One of my most enjoyable volunteer opportunities is assisting Randy Abercrombie, the creative and enthusiastic activities director at Seven Lakes Assisted Living and Memory Care. He leads on-going events every afternoon, including arts and crafts, puppet shows, in-house bowling, holiday events, and monthly birthday parties.

One of Randy's biggest challenges is recruiting volunteers to assist him with these activities. Since St.MM adopted Seven Lakes Assisted Living two years ago, we have supplied them with cards, candy, toiletries and other gifts. By adding a few more volunteers, we would greatly increase our support not only to Randy, but to the deserving residents as well. Please contact Linda Lindner or me if you are interested in helping.

Monthly Child Sponsorship

ST. MM Vestry voted to participate in Compassion International by sponsoring a seven-year-old Ethiopian girl. The gift will be \$40 per month, with additional small sums given for birthday and Christmas. The Vestry will manage this outreach.



Sponsorship of Local Families is Christmas Outreach Project

Outreach Chair, Linda Lindner, is making plans with the guidance counselor at West End Elementary to provide assistance to two local families at Christmas time. An additional family will also be given Christmas gifts.

The Angel Tree is set up at the church. You are asked to sign up and indicate the gifts you are willing to provide. The information regarding gender and size is available near the Angel Tree. The deadline for returning unwrapped gifts is Sunday, December 11.



Singing a Song of Hope

We begin this Church calendar year with the season of Advent, a time of hope that anticipates and prepares us for the coming of Christ. The Apostle Paul tells us, "In this hope we are saved, but hope that is seen is no hope at all" (Romans 8:24).

Waiting for this hope to become a reality is often wearisome. Consequently, we need songs of hope to strengthen us while we wait. These songs remind us of God's promise to come into our lives, even amid the most unpromising circumstances.

In our attempt to sing songs of hope in a weary land, we might find our melody a little out of tune, but with the help of others, we can find our voice

and sing joyfully. Therefore, our Vestry has chosen to celebrate the Advent season by singing both hopeful Advent hymns and joyful Christmas carols in a special event on Monday, December 5th . There will be plentiful food, fellowship, and singing. We hope this season will fill your heart with a joyful song of hope that rings loud and clear.

Stephen



December Birthdays

- 3 Jane Fisher
- 6 Stephen Becker
- 7 Kade Phillips
- 15 Dale Schmidt
- 17 Mary Anne Matthewson
- 20 Fr. Fred Thompson
- 21. Kensley Wahl

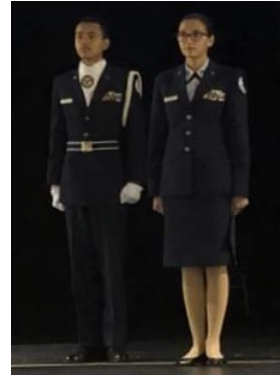


December Anniversaries

- 8 Linda and Bob Rinaldi
- 29 Maureen and Bob Miller



Our dear friend, **Jeanne Helmstetter**, long-time faithful member of St. MM, passed away November 12, 2022. Jeanne moved from Seven Lakes to New Hampshire in 2014, but maintained close contact with our congregation through the years. We treasure our memories of this precious friend. We extend our sympathy to Jeanne’s family.



Lia is November ROTC Cadet of the Month
 Lia Fravel, a student at Pinecrest High School, was chosen Cadet of the Month for November. This is her second year in Air Force ROTC and her current rank is Senior Airman. Congratulations, Lia. We are proud of you.

MERRY MARKET HAPPENINGS



Holden tends to brother Kade



Bette finds a treasure



Sherol helps vendor, Phyllis Hergenbahn, set up her table



Lois Spotila, a returning vendor, displays her quilts



Our friend, Tina Viscuso, long-time vendor for Merry Market, passed away this year. Her husband donated all her hand-crafted items to be sold in our bazaar. The items that did not sell will be donated to the ladies at Seven Lakes Assisted Living.

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**Thoughtful questions from Bishop Bane's  
 Nov. 27, sermon:**

When the Bible says, "Watch!" and "You must be ready!" How can we do that?

What effect do our expectations have on the way we live our lives? Do they keep us fresh and excited, or are they limited by the dimensions of our past? In other words, do they transcend the past and anticipate the future?

What are the expectations in your life? How have they changed over the years?

Have you noticed that Jesus seemed to enjoy being around children? It is because their expectations are unlimited. They are optimistic, full of life, open, and excited about life. The young and the young at heart do not say, "Gosh, Jesus, I don't know, I've never seen that before," but rather, "Show me, Lord, I want to see it!"

How about you and me? What exactly do we expect from our Christian faith? For that matter, what do we expect out of our relationship with Christ? What is the biggest concern in your life right now? What is the problem or challenge that worries you the most these days? Do you expect God to help with that concern or issue?

Prayer: Lord, protect us from falling into the trap of limiting your love and power. Help us not to expect the future to be a repeat of the past.



"Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city." – **George Burns**

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 "It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them." – **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Mary Anne: What do you know about angels?

Joey: Not much, but I know some of them are named Harold. -- **unknown**



Vestry Members

Senior Warden – John Sapp
 Junior Warden – Julia Poisson
 Linda Lindner, Kim Doolittle, Tim Burgess,
 and Jim Douglass

Vestry Secretary – Sherol Grigerick
 Treasurer- David Poisson

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The Rev. David Bane, Bishop in Residence

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Phyllis Olson and Sherol Grigerick

*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North
Carolina*

