

News for Scattered Pews

November 2023



Val's Voice

I was excited about Halloween this year, more than since I was a kid.

I think it's because our son Ben and his partner have moved to Winnipeg from Toronto, and Stacie

is a big fan of Halloween. She had pumpkins or bat wings hanging from her ears well before October 31. Our sunroom was festooned with an orange and black garland, spiders' webs, black cats and cheerful signs that say Haunted House!

Halloween will be over by the time you read this, but the smiles this new thing brought those weeks may still be with me. I think that's the way it is with new things. Sometimes what we learn from each other can bring joy.

I think that's why I was looking forward with great anticipation to our All Saints' Day potluck and storytelling on November 5. When we all have different backgrounds, sometimes it doesn't occur to us the degree to which that is the case. We don't know the different wisdom each of us was taught when we were kids. We aren't aware of the differences in habits there might be around music or prayer or Eucharist. We don't know the church festivals or Sunday School or... well, anything at all, really.

And we can't know what it is in certain traditions that is familiar to others, or what else might be so unfamiliar as to be unsettling. I heard from lots of people how much they enjoyed the diversity of what was shared on Sunday. I heard as well from a few others that they too would like the chance to speak. I think as the sharing continues, we will learn that peoples' different perspectives and loves will really be endless, as we hear what is important to our fellow parishioners.

Hearing all of that variety, we take a few more steps towards understanding a bit more of who we are and why...

But one thing is sure, that faith is part of all of our stories. In everything we heard around our tables and from the front of the room, we realized a little bit more that God, whose creativity is infinite, has given us the gift of difference in this community. And our lives are richer for knowing it. Our lives will continue, as God's peoples' lives always have, to be made richer as we learn what we can from each other.

In a way, that is what God's people have been doing through all of history. When Moses gathered with 70 elders to discern a direction, he was learning from diversity. When the people gathered at Pentecost and learned to speak different languages, God was teaching them some of what they needed to know. When King David repented, and Zaccheus climbed a tree, when Mary Magdalene went to the garden, and Miriam danced across the Red Sea - faith became real for each of them in a new way and their community was changed. That is also the way it is for us!

So, sometime soon, when you hear that we are having another potluck, bring a dish and wait to see what you hear and what you learn about your brothers and sisters in Christ.

And in the meantime, God's goodness and love to all of us, God's own beloved children...

Val



The colours of Autumn remind us of the diversity of the people in our church community.

Vestry Notes from October 24

A **new bookkeeper**, Val Heide, has been hired. She will work approximately 3 hours a week.

The Parish Community Building/Educational program begins November 5 with a **"Getting to know your neighbour"** potluck lunch and presentations from some parishioners telling us about themselves and their experience of "church".

The Rev. Susan Smandych, Diocesan Representative for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, will join us on Sunday, November 26 to talk about **what PWRDF is**, how do we as Anglicans relate to it, how do they respond to disasters, etc.



Parishioners are encouraged to go online to learn more about **issues important to ourselves and/or our communities:**

- Reconciliation Resources are available from The New Canadians Centre at <https://nccpeterborough.ca/lessonsfromtheland2021/education-hub-2/>. They will be available on the website and posted in the bulletin.
- The Rainbow Resource Centre has online programs. The website links will be provided for parishioners to use.

One third of our **Thanksgiving offering** will be sent to the PWRDF Grow Hope Project.

Deadline for the church photo directory is November 26 – that's only a few weeks away. Vestry members will be contacting people to confirm they want to be in the updated directory. But you don't have to wait for that call: email your photo and information (name, mailing address, phone number and email address) directly to Yvonne at stmary@mymts.net.

The **Fall Garage Sale** saw a profit of \$5,317. It was recommended by the volunteers that only one sale be held in 2024, in the spring, for a number of reasons including the large amount of volunteer time and energy required.

Plans are in the works for a **youth class/ luncheon** for those between the ages of 13 and 25.

Inland Audio Visual was contacted for a **quote on a projector and screen**. The quote was \$23,500 which at this time is not viable. It was suggested that we consider other options in the new year, and try out using what we have for a few services and get parishioner feedback.

The parish will enter into a **co-sponsorship agreement** with Abid and Rashida Munir to sponsor Rashida's sister and her husband. Abid and Rashida will be responsible for their financial support.



There is a sign-up sheet for **purchasing poinsettias** in the hall. The cost is \$16 for a 6" pot. Deadline for signing up and paying is Sunday, November 19. For more information please speak to Cherryll L or another member of Vestry.

The 1st Sunday in Advent is December 3.

2023 Christmas services:

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

December 24, 2:30 pm
Christmas Pageant, Service and Tea

December 24, 8:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service

December 25, 10:30 am
Christmas Morning Service

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

3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg MB R2M 1Z2
stmarymagdalene.wpg.org

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

St. Mary Magdalene Church Calendar

November 2023	December 2023
4 Sat Grief Support 1:30 pm	2 Sat Grief Support 1:30 pm
5 Sun 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	3 Sun First Sunday of Advent Eucharist 10:30 am
11 Sat Grief Support 1:30 pm	4 Mon Confirmation Class 7:00 pm
12 Sun 24 th Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	6 Wed Advent Soup and Prayer 5:30 pm
14 Tue Vista Park Lodge 2:15 pm Dakota House 3:00 pm	10 Sun Second Sunday of Advent Eucharist 10:30 am
16 Thu River Park Gardens 10:30 am	13 Wed Advent Soup and Prayer 5:30 pm
18 Sat Grief Support 1:30 pm	17 Sun Third Sunday of Advent Eucharist 10:30 am
19 Sun 25 th Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	20 Wed Advent Soup and Prayer 5:30 pm
20 Mon Confirmation Class 7:00 pm	24 Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent Eucharist 10:30 am Pageant, Eucharist and Christmas Tea 2:30 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist 8:00 pm
	25 Mon Christmas Day Eucharist 10:30 am ACF Service 1-7 pm
	31 Sun First Sunday after Christmas 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