

News for Scattered Pew

March 2024



Val's Voice

After this strange winter, it seems unbelievable to think that we're moving towards Spring. But so we are. The crocuses in the photo, so out of sync with our world at this moment, remind me that

God's beautiful creation and the growth which is inevitable even in the most challenging of days.

Truthfully, we never know exactly how things are going to unfold in life, but unfold they do. Sometimes with terrible news. Sometimes with an end to bad news and the joy of something new.



A couple of weekends ago we had two opportunities to hear of the growth of new things. On Saturday, people from our own parish and from Epiphany Lutheran, my husband Paul's congregation, took part in a **Mapping Exercise**, a sad reminder that some of our ancestors had a part in taking the land and the children, and attempting to take the culture, of the Indigenous people of this place. Elizabeth, a presenter from PWRDF, and Eva, a Métis witness to our learning (and a friend of Amanda's) offered an opportunity to revisit how it is that we came to be here – whose land we stand on and some of the circumstances that took our ancestors out of their own places of origin.

They encouraged us to say whatever came to our minds. To ask our questions. To speak, so that we would be more able to move to a new place of understanding. The struggles, of course, remain but the message was one of resilience and

healing, as our generation and many more move ahead, learning to uphold the strength of neighbours and relatives.

On Sunday morning, after worship we had another guest and another opportunity for learning. Mary Burton, a co-founder of **Fearless r2w** (where a portion of our 2023 Christmas offering went), works with youth and elders, and community members of all sorts, to rebuild healthy community and support healthy lives of young people, families and communities that continue to suffer the consequences of colonization. She spoke of resilience and relationship, and how young people can learn skills to help them navigate challenging systems and receive the love that is needed to move ahead in a good way.



Mary's passion for her work was evident. Her no-nonsense approach was inspiring – when we are so used to getting bogged down in systems that it hardly seems possible for there to be another way, the various partnerships at play encourage learning circle members to sit down and learn how to live and deal with the world around them.

She told us as she wrapped up her presentation that now she considers she has a relationship with us. And that is her goal – to develop relationships across the city and across lines of history and heritage that sometimes seem like they can't be crossed; to encourage people to use their insights for the good of others, and to work with all for the good of all...

It seems to me that Mary, Eva and Elizabeth, and their words, though not religious, are sacred. They point us in a new direction towards healing relationships, healing the land, and healing lives: a direction that God would have us go...

Miigwech

Val

Vestry Notes from February 27

We welcomed **2 new Vestry members**: Taps Maswera and Ben Girgis. It is great to have them!

All of us took time to introduce ourselves to each other and note some of our particular interests in serving on Vestry. Members shared the way they have been inspired by the service of others before them, their skill sets: of service; caring for neighbours; perhaps the Little Saints daycare; sharing gifts in finance or youth ministry, bringing connections to the Queer community, considering ways we can be more involved with the community around us, being open to new ideas and learning to act on them. **The energy of the meeting was wonderful...**

Our finances as of January 31 indicate we are about \$2,000 behind (expenses \$14,659; income \$12,221). This is a common situation right after Christmas, but if any parishioners haven't had the chance to increase their offering to match inflation, this attention would be appreciated!

There will be one more **Parish Potluck** this season, a wonderful time to hear stories from members of our community. This one will be on **April 7**. Bring your favourite dish and listen to each other!

The **Mapping Exercise** on March 9 allowed those attending to consider the history of colonialization on this land. The leaders were Elizabeth Bonnet and Eva, both from St. James Anglican. Val's husband Paul also brought some folks over from his church. The group was a good size and all appreciated the chance to consider this difficult part of our history. Thanks to those who came. If you missed it this time and we need to do it again, let us know!

St. Mary Magdalene will host a **Parish Pub Night on Saturday, May 4** to raise money for our parish Refugee Support Committee. Bishop Geoff's band will supply the music (Val's husband is now their bass player!) It's sure to be a fun time and a great fundraiser. Info about tickets will be coming soon, so stay tuned: last time we sold out - our own music director Nancy couldn't even get a ticket!

Vestry is planning **Dementia Workshop on May 8**. It will feature a speaker from the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba, will focus on how we can ensure our communities are Dementia friendly, and will be open to the community. More details to come.

Our **Confirmation Service will now be June 16** due to a change in Bishop Geoff's schedule. There are currently 6 (maybe 7) people indicating that they wish to be confirmed.



Garage Sale 2024

Friday, April 26, 9 - 5:30 pm

Saturday, April 27, 9 - Noon

Donations can be dropped off at the church **until April 24 at 3 pm.**

Please note we don't have the resources to be able to pick up donations.

Go to our website for the list of items we will and won't accept:

stmarymagdalenewpg.org/garage-sales.html

Volunteers are needed! There are plenty of ways you can help before, during, and after the sale. And it's fun!

For more information, to volunteer, or to arrange to drop off a donation please email stmarymag.garagesale@gmail.com or phone Cathy at 204-256-6157.

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

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

Did you know you can donate stocks, bonds or mutual funds to the church?

Do you want to make a financial gift to the parish? Do you own shares of a stock in a non-registered account that have appreciated in value ("capital gains")? Here's a way you can get the most advantageous tax treatment when you make a gift of shares.

When you donate stocks, mutual funds or bonds to the parish through CanadaHelps, you eliminate the capital gains tax; receive a charitable receipt for the full value of the shares; and the parish benefits from your generosity.

CanadaHelps is a Canadian registered charity that exists to make it easy to donate stocks, bonds and mutual funds to Canadian charities. The parish does not have a securities brokerage account and so it cannot receive shares directly.

What you need to do:

1. Go to the CanadaHelps web page on your computer; click on Donate/Donate Securities, fill in the securities donation form and forward it to CanadaHelps. www.canadahelps.org/en/
2. CanadaHelps will send you confirmation of your intention and a "Letter of Direction" form.
3. Complete this form and provide it to your financial advisor. This letter authorizes the transfer of shares to CanadaHelps.

Your broker will transfer the shares from your account to CanadaHelps, who immediately sell them. CanadaHelps charges a small fee which will reduce the amount the charity receives, but you immediately receive a charitable tax receipt for the **full amount** of the sale. CanadaHelps will send a cheque to the parish.

This can take a week or two so if you are considering doing this before year-end, you should start the process in November or early December.

Subscribe to the NCTR's quarterly newsletter

The National Council for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), which just announced a capital campaign for a new permanent home in Winnipeg, publishes a free, quarterly newsletter.

If you want to keep informed on the NCTR's work including stories about residential schools and acts of reconciliation, visit the website to sign up to receive the next one:

nctr.ca/news-and-events/news/newsletter/



Palm Sunday: March 24, 10:30 am

Our traditional palm procession, followed by the Holy Eucharist.

Maundy Thursday: March 28, 6 pm

We gather in the lower hall to recall Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist and then move upstairs for the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday: March 29, 10:30 am

We gather for prayer and to meditate on the cross.

Easter Sunday: March 31 10:30 am

A festive service including the flowering of the Cross and the Holy Eucharist.

St. Mary Magdalene Church Calendar

March 2024		April 2024	
3 Sun	Third Sunday in Lent Eucharist 10:30 am Lenten Reflection 12 - 1 pm	7 Sun	Second Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am
10 Sun	Fourth Sunday in Lent Eucharist 10:30 am Lenten Reflection 12 - 1 pm	14 Sun	Third Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am
17 Sun	Fifth Sunday in Lent Eucharist 10:30 am Lenten Reflection 12 - 1 pm	21 Sun	Third Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am
19 Tue	Vista Park Lodge 2:15 pm Dakota House 3:30 pm	26 Fri & 27 Sat Garage Sale Friday 9 am – 5:30 pm Saturday 9 am – 12 noon	
21 Thu	River Park Gardens 10:30 am	28 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am ACF 7 pm
24 Sun	Palm Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am	30 Tue	Vestry Meeting 7 pm (<i>1 week later this month</i>)
26 Tue	Vestry Meeting 7 pm		
28 Thu	Maundy Thursday Service beginning at 6 pm		
29 Fri	Good Friday Service 10:30 am ACF 12:30 pm		
31 Sun	Easter Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am		

ACF = Asian Christian Fellowship service in Urdu

Weekly Activities

Christian Meditation	Thursdays 7:30 pm	Contact: Barbara B
Choir Practice	Sundays 9 am	Contact: Nancy