

News for Scattered Pews

May 2024



Val's Voice

As I write this, I am anticipating the upper hall of the church filling up with delighted little kids and their parents arriving for their Kindermusik class. And I am reflecting on the activities that have been part of our parish life not

just in past years, but also these current days where we are now.

This past weekend we gathered for a Pub Night to raise money for the refugee ministry which is part of who we are as a parish. (It was fun! An event where old and young alike – people from the parish, the neighbourhood and other churches



with whom we have a relationship all gathered to enjoy life together, make and listen to some good music, and raise money for a good cause.) And this week, we have also invited people from the church and the

community to come and consider how we can create more inclusive spaces for those dealing with dementia. It will another chance to create community, and to value people around us.

It was only a few days ago that one of the musicians who practices with Southglen Fiddlers in our space asked if they could have a pancake breakfast for themselves this month, so they can also enjoy each others' company. (The answer was "Of course!")

All in all, it feels like people are remembering what it is to live in community. To enjoy the company of those around them, and to work towards creating a good, life-affirming community for all.

The church is about a lot of things, and it needs to be. Learning of our ancestors in the faith, and how they walked in God's ways... there is a lot

involved in faithfulness. But for me, this role of creating a life-affirming community for ourselves,

our neighbours and people we don't know also feels a lot like what the church is about, and should be.

It feels and sounds like salvation to me. God's Spirit blowing through the world and bringing healing where there is too often pain and brokenness. God's Spirit blowing through communities and healing rifts and disagreements. God's Spirit training up the young and the old



both in the ways they should go – life-giving ways, where people are loved and accepted for who they are, and where they also have the opportunity to learn different ways of being that can be even more life-giving for them and the people around them.

Someone reminded me about one of those Facebook memes: "How many Anglicans, Lutherans, whoever, does it take to change a light bulb?" "None, they don't change!" Sometimes it is a bit true... (Sometimes more true than is good for us!)

But to be fair, I think it is not true. We do change! All of us, all through our lives. Learning from the people around us. Learning from our kids and grandkids. Learning from the billboards on the bus shelters put there by the Southern Chiefs Organization, reminding us about resilience and care. Learning from creation around us, from friends and enemies even, to treasure the moments that we are given, the days and years...

And learning from our Scripture and tradition that all through the history of our ancestors, God has worked with people to draw them back towards

God, and out towards each other. At key points in our history, God has noted the ways in which God also changes, growing and learning in love towards all creation.

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So let's enjoy the community God gives. Let's honour it and work towards growing it for the joy and health of all God's creation!

Thanks to you!

Val

Vestry Notes from April 30

Finance picture: Concern was expressed that the balance at March 31 was in a negative position (-\$1,098.87). This is a cash flow issue, and while there is money in savings, underlying concerns about our deficit budget need to be resolved. The Bishop and Archdeacon have been asked to help us consider appropriate suggestions for future planning, and we will meet with Diocesan Archdeacon Simon in the coming months. In the meantime, if parishioners are able to increase their offering and help the church balance our budget, your help is much appreciated!

It was noted that not all **e-transfers** are being accepted by the parish. There has been some confusion at the processing end, but it is being corrected. If you notice an e-transfer returning to you please contact the church office.

There will be a brief presentation at the May 26 service about costs associated with direct withdrawals, envelopes, and e-transfers and how to **save the parish and parishioners money**.

A committee has been formed to discuss the **building rental agreement** and report back to Vestry. If you are interested in participating please speak with Ben, Taps, or Cathy.

There was ongoing discussion about replacing the **dishwasher in the lower kitchen**. Grants are being investigated and estimates being received.

The **Pub Night fundraiser** on May 4 and the **dementia workshop** presented by the Alzheimer Society on May 8 went well. We will report on the amount of funds raised at the Pub Night once the final count is done. Thanks to everyone who supported these events by participating.

For young adults in the parish: Ben Girgis and Michelle Collins will be meeting to discuss starting a combined Anglican/Lutheran youth group, and Ryan Turnbull and Ben will be doing a retreat weekend in August. More information to come.

The **Easter Offering** was \$2,015, of which \$670 was sent to Kairos to support women's ministry.

The **Jubilee Fund** membership fee of \$50 was paid.

Say Yes to The Kids Sunday is an Anglican Foundation Liturgical Resource with fundraising opportunities for kids/youth. On June 2, we will use the "Say Yes to the Kids" liturgy. In September, this will be revisited after consultation with the Sunday School teachers.

A **Bible Study program** on Saturdays 10-11:30 am starts June 1. Our study will include coffee and baked treats!

Vestry is considering whether we could run **Messy Church** in the fall. "Messy Church" is a form of church for families that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality for all ages. It's generally offered once a month or so, and not usually on Sunday morning. Vestry also hopes to organize a monthly **book club** later in the fall as well.

Garage Sale Report: there were ### shoppers for a total income of \$\$\$ at the time of this report. There are still 3 items that are advertised to sell separately as they are more expensive items.

Superior Asphalt has submitted a quote of \$1,575 for the **repair of the crack in the parking lot**. Little Saints Daycare will pay half the cost (\$787).

The **Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene** is Monday, July 22. As we did last year, we will celebrate by sharing with those around us. There will be a **food drive** to collect food and funds to provide small hampers to those in need. The food will be blessed on July 28 (the day we celebrate St. Mary Magdalene) and distributed on Saturday, August 3.

A reminder to everyone using the church to keep sugar, candy, and other food items in places not accessible to **mice**. Jenny has sent a note to all renters.

There was a discussion about increasing our **social media presence**. The church has Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) accounts (in addition to our website which is well-used) but they are underused. Work is underway to get this rectified.

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

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A note to parishioners....



It is not news that people and communities and organizations are facing financial challenges these days. As a church we are not immune to this, as you will have read in this month's Vestry notes. We need the support of our parishioners. So this is a reminder that there are a number of options for you to give offering to the parish in an uncomplicated and reliable way:

- **Automatic withdrawal:** Complete a bank/credit union form (available just outside the church office) identifying how much you want to give, and the office takes care of the rest. Your offering comes out of your account each month automatically.
- **Offering envelopes:** You can get a year's worth of uniquely-numbered offering envelopes, and use them each week/month as you prefer for cash or cheque offering.
- **E-transfers:** Offering can be made via e-mail to stmary@mts.net. Some folks use e-transfers regularly while others use them only for special offerings.

The amount people give, of course, varies with their situation. For example, a 10% commitment can be hundreds of dollars a month to one person, or a few dollars a week to someone else. We all need to do what works for each of us, recognizing that all offering is a gift to God.



St. Mary Magdalene Church Calendar

May 2024		June 2024	
4 Sat	Pub Night fundraiser 7 pm	2 Sun	Second Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
5 Sun	Sixth Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am	9 Sun	Third Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
7 Tue	Vista Park Lodge 2:15 pm Dakota House 3:30 pm	11 Tue	Vista Park Lodge 2:15 pm Dakota House 3:30 pm
8 Wed	Dementia Workshop 7 pm <i>presented by the Alzheimer Society of MB</i>	16 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Pentecost Confirmation and Eucharist 10:30 am <i>Father's Day</i>
12 Sun	Seventh Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am <i>Mother's Day</i>	20 Thu	River Park Gardens 10:30 am
19 Sun	Day of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am	23 Sun	Fifth Sunday of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
26 Sun	Trinity Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am ACF 7 pm	25 Tue	Vestry Meeting 7 pm
28 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 **New activity**	Saturdays 10 - 11:30 am Starts June 1	Contact: Val