

## Val's Voice



It is strange to realize that just a few short days after Judy reported our financial position to us via Zoom at our August Vestry meeting, she passed away. I think we are all caught off guard, and heartbroken.



Vestry was grateful for our celebration marking St. Mary Magdalene Day, both the party (thanks to so many of you who contributed to the fun and abundance of the gathering!), and the generous response to the community assistance/outreach part of our parish festival. Over 60 bags of food were put together and given away to those who need them.

We have raised a Survivor Flag, honouring those who survived residential schools. Amanda Wallin gave the sermon on September 17 to explain the meaning of this lovely flag.

Confirmation classes will begin for high school students. We will include in-class instruction and some "field trips" around the city, to consider the meaning of our faith in this world. Rev. Helen and Rev. Val will co-lead these classes. Thanks Rev. Helen for your excitement at being part of this! Note: Adults who wish to be confirmed can contact Val about a somewhat different process. Bishop Geoff will be here for our parish confirmation, scheduled for April 7, 2024.

Rev. Helen and Rev. Val are planning to host a Grief Group starting on Saturday, October 21 at 1 pm. We will meet weekly for 6-7 weeks. Thanks again to Rev. Helen for her offer to lead this.

Vestry is planning to host monthly educational opportunities for parishioners starting this fall. We have many options on our possibility list! For instance: we are a very diverse congregation. Plans are in the works for an opportunity to learn

more about our neighbours in the pew. Where did you grow up? How has your upbringing affected your view of what the church should look like? How has it changed?

We are looking for people who would like to share their stories through a 10-15 minute presentation (which might include pictures) after a church service. We are hoping to do this over several Sundays, depending on how many people come forward. Please contact Rev. Val or Cathy Mondor at [cathylmondor@gmail.com](mailto:cathylmondor@gmail.com) or 204-256-6157 if you are willing to share your story. More information will be forthcoming as this "getting to know your neighbour" plan unfolds.

## Val



*The parish's Food Bank in July, marking the Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene, was a wonderful opportunity to share with the community. Thanks to everyone who contributed.*

## Vestry Notes from September 19

A **Survivor Flag** was installed on the south side of the church on Sunday, September 17. The description of the flag, pictures and link to a residential school poem will be available on our website soon.

Parish Community Building/Educational offerings will be launched with some **reconciliation resources** available for viewing after Sunday services in October.

One-third of our **Thanksgiving offering** will be directed to the PWRDF Grow Hope Project. This program lets individuals or groups sponsor an acre of active farmland. Funds raised are matched up to 4:1 by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and used to support people around the world with emergency food and longer-term food security support. The remainder of the offering will be used for parish expenses.

On November 5 we will launch our brand new **Getting to know your neighbour** program with a potluck lunch and presentations from 3 parishioners. More details will be provided closer to the date.

Plans are in the works to have someone from the **Primate's World Relief and Development Fund** (PWRDF) make a presentation on November 26, which is Christ the King Sunday.

Plans are also in the works for a **youth class/luncheon** for those in their teen years.

For those who like to really be prepared, the **Christmas schedule** has been set:

*December 24, 10:30 am  
4th Sunday in Advent*

*December 24, 2:30 pm  
Christmas Pageant*

*December 24, 8:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Service*

*December 25, 10:30 am  
Christmas Morning Service*



## In Other News....

For **Thanksgiving Sunday** (October 8) we will be decorating the church with produce from our own gardens, and also collecting food items for folks in need, both in St. Vital and through the West End Drop-In. Please bring what you can to assist us in sharing God's abundance.

### The Garage Sale is almost here!

- Donations will be accepted until noon on Thursday, October 5.
- Volunteers are needed next Sunday (Oct 1) after our service to move boxes, and the entire week to help set up.
- The Sale is on Friday, October 6, 9-5:30 and Saturday, October 7, 9-12. Come for the many great bargains, and don't forget to bring your own bags!
- Email [stmarymag.garagesale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarymag.garagesale@gmail.com) or call 204-256-6157 and speak to Cathy

We are **updating the parish directory**, which was last published in 2019. All parishioners are asked to respond in one way or another by contacting Yvonne at [stmary@mts.net](mailto:stmary@mts.net) or 204-253-0555.

- The directory will include the names of parishioners (and their children if desired), a phone number, an email address and a photo.
- Yvonne does not have access to the photos used in the previous directory, so please e-mail your good quality photo to her. If you need a photo we can arrange to have one taken after Sunday service between now and mid-November.
- Let Yvonne know if you DO NOT want to be included in the directory. This will save time when putting everything together.
- If changes are needed to what's in the current directory let Yvonne know. Eg. your email address or phone number has changed. If no changes are needed let Yvonne know that too.
- PLEASE RESPOND BY NOVEMBER 26

## Our Church's History, in Rhyme

This poem was written to commemorate the church's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001. Thanks to Brian Crow for providing it.

Late in the nineteenth century, in 1897,  
The foundation of our parish started with our area children,  
Who gathered every Sunday in the family 'mansions'  
So all of them could receive their Sunday School instruction.

Twelve years later, they moved to Woodlawn School  
which was just erected;  
Canon Garton led the Sunday School with programs he  
selected.  
In the old Municipal Hall in May of 1914,  
He held a service for a congregation numbering seventeen.

'Til October '16, St. John's College students came to be  
A part of an inspiring group of lay and ordained ministry.  
On November 1<sup>st</sup> of '25, the next recorded service occurred;  
There they planned to meet again on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

But before the meeting took place, the organizers learned  
That Norberry Hall, where the Sunday School met,  
had been burned.  
So they held Sunday School and services in the Sobey home,  
Then to a rented store on St. Mary's Road did they roam.

The first service there was held in December '25,  
Eighteen envelope subscribers helped keep the little  
group alive.  
By October of '26, over a hundred families  
Bought the land to build the church that began our history.

As our patron saint, St. Mary Magdalene was chosen,  
And the Most Rev. Samuel Pritchard issued the  
Deed of Formation.  
By November the church was built, with clergy and  
St. John's students  
Guiding the parish 'til the Rev. McNamara became the  
incumbent.

In 1931 we added a hall and a new vestry,  
A classroom and a kitchen, and in '47 we built a rectory.  
In November '54, the rectory mortgage was put to flame;  
Now that house is rented; our priests prefer housing  
in their names.

In May of '57, we passed a resolution  
To build above the basement a much-needed  
church extension.  
On Christmas Eve of '64, the organ began to play  
For the first service in the church we worship in today.

We've had 16 rectors in our lengthy history:  
McNamara, Lancaster, Taylor, Davis and McKinney,  
Anderson and Boaz, Davies, Kelley and Kerr,  
Sherstone, Wilmot, Atkins, Foreman, Donwoody  
and now Webster.

What about the Sunday service when the Rev. Boaz  
looked around,  
And not a trace of the Sunday School children could be found?  
With his robes aflapping to the church across the street  
He went to rescue the Anglican kids who'd been lured there  
with candy treats.

Alice Gordon, a parishioner, decided to lend a hand  
Teaching Sunday School (for two weeks she had planned).  
Working with the children soon overcame her fears;  
Those two weeks then stretched out into forty years.

Happy thoughts of our first church have caused us all to smile;  
Oldtimers said hot air and coal smoke came up in  
the centre aisle.  
Then we recently resurrected the dramatic society,  
The Rev. Taylor as a leading man stood in our memory.

The men of the parish who were active for so many years  
Now are mostly seniors who work together here  
At the church on Sundays, serving tasty brunches,  
Helped out by the youth, while the congregation munches.

Years ago, the vestry planned a social, but it was known  
The WA had to approve, and they did, but added a chaperone.  
The Altar Guild is still active, while the aforementioned WA  
Had afternoon and evening groups, but all work together today.

We have a music ministry which sings mightily for the Lord.  
Accompanied by an organ, sometimes a guitar and keyboard.  
For over five years our choir has sung ecumenically;  
As fundraiser in Song Fests they all sing joyfully.

The 211 families in our parish are indeed  
Indebted to all those who truly "saw the need"  
To build a church on St. Vital Road, with Jesus Christ as Head.  
Of a thriving parish to whom the Word of God is fed.

And so today, we celebrate those 75 great years;  
We know the Spirit's with us through our laughter  
and our tears.  
We're grateful to all people who have shared their ministry,  
And helped us all to spread Christ's Word in our community.

Seventy-five years of worshipping the Trinity;  
Seventy-five years of following the Lord;  
Seventy-five years of serving the community;  
Seventy-five years of spreading God's Word.

Written by Gloria Delaney  
September 7, 2001

The Parish of St. Mary Magdalene is on Treaty 1 territory.

3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg MB R2M 1Z2  
[stmarymagdalenevpg.org](http://stmarymagdalenevpg.org)

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## St. Mary Magdalene Church Calendar

October 2023	November 2023
<b>1</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	<b>5</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
<b>6</b> Garage Sale 9 am to 5:30 pm	<b>11</b> Remembrance Day
<b>7</b> Garage Sale 9 am to 12 noon	<b>12</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
<b>8</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Thanksgiving Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am	<b>19</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
<b>9</b> Thanksgiving Monday	<b>26</b> Last Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am <i>Final day to submit information for Parish Directory</i>
<b>15</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	
<b>22</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	
<b>24</b> Vestry meeting 7 pm	
<b>29</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am ACF Service 7 pm	

ACF = Asian Christian Fellowship service in Urdu

### Weekly Activities

Bible Study	Wednesdays 1 pm	Contact: Val
Christian Meditation	Thursdays 7:30 pm	Contact: Barbara B
Choir Practice	Sundays 9 am	Contact: Nancy
Book Club	Not currently meeting	Contact: Val