

# The Magdala News



The year's at the spring  
And day's at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hillside's dew-pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn:  
God's in His heaven—  
All's right with the world!



~Robert Browning



The Parish of St. Mary Magdalene  
Anglican Church of Canada  
3 St. Vital Road  
Winnipeg, MB R2M 1Z2  
204-253-0555 (Office and Fax)  
204-256-6893 (Hall)

Email: [stmary@mts.net](mailto:stmary@mts.net)

Website: [www.stmarymagdalenenewpg.org](http://www.stmarymagdalenenewpg.org)

  
*Our Mission: To love God and be  
 the light of Christ in the world.*  
 (March 2017)  


## From the Editors

In the weeks around Christmas we often communicate with friends and family who live far away or who we rarely now visit. This year I was delighted to hear in a letter from an old school friend that she has published a second book of poetry. Now I have a copy of it and am enjoying it very much. She writes of places and activities familiar to me and times and places I have no experience of, and yet her work is able to fire my imagination or evoke an emotional response. That's the wonderful thing about poetry.

Some of us may think we have little or no interest or involvement in the medium, perhaps because of the way we were introduced to it in school, but in fact most of us are touched by poetry in ways we may not have realized.

Babies and young children are usually entertained by traditional rhymes and songs, responding to the sounds and rhythms with joy and laughter. That's what poetry can do! If you do not have young children in your life, please check out Nancy Aasland's Kindermusik program the next time they partner with Vital Seniors at our church for a special event and be reminded of this. You will have lots of fun!

I'm not sure whether or not young people are required to learn poetry by rote anymore, but I'm glad to have a few poems tucked away in my own memory bank to help me reflect on life. You too most likely have some favourites. At this time of year I tend to think of William Wordsworth,

who lived in the Lake District in the UK, and I remember, with some degree of longing, his poem about daffodils.

The songs we sing or listen to all have a poet or lyricist behind them, and many of them stand the test of time. Some of course do not. I own an ancient book of hymns written by John Wesley, who was prolific in his writing. There are over 900 hymns in this book but only a handful of them are used by us in our worship today. From mediaeval times with strolling minstrels to today's rappers telling us how it is, we have poets to thank.

A recent edition of the *Anglican Journal* featured modern day poet Malcolm Guite, who is having an impact on our lives and who in turn gives thanks for people who have inspired him. He mentions Keats and his poetry which at one time helped lift him from a time of despair in his own young life. He has also been influenced by George Herbert (1593-1633), four of whose poems are in our *Common Praise* hymn book.

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The selection of material for publication is made by the editors, Heather Birtles and Therasa Hunt, c/o St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, 3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 1Z2

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In our worship we use the Psalms and many other poetic selections from scripture. We also sing hymns and songs of praise. We are sometimes so enthusiastic about the tune that we think less about the words. Perhaps it could be a Lenten exercise to check out the words of some of the hymns used this season and even do a computer search to identify some of the wonderful men and women whose poetry has helped us on our pilgrimage.

We hope you enjoy the poetry featured in this issue of The Mag News.

*Heather and Therasa*

*Teach me my God and King*

Teach me, my God and King,  
in all things Thee to see,  
and what I do in anything,  
to do it as for Thee.

To scorn the senses' sway,  
while still to Thee I tend;  
in all I do be Thou the Way,  
in all be Thou the End.

All may of Thee partake;  
nothing so small can be,  
but draws, when acted for Thy sake,  
greatness and worth from Thee.

If done t'obey Thy laws,  
e'en servile labors shine;  
hallowed is toil, if this the cause,  
the meanest work divine.

~ George Herbert



Palm Sunday - April 5, 10:30 am

We will gather in the upper hall for the blessing of the palms and then proceed with our palms through the nave joining with the crowds who acclaim Jesus. We hear the story of Jesus' last days told in the Passion according to Mark and join in receiving His presence in the Eucharist.

Maundy Thursday - April 9, 7:00 pm

We will come together to recall the final meal Jesus had with his disciples and his institution of the sacrament of the Eucharist, including a re-enactment of the service Jesus offered to his friends by washing their feet. The evening concludes in the nave with the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday - April 10, 10:30 am

We will gather as God's people in sorrow to reflect on Jesus' death and the holy ground of mercy, healing, strength and pardon given by the Cross. The service moves through prayer around the Stations of the Cross to a time of meditation on the cross of Jesus. We depart in silence.

Easter Sunday - April 12, 10:30 am

We will join in the jubilation of God's people as we celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection on Easter Morning. The congregation participates in the Flowering of the Cross – if you are able, please bring flowers to use in this celebration.



## Val's Voice

Sometimes in life, there are times of learning...

Learning that our own ways, ideas, thoughts are not the only ways, and that God is present with all manner of people in their own lives

and ways. It is something that we all agree with in theory, but sometimes it comes home. Settles with us. Moves into our life in a different way.

This year, it seems to me as we wonder about pipelines and protests, as well as other injustices or troubles in our own city and province, it bears reminding ourselves that for the most part we know only our version of others' stories. We know our own inconvenience, perhaps, or our own perceived kindness. We don't know the questions that are asked repeatedly, the insults that are hurled often, the violence that is perpetrated by those who have been tasked to do better.

Those of us whose ancestors came as immigrants a century or more ago have been oblivious to the realities of life for the Indigenous peoples of this land. Those who were of the colonizing power have been oblivious to the experience of other immigrants or refugees. Really, all of us are oblivious to the experiences or meanings of stories which we can only see from our own angle!

This reality has come to me afresh because of a book I picked up rather randomly at a conference I attended at the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) a few weeks ago. Entitled *The God Who Sees*, and written by Karen Gonzalez, it contains the reflections of Gonzalez, herself an immigrant who fled her home country of Guatemala some years ago as a child with her family. In it she considers, with honesty and wisdom, her own experiences of family and fear, vulnerability, strength, and racism, as well as her experiences of faith – baptism, communion, anointing, both in the Roman Catholic faith into

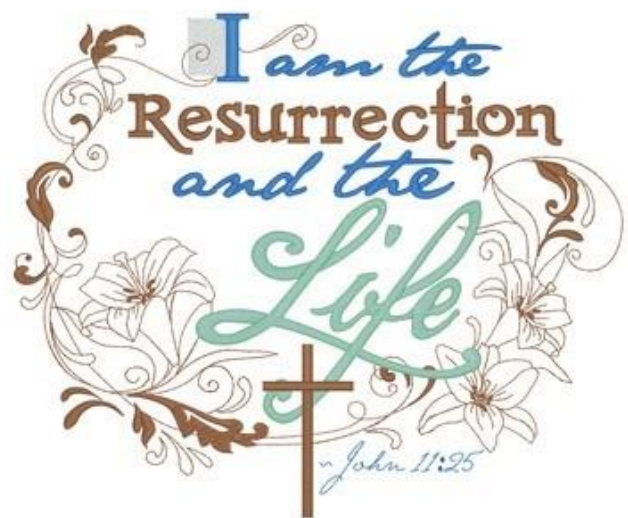
which she was born and in other Christian traditions to which her life has led her. She offers her own questions and musings, and also glimpses into the broader experience of immigrants both in our day, and in the people of Scripture who themselves have their own experiences of fear and racism in the midst of being refugees or immigrants.

As we read the different stories she weaves together, I think that we will learn a lot about ourselves, questions we ask and don't, and in the process become more at home with our own stories, and with those of each other.

For our 2020 Lenten Study we will be looking at *The God Who Sees* beginning Saturday, March 14 from 12-2. (It can be ordered on Amazon, or picked up from CMU. As well, I will have a few copies that you could purchase.) Our time will start by sharing a bowl of soup together, and conclude with a brief time of quiet prayer.

Lent, springtime for our souls, and food for the journey. Hope this is a rich season for you and yours!

Val



*I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:*

*For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.*

~ William Wordsworth

**2020 Vestry**

At the Annual Meeting on February 23 a new Vestry was selected by parish members in attendance.

Thank you to those who continue to serve, and welcome to those who have joined Vestry this year: Susan Grant, Carolyn Olagbuji, Marlene Smith and Nancy Zheng.

There were no nominations for the position of People's Warden, so that position is currently vacant. Carolyn Olagbuji was acclaimed as Deputy People's Warden.

The Rev. Val From appointed Carol McPhaden as Rector's Warden and Chima Chira as Deputy Rector's Warden.



*Clockwise from bottom left:*

*Barbara Jalibat, Mary Jane Turner, Marlene Smith, Chima Chira, Carey Isaac, Alan Forrest, Susan Grant, The Rev. Val From, Caroline Olagbuji.*

*Missing: Darryl Melnyk, Carol McPhaden, Nancy Zheng, Charles Olagbuji, Judy Asker (Admin).*



## Considering Daily Devotions

Some of you will have read the letter from Bishop Woodcroft that was in the reports for our Annual General Meeting. In it he wrote:

“I desire that each of you continue, or begin:

1. a daily rule of life: to pray using the readings appointed for the day, incumbent and term clergy should be able to guide you in developing this practice using the *Book of Common Prayer*, the *Book of Alternative Services*, or the like. In this time of prayer, pray for God’s mission and ministry we share.
2. to remember, every day, that we have promised to do ALL in our power to support our fellow disciples in our life in Christ.”

I think that for most of us this is, indeed, a tall order. How to begin, you may well ask.

Well, first, whether or not we realize this, we all have a rule of life of sorts. Not written down; not necessarily religious in the generally common way the word religious is understood. I would suggest that a general rule of life comprises the values by which we live our lives: family, finances, healthy living, faith and so on.

The Bishop, however, is asking Anglicans in Rupert’s Land to focus on what I would call ‘faith practices’. And he specifically makes reference to a resource which we find in the pews of St. Mary Magdalene, the *Book of Alternative Services*. On pages 450-451 there are clear instructions on how the daily bible readings are organized. Following these pages is the schedule for daily bible readings. Most of us have a few minutes before the Celebration of the Eucharist begins to check this out in a *Book of Alternative Services* in the pew rack.

The Bishop has a further suggestion and that is to read these scripture selections through the lens of Christian disciples on our life-time journey of mission and ministry. So, we look for what these readings might suggest in respect to mission and

ministry. Some might be obvious; others not so much. Some might simply move us to ponder aspects of our personal, family or parish lives.

Of course, there is an obvious problem here. There was a time when most Anglican homes had a bible. I am going to suggest that this is not likely to be the case nowadays. But there are at least two solutions to this matter. We can purchase a bible – the *New Revised Standard Version* is the best choice. Or, horrors of horrors, we can look up each daily reading on our smart phone or computer.

If all the above looks a bit too daunting right now I would offer something a little less challenging; a sort of primer on the journey towards a more formal rule of life:

Take the Sunday bulletin home. Pray the collect and, perhaps, the psalm daily. Look up the three Sunday readings (in your bible or online) and read them in order as follows: Monday – Hebrew Scripture; Tuesday – Epistle; Wednesday – Gospel; repeat for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Read them through lenses as suggested above (mission, ministry, personal, family, or parish life).

A third option is to take advantage of the free copies of *Forward Day by Day* which are on the information table at the nave entrance. This is a publication associated with the Episcopal (Anglican) Church of the USA. Each edition provides a daily bible reading with an accompanying meditation. If you are not accustomed to the practice of daily devotions this is an excellent resource – sort of like testing the waters. There is an excellent guide to daily devotions on page 2 of the *February, March April 2020* edition.

One final note, which I have cribbed from a poster I read in a United Church several years ago: “We take scripture seriously; but not literally”.

You might have additional ways to respond to the Bishop’s request. Give it some thought and, as we Anglicans are fond of saying, “The Lord be with you.”

*Bryan Bjerring*

## 2020 Garage Sale – How You Can Help

Our biannual garage sales are an integral part of our church life. Yes, they are fundraisers to assist us in our day-to-day operations, but more importantly, they represent an outreach ministry into the community.

The 2020 Spring Garage Sale will be May 1 - 2, but it's not too early to start thinking about how you can help in this ministry. There truly is an opportunity for everyone.

**Set up tables and shelving** on Saturday April 25 starting at 4:30 pm.

**Move items to their designated areas** after morning service on Sunday, April 26.

**Unpack, sort, display and price items** on Mon – Thurs, April 27-30 from 9 am to 3:30 pm each day. To assist with the distribution of the work load it would be helpful to let Cathy Mondor know when you will be able to assist during the week.

**Fold and sort plastic bags** at the church or at home.

**Supply a coffee break goodie** for the workers during the week.

**Be a Greeter** at the front door on sale days. Greet (and count) our shoppers and offer directions. Speak to Sharon West if this is your gift.

**Be a Cashier** on sale days.

**Coordinate or Help with Lunch** on May 1 for the volunteers working the floor.

**Advertise** by distributing posters, which are available at the church. Place them in your apartment building and/or pass them on to friends.

**Join the Clean up Crew!** We will need lots of help from 11:45 am – 2 on Saturday, May 2 to pack up unsold items\* and move them upstairs, fold tables and put away shelving units.

\*What happens to the unsold items?

- Kitchen items and small appliances are picked up on Monday by Flavie Laurent volunteers. These boxes must be packed and marked “FL”.
- Clothing and shoes, water bottles, sheets and towels are bagged and taken to Siloam Mission.
- Books are boxed and taken to the local fire department for Children’s Hospital Book Mart.
- Suitcases and backpacks are taken to MacDonald Youth Services.
- Medical support items are taken to the MMC medical refit store.
- Soiled towels, mats and blankets are taken to the Winnipeg Humane Society.
- A collection of mugs and toiletries are donated to St. Matthew’s Maryland Community Ministries.
- All remaining items are packaged up and picked up by Salvation Army on Monday morning.

Please note the following:

- 1) **Do not remove or take items before the sale.**
- 2) **We do not put items on hold.**
- 3) **There are no pickups or deliveries of donations or sales.**

If you have questions or concerns or would like to help, email [stmarymag.garagesale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarymag.garagesale@gmail.com) or call Cathy Mondor at 204-256-6157.



## 2020 Spring Garage Sale

**Friday, May 1, 2020**  
**9 am – 5:30 pm**

**Saturday, May 2, 2020**  
**9 am - 12 pm**

*Canoe at Sunset*

*A gentle evening, summer quiet,  
A sunny lake nearby.  
The time and place for a canoe  
That moves through the water like a sigh  
With no intrusion on the scene:  
Participation from the outside.*

*The paddle zips a tiny wake  
Of drips which gather speed  
then dips again with silent power  
into the water, dark with weed  
that gently laps beneath the boat:  
the only sound to intervene.*

*Above, pink clouds blend into grey  
as the sun's hypnotic eye  
masters attention until dragged  
by unseen forces from the sky.  
Below, the dimpled waters blow  
And knots of weed sink slowly by.*

*An evening chill pervades the air.  
Reluctantly we head for home.  
A smudge of smoke against the trees  
guides our new direction  
to where, among those darkening trees,  
campfires replace the setting sun.*

*~ Gillian Foss*

makes it to land, and needs to be released from the burden of his guilt, says to the hermit: 'O shrieve me, shrieve me, holy Man.'

It was the duty of priests especially to hear the confession and grant forgiveness and spiritual counsel to those who were facing execution. When prison chaplains failed to do this properly, with time care and attention, there was a complaint that people were being 'given short shrift', which is where that phrase comes from.

Here and now on Shrove Tuesday we can take that time and care. But the whole idea of confession and absolution can seem strange and alien if it was not part of our life and culture, and sometimes daunting if it was!

**And a sonnet for Ash Wednesday:**

Receive this cross of ash upon your brow,  
Brought from the burning of Palm Sunday's cross.  
The forests of the world are burning now  
And you make late repentance for the loss.  
But all the trees of God would clap their hands  
The very stones themselves would shout and sing  
If you could covenant to love these lands  
And recognize in Christ their Lord and king.

He sees the slow destruction of those trees,  
He weeps to see the ancient places burn,  
And still you make what purchases you please,  
And still to dust and ashes you return.  
But Hope could rise from ashes even now  
Beginning with this sign upon your brow.

**Malcolm Guite on Lent****Thoughts for Shrove Tuesday:**

This is the day we think about being 'shriven' - confessing our sins and receiving the cleansing and release of forgiveness.

The word 'shrove' drives from an Anglo-Saxon word 'shrift' meaning to hear someone's confession, or 'shrive them'. This is why author Samuel Coleridge's Ancient Mariner, when he

*When I was one*

*When I was One  
When I was one, I just begun.  
When I was two, I was nearly new.  
When I was three, I was hardly me.  
When I was four, I was not much more.  
When I was five, I was just alive.  
But now I'm six, I'm as clever as clever.  
So I think I'll be six now, forever and ever!*

*~ A. Milne*



## The Immigrants Creed

*I believe in Almighty God,  
who guided the people in exile and in exodus,  
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,  
the God of foreigners and immigrants.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,  
who was born away from his people and his home,  
who fled his country with his parents  
when his life was in danger.  
When he returned to his own country he suffered  
under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,  
the servant of a foreign power.  
Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured,  
and unjustly condemned to death.  
But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,  
not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us  
citizenship in God's kingdom.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom  
among us, who speaks all languages,  
lives in all countries, and reunites all races.*

*I believe that the Church is the secure home  
for foreigners and for all believers.  
I believe that the communion of saints begins  
when we embrace all God's people in their diversity.  
I believe in forgiveness,  
which makes us all equal before God,  
and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.  
I believe that in the Resurrection  
God will unite us as one people  
in which all are distinct  
and all are alike at the same time.  
I believe in life eternal,  
in which no one will be foreigner  
but all will be citizens of the kingdom  
where God reigns forever and ever.  
Amen.*

~ Jose Luis Casal

## Our Financial Support in Action

St. Mary Magdalene provided \$755 towards the Music for Life program in Cross Lake, Manitoba as part of the Easter 2019 offering. The program's coordinator recently provided the parish with a report.

"Mikisew High School ran a two-week music camp in Cross Lake last summer which was well received by students (see photo below) and their parents, many of whom attended the wrap-up performance by the kids.

Starlett 'Star' Beardy, who put the program together at the high school, is now working at Wapanohk Community School in Thompson, and has just started a music program there, which Music for Life is supporting. The principal at the elementary/middle school in Cross Lake has been talking to us about starting an after-school music program for her students, and the Indigenous Family Centre on Selkirk Avenue in Winnipeg has just started a weekly music program there with our support.

So there's lots happening, and we anticipate more requests for instruments and funds to pay local musicians as teachers as the word spreads.

We're glad that St. Mary Magdalene could be part of this project. I assume you know that we have put out another appeal to Winnipeg churches for continued support this year."



## The Pysanka

Many Winnipeggers are familiar with the pysanka, or perhaps by the more descriptive 'Ukrainian Easter Egg'. But did you know.....

A pysanka is decorated with traditional Ukrainian folk designs using a wax-resist or resist-dyeing (batik) method. According to many scholars, the art of batik egg decoration in Slavic cultures probably dates back to the pre-Christian era. Christians later embraced the egg symbol and it came to represent rebirth, and the tomb from which Christ rose on Easter Sunday.

The word *pysanka* comes from the verb *pysaty*, "to write" or "to inscribe", as the designs are not painted on. Instead, they are inscribed using hot beeswax.

The designs are "written" in hot wax with a pinhead or a special stylus called a *pysachok* or a *kistka* which has a small funnel attached to hold a small amount of liquid wax.



*Pysanka are truly works of art.*

The western Ukrainian city of Kolomyia is home to the Pysanka Museum, built in 2000 and part of the National Museum of Hutsulshchyna and Pokuttya Folk Art.

The central part of the museum is in the shape of a pysanka. This is the only museum in the world dedicated to the pysanka, and it has become a calling card of the city.

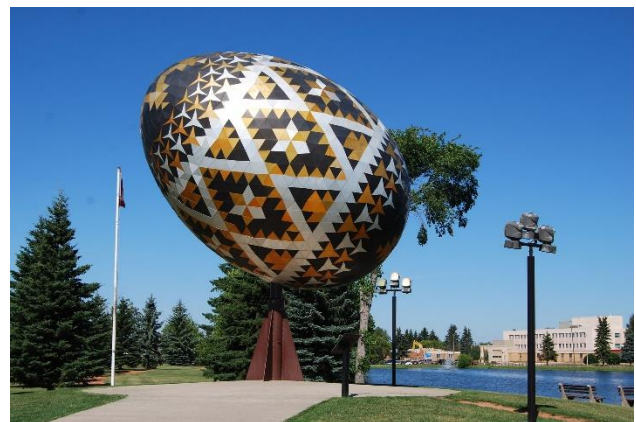
The museum is not only shaped like an egg (14 m in height and 10 m in diameter), but parts of the exterior and inside of the dome are painted to resemble a pysanka. In 2007 the museum was recognized as a landmark of modern Ukraine.



*The Pysanka Museum in Kolomyia, western Ukraine.*

Closer to Winnipeg, the community of Vegreville, Alberta (about 100 km east of Edmonton on Highway 16) has its own giant Easter egg. This one, measuring 9 m long and 3 ½ stories high was, until Kolomyia built its museum, the largest pysanka in the world. It was erected to celebrate the community's Ukrainian heritage and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RCMP in 1974.

Vegreville's egg weighs about 2,500 kg (5,500 lbs) – too bad it's not made of chocolate!



*Vegreville, Alberta's pysanka.*

Source: wikipedia

## St. Mary Magdalene Church - Calendar of Activities

### March 2020 – May 2020

March	April	May
<b>1 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	<b>5 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</b> Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	<b>3 4<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Eucharist 10:30 am
10 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm	<b>9 Maundy Thursday Service</b> 7pm	<b>10 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Eucharist 10:30 am
<b>8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	<b>10 Good Friday Service</b> 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 12:30 pm	12 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm
19 River Park Gardens 10:30 am	<b>12 Easter Sunday</b> Eucharist 10:30 am	<b>17 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Eucharist 10:30 am
<b>15 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	14 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm	21 River Park Gardens 10:30 am
<b>22 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	16 River Park Gardens 10:30 am	<b>24 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm
24 Vestry Meeting 7 pm	<b>19 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Eucharist 10:30 am	26 Vestry Meeting 7 pm
<b>29 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	<b>26 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Eucharist 10:30 am	<b>31 Day of Pentecost</b> Eucharist 10:30 am
	28 Vestry Meeting 7 pm	

Weekly Activities			Contact
Wednesday	Bible Study	12:00 pm	Heather Birtles
Wednesday	Eucharist	2:00 pm	The Rev. Val From
Wednesday	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Nancy Aasland
Thursday	Christian Meditation	7:30 pm	Barbara Bater

The Rev. Val From: 204-257-0491  
Office Phone: 204-253-0555  
e-Mail: [stmary@mts.net](mailto:stmary@mts.net)



[www.stmarymagdalenewpg.org](http://www.stmarymagdalenewpg.org)