

News for Scattered Pews

March 2023



Val's Voice

Church has had a bit more of a crowd the last couple of weeks; it always does during Lent. Maybe these days, when we remember that Jesus spent 40 days alone in the wilderness, we are

drawn instead to gather with each other. To gather in prayer with the saints of our parish of St. Mary Magdalene, to come to church to wait for angels that we don't necessarily see in our own homes.

I know in other places where I've worshipped we placed a bare tree in the church during Lent – reminding us of the starkness of the wilderness, I suppose. This year, it seemed those branches needed decoration, and so I looked for icons of the Gospel stories we hear during Lent.



Jesus in the wilderness, yes, but also an angel, perhaps like the ones who waited on him. Nicodemus, who came at night to hear about the Spirit that blows people where it will, giving new birth. A Samaritan woman who had theological conversations with Jesus at the well – and left with the water of eternal life filling her spirit. A man born

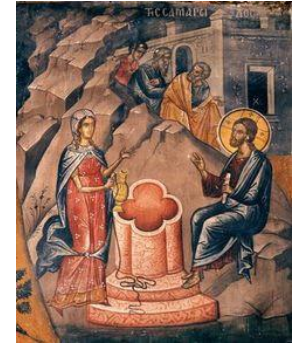
blind, who will regain his sight, as Jesus places the mud of the earth on his eyes. And Lazarus regaining the greatest gift of all, his life.

In the days of Lent we are reminded to fast and pray. We often consider Lent to be a time of struggle and sorrow... but there is another strand of Christian tradition... a strand that this year fills our Sunday worship with Gospels of new life and hope. Saints who in their conversations with Jesus rethink old traditions and are given new life in the most unexpected of ways!

Maybe this Lent each week we can weave these saints from another time into our own lives, can hear the words of hope and new life spoken

to and by them, in all sorts of places, in our own world. And in the process find new life like those who encountered Jesus in those early days.

In what ways can we be 'windy' people like Nicodemus, knowing that the Spirit blows around and through us? Where might the Spirit be leading us this week? In what ways might we be like the Samaritan woman at the well, seeking water for all the varied days of our lives, to quench our thirst and provide for those around us?



In what ways might we or people among us be called to come out like Lazarus? To come out of old ways that trap us away from God's light...

Questions and stories and pictures for these days of Lent – a springtime of growth for our spirits!

May the angels wait on you these days as they did on Jesus.

Peace,

Val



Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." ~ John 3:7-8

2023 Vestry

Thank you to new and returning Vestry members, selected at the 2023 Annual General Meeting, for sharing your time and skills for this ministry:

- ❖ Heather Birtles
- ❖ Chima Chira
- ❖ Dawn Hillstrom
- ❖ Carey Isaac
- ❖ Barbara Jalibat
- ❖ Cheryl Lenton
- ❖ Carol McPhaden
- ❖ Cathy Mondor
- ❖ Caroline Olagbuji

Vestry Notes from February 28

This being the first meeting of our new Vestry, we were glad to have a light agenda!

Judy went through the **parish finances** and noted that, as is typical, January was one of the lighter months for offering. Vestry was reminded that at our AGM there was a request for Vestry to consider ways to move our budget closer to being balanced. We recognized the importance of doing this, while noting that we don't want budget concerns to take away from our ministry as a parish.

The Reconciliation **eagle feather painting event** went well, with 8 people attending. It was fun getting creative with our eagle feathers, and a great opportunity for healing through listening to Amanda's spiritual teaching.

Vestry heard that the committee looking at rentals has met, and is considering how we might ensure that **rental space in our building** is better utilized. Although in the past the church didn't need to promote itself, going forward we will need to be more proactive. Parishioners are asked to keep this in mind if/when they know of someone looking for rental space. (Editor's note: I've rented the downstairs hall twice for showers in the last couple of years, and highly recommend it! Therasa)

After hearing how grateful some parishioners (mostly those who are house-bound) were to receive **Christmas cards**, we agreed that we would send Easter cards. We are planning to broaden our scope, including to people connected whom we simply haven't seen for awhile, to let them know we are thinking of them.

Vestry decided that with all the troubles around the world, this year we will send a third of our **special Easter offering** to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), which assists people living through war and other disasters.

And, after realizing that the third of last year's Easter offering which was to be sent to a nursery school in Uganda had not been sent, we spent some time resolving where our communication had broken down. The issue was resolved, and the funds will be sent.

The **Refugee Committee** advised that the young man who was to arrive as a newcomer in February is now scheduled to arrive April 26. We will pray for his safety until then. If anyone has a single bed frame they could part with, please contact a Vestry member, to allow it to make its way to his new home when the time comes.

Coming Soon – Our Spring Garage Sale



The dates of our next sale have been set: Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29.

Donations can be dropped off at the church starting March 15. Sorry but pickup of donations is not available.

Look for more information coming soon, including on our website, but in the meantime you can email stmarymag.garagesale@gmail.com or call 204-256-6157 and speak to Cathy about donating or volunteering.

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

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Email: stmary@mymts.net

St. Mary Magdalene Church Calendar

March 2023 <i>Season of Lent</i>	April 2023 <i>He Is Risen</i>
5 2 nd Sunday in Lent Eucharist 10:30 am	2 Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) Eucharist 10:30 am
12 3 rd Sunday in Lent Eucharist 10:30 am <i>*Daylight Savings Time begins*</i>	7 Good Friday Service 10:30 am
14 Service at Vista Park Lodge 2:15 pm	9 Easter Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am
16 Service at River Park Gardens 10:30 am	11 Service at Vista Park Lodge 2:15 pm
19 4 th Sunday in Lent Eucharist 10:30 am	16 2 nd Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am
26 5 th Sunday in Lent Eucharist 10:30 am ACF Service 7 pm	20 Service at River Park Gardens 10:30 am
28 Vestry meeting 7 pm	23 3 rd Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am ACF Service 7 pm
	25 Vestry meeting 7 pm
	30 4 th Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am

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	Lenten book study - contact Val for date/time	Contact: Val