

News for Scattered Pews

June 2024



Val's Voice

It is strange to sit looking out the window this beautiful day, celebrating the greenness of the trees and "a blue true dream of sky" (a bit of what e.e. cummings wrote so many decades ago).

Beautiful to see when only a day ago, clouds were dark, and only a few weeks ago the green was not there.

The world has lots of hardness in it some days. Some uncertainty. Too much anger. It might be that in some ways it is better than a year or two ago, but I think we can also all think of ways in which it still needs healing.

That being the case, then, it is good to see the beauty. Good to remember the goodness. I feel that way also when I think of our community. In many ways, of course, we are ordinary people. People with friends and neighbours, faith but also questions, goodness but also the imperfection of humanity.

This week I have been looking ahead a bit to confirmation for six people connected to our community... some still in high school, some not quite that young, but still young-ish.



I thought of them all today as I listened to a radio documentary about the things people feel drawn to – as children and all through our lives. Wondrous things, some of them.

Some of us humans make names for ourselves giving ourselves to athletics or writing, art or teaching. Others aim for gardens and compassion, fixing things and listening to people's stories. Keeping meticulous track of funds, or children, or symptoms that can point to all manner of ailments.

As I think about these young ones, though, I am reminded that though some interests may be there already, there is so much of life that is still coming... so much of life still to take shape. Bishop Geoff has asked to meet with the confirmands in a week or so, so he and they can have a conversation about discipleship... what it means to follow Jesus, what it means to live as God's people in this world... how all the things that God seeks for us and that we seek for ourselves can take shape together... leading us in a faithful way, on a good road.

It is good for the rest of us to consider too. The ways our lives have been shaped in and by faith and faithfulness. The ways the talents of our families, or the education we have received or the skills we have practiced over and over, can combine to be a gift to our own selves and also the life of the world.



Write down some of your gifts! And make another list of the talents of your friends or partners or kids. Consider that all these gifts together combine to make a world in which we and so many around us can grow and thrive. What a gift! What a reason to give thanks!

Blessings to each of you for the gifts you are and the gifts you share...

In Christ's love,

Val



Vestry Notes from May 28

Looking at the **financial statements** for April, we were pleased to see we are in the black with the help of income from the Integra Fund and the Garage Sale. Thanks to all of you who faithfully share your offering with the church!

The **Pub Night fundraiser** on May 4 was a success. About 80 people attended and had a great time, and \$1,581 was raised for the ministry of the parish refugee committee. Thanks so much to everyone who assisted!

The **rental agreement** for one-time rentals has been updated. Rates are now \$50/hour for the lower hall, \$30/hour for the upper hall and \$25/hour for the boardroom. (Upper hall and boardroom are only available to parishioners). A set-up/takedown fee and a damage deposit are also required. The updated form with complete information will be posted on our website soon.

Upgrading the dishwasher in the lower level kitchen is being investigated; hopefully we will be able to receive grants to assist with the cost.

The **Dementia Workshop** held in early May was very informative, with about 20 people from both church and community attending.

Vestry is considering doing an **education event** each month for the parish and wider community. Ideas being considered include Grief, LGBTQ2S and Pride, Antiracism, Medical Assistance in Dying, and Mental Health. If you have other interests, or connections to resource people, please speak to someone on Vestry.

A **retreat for young adults** (18-31) is set for the weekend of August 16-18 at the East Braintree, MB site (on the way to Falcon Lake) of A Rocha, a Christian organization active in environmental stewardship. Led by Ben Girgis and Ryan Turnbull, 20 spaces are available at \$40/person. Nate Wall-Bowering will lead a discussion on the theme *Where you go I'll go - the Book of Ruth*. Bursaries are available. Transportation will be by carpool. For more information please speak to Ben

Joint Youth Group: Val and Ben will be in contact with the youth leader from Faith Lutheran over the summer to work on sharing activities with a joint youth group.

Our parish will celebrate Confirmation with six confirmands on June 16. Bishop Geoff will join us to perform the ceremony. Come and celebrate with those who are affirming their faith!

Offering options: Caroline gave a helpful presentation during a recent Sunday service on the various ways our parish receives offering. We hope to encourage consistency of giving as well as ease. Check out the information elsewhere in Scattered Pews! A sign-up sheet will be available in July or August for those wanting envelopes.

A short-term **Bible Study** is being held on Saturday mornings in June from 10-11:30, to whet your taste for more this fall. The remaining 2 studies will be on June 15 and June 22. Come for coffee, muffins and good conversation!

Vestry is looking into more information about the **"Messy Church"** program to see if this is something that could be done here.

If you are interested in being part of a **Book Club** this fall, speak to Val with your book suggestions!

Vestry will be meeting with Archdeacon Simon Blaikie in August to start discussions with the parish **regarding our future**.

We are working to have more **social media** (i.e. online) updates. Remember to visit our website, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Celebrating the Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene:

This summer the parish will again be hosting a **food drive** in honour of St. Mary Magdalene. We will gather food through July, bless the food on July 28 and distribute it on Saturday, August 3. And a **parish barbeque/potluck** will be held on July 28 to help us celebrate our Saint! If you would like to assist, please watch for announcements closer to the day!

Vestry will be contacting Vital Seniors to see if it might be possible to again host a **monthly Seniors' lunch** starting in the fall.

If you **know of groups in the community that need space to run their programs**, please let someone on Vestry know.



A Message from the Treasurer

Further to the article in May's newsletter about the parish's finances, here is a more detailed breakdown of the options for regular giving:

Automatic withdrawal. Also known as CAFT/ PAR (Customer automated funds transfer/Pre-authorized remittance), when you fill out the form, the bank sets up a regular withdrawal, and your offering automatically comes out weekly or monthly. You can request a form from the church office or wardens.

Although this method is relatively easy, each time it is used the bank charges the church \$2.50:

- \$0.50 transaction fee is charged every time a transfer is done
- \$2.00 fee is charged every time the money is moved into the church's account

Additional charges related to automatic withdrawal include \$10.00 to add a new user, and \$1.00 to change a payee's information or delete a payee.

Optional: These costs can be reduced by making your offering monthly rather than weekly, and/or by covering the cost of the fees.

Offering envelopes. You receive a box of numbered envelopes and add a cheque or cash each week or month as you prefer. The envelopes are pre-ordered yearly and cost approx. \$5.05 per box (dependent on number of boxes ordered). You get dated envelopes for each Sunday, blue envelopes for PWDRF and yellow envelopes for festival/ special offerings, to remind or prompt your giving.

These envelopes are useful, but for 2024 over 50 boxes of envelopes have not been picked up at the church, while others have been taken but are not being used. The waste of paper and cost is unfortunate. If you wish to continue with this option, please request envelopes for 2025.

E-transfers. Some parishioners transfer their offerings regularly; others do only for special (occasional) offerings. Send the e-transfer to stmary@mts.net. The church account has been set up as an auto-deposit and rarely requires a password. This method seems to be the easiest and is cost-effective for the church. However, it doesn't include any prompts/reminders so it does require you to remember to give regularly.

Amid the church deficit, we appreciate your past financial support and look forward to your continual support in making the church work smoothly. Whichever method feels comfortable and works best for your timing and situation, the church can help with the setup.

Caroline Olagbuji
People's Warden/Treasurer

Outreach Ministries Need Donations

The following items are needed to support our outreach ministries, including our Food Bank Day on August 3. Please give if you are able. Items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings, or during office hours in the week (Tues, Wed, Thurs 10-1:30 am).

- Ground coffee
- Coffee whitener
- Sugar/sweetener
- Flour
- Cooking oil
- Bottled water
- Juice/drink powder (Lemonade, Iced Tea, Kool-aid)
- Canned Goods (soups, vegetables, fruits, broth, pasta sauce)
- Canned Protein (salmon, tuna, chicken, etc)
- Pasta
- Cereal
- Onions
- Rice
- Toilet paper
- Napkins
- Ziploc bags (all sizes)
- Plastic wrap
- Aluminum foil
- Brown paper bags
- Powder-free vinyl gloves
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Razors for shaving
- Socks
- Underwear
- Menstrual products

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

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stmarymagdalene.wpg.org

Phone: 204-253-0555 (church office) 204-930-7253 (Val's cell)
Email: stmary@mymts.net

St. Mary Magdalene Church Calendar

June 2024		July 2024	
2 Sun	Second Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	<i>July is Food Bank Month, preparing for our Community Food Bank Day on August 3. Bring in your donations July 1-28.</i>	
9 Sun	Third Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	7 Sun	Seventh Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
16 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Pentecost Confirmation and Eucharist 10:30 am <i>Father's Day</i>	14 Sun	Eighth Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
18 Tue	Vista Park Lodge 2:15 pm Dakota House 3:30 pm	21 Sun	Ninth Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
20 Thu	River Park Gardens 10:30 am	28 Sun	Celebration of St. Mary Magdalene 10th Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am Potluck Barbeque 12:00 ACF 7 pm
23 Sun	Fifth Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am		
25 Tue	Vestry Meeting 7 pm		
30 Sun	Sixth Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am ACF 7 pm		

ACF = Asian Christian Fellowship service in Urdu

Weekly Activities

Christian Meditation	Thursdays 7:30 pm (online)	Contact: Barbara B
Choir Practice	Sundays 9 am	Contact: Nancy
Bible Study	Saturdays 10 - 11:30 am	Contact: Val