

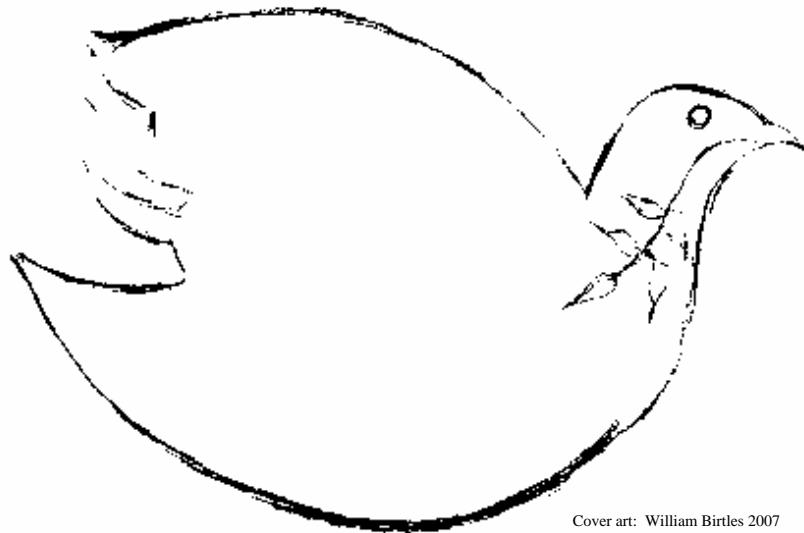
MAGDALA NEWS

May
2007

PENTECOST

OUR MISSION

Claiming the power of Christ to enable us to have meaningful worship, spiritual development and leadership in order to undertake pastoral and outreach ministries. (October, 2005)



Cover art: William Birtles 2007

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

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From The Editors

Those of us who are well nourished and grateful for the staff of life, may have memories of good cooks and favourite restaurants along life’s way, but it is doubtful that we remember the details of more than a few exceptional meals we have eaten and spectacular menus we have selected from. So it is with the sermons which we have heard that regularly nourish our spirit and guide our life.

When I was making the decision to emigrate to Canada I decided to visit with relatives and friends and go to places in the British Isles which were important to me because I thought I might not be able to see them again.

One of these places was St. Martin-in-the-Fields, that landmark Church in London’s Trafalgar Square, designed by James Gibb and completed in 1726. I attended morning worship, and the Vicar, The Rev’d Austin Williams preached from Psalm 121, which begins “I will lift up my eyes unto the hills . . .” However, he preached about v.8: “The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.” This was wonderfully helpful to me at the time and has been a verse to lean on ever since, as it speaks of God’s love and constant presence in all of life’s circumstances, wherever we go and whatever we do.

Many members of our church family engage in travel from time to time--some for work, some for recreation, some to visit family, some just because they like to. Sometimes they plan ahead and sometimes they do it on the spur of the moment. Whatever your reasons are for being away from home, if you

are making summer plans remember to safeguard your property, stop the mail, remember your passport, pay your contribution to St. Mary Magdalene in advance if you can, find a place to worship when you get there, make new friends, and of course write about it when you get back. However you spend the next few months have a great summer! And remember that “The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even forever more”.

Heather

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Opinions expressed in articles or notes in this publication are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the opinion or policy The Parish of St. Mary Magdalene, The Diocese of Rupert’s Land, or The Anglican Church of Canada.

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From the Rector's Desk



The Reverend
Preston Parsons

I've had the opportunity to reflect on the story of Jonah these last couple of weeks, and on what it is like to pray in the belly of the whale. Take a moment to read Jonah's prayer, the orbital centre of the story of this wayward prophet. In the belly of the whale Jonah prays:

"I called to the Lord out of my distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.
You cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.
Then I said, "I am driven away
from your sight;
how shall I look again
upon your holy temple?"
The waters closed in over me;
the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped around my head
at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me for ever;
yet you brought up my life from the Pit,
O Lord my God.
As my life was ebbing away,
I remembered the Lord;
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.
Those who worship vain idols
forsake their true loyalty.
But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Deliverance belongs to the Lord!"

There are two things about this prayer that are worth noting. The first is that this prayer is derived almost entirely from the Psalter. The phrases are cribbed from the prayer book of Israel, and while it is a new creation, it is studded with prayers Jonah already knew.

Liturgical prayer is like that. It is unconfined by the experience of a single individual. Through praying and re-praying the liturgy, it becomes part of our everyday vocabulary of prayer, offering to us an expansive God known by the saints through the centuries. There is something about praying together, in the liturgy and the psalms, which frees us from the confines of our own experience. By the very binding of common prayer we are opened up to a God that is greater than anything we could come up with ourselves, the great God who can deliver us up from the Pit.

The other thing worth noting about Jonah's prayer is that it is not a psalm of lament. Rather, it is a psalm of thanksgiving. To have the faith of Jonah – to be in the belly of the fish and to thank God for it! Jonah's obedience begins with thanksgiving for his retreat into the belly of the whale, a thanksgiving given in the words of his prayer book, the Psalter.

Thanksgiving may well be the proper response to some of our trials. Jonah doesn't pretend that all is well. Some things in life are hard and difficult. Some days we are in the Pit, sometimes we find ourselves deep in the belly of the whale. We find ourselves in the deep heart of the seas, where the flood surrounds us, with waves and billows passing over us. Some trials do not come from God, and this is important to remember. But some trials are salutary, and offer us a time to grow into new obedience and life with God, even if we are as reluctant as Jonah was!

Preston+

From the Wardens

The new vestry is installed and working hard to attend to the business of the Parish and support the Rector in his ministry among us. Vestry meeting times are noted in the bulletin and minutes posted in the narthex.

The roles of Vestry members, Wardens and Rector have all been reviewed with reference to the canons of the Diocese and orientation of new members of vestry is ongoing. The wardens attended a day of orientation at St. John's College in April which was very helpful and informative.

The security of the church building is also being reviewed and keys holders accounted for. All users of the building are being reminded of the need to secure the outside door and use the voice access system for late comers to their meetings.

We are grateful to Margaret Jones who is looking into needs and process for Refugee Sponsorship should we be willing to take on this ministry again.

The *Common Praise* hymn books are on order and hopefully will be in use by Pentecost Sunday. Sincere thanks to all who have made memorial and thanksgiving donations and to Kathleen Regher for writing the dedication inserts. Donations are still welcome.

Congratulations to our Organist and Choir Director Shaun Coughlin on the successful premiere of his Rock Opera "Easter", performed recently at Holy Cross school.

Thanks are due to Christina Okwumabua who has updated the Activity Bags for children, which are available at the back of the church for use during service time.

Barbara Bater and Margaret Jones continue to represent us in the St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry, and have listed in the narthex "Wish List" items which you may be able to help with.

Under the able chairmanship of Gary Brabant, the Worship Committee has met and planned services well into the fall. We will have the Parish Picnic on June 19 and celebrate the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene on July 22.

Thanks also to Estelle Haines and family for their leadership in supporting Habitat for Humanity's summer building program.

We all give thanks to God for the healing which Mark Webster has experienced and pray for his ongoing restoration to active living with renewed strength. Now that Tannis Webster is home again we are very happy that she has agreed to oversee "communications" in the parish and at the time of writing the job description is being worked out.

Following teaching sessions on Healing, presented during Lent by the rector, visiting teams have been assigned for parishioners in need and at risk. We are grateful to Barbara Crow for her continued leadership and guidance in this area.

As we approach holiday time we wish everyone opportunities for recreation and renewal, and pray for safe travel for all. Please consider keeping up your financial contribution to the parish while you are away.

Blessings,

Allan, Bill and Heather.

Companions on the Faith Journey

The Reverend Bob English

by Heather Birtles

The Reverend Bob English is a familiar person to many of us in the congregation as he and his wife Vickie have been worshipping at St. Mary Magdalene for several years. Recently Bob accepted an appointment by the bishop to be Honorary Assistant Priest at our church.

He is a friendly mild mannered man with a ready smile and has served the Lord in Holy Orders for nearly 50 years.

He was born in the Scottish settlement of Bradwardinem, Manitoba, which is in the rolling countryside to the northwest of Brandon. It was his family's practice to attend church. There he learned about the faith and enjoyed going to Church Camp. His confirmation classes at 14 were very meaningful, and even then he felt drawn to service in the church.

Having grown up on the farm in times when horses were essential to the work, he had first planned to carry on the family tradition. He tried farming when he left school but mechanisation had become an essential part of it by then, and Bob found tractors much less inspiring than horses, so he moved into Winnipeg to attend university and obtained his BA in 1956.

Bob and Vickie met in confirmation class. She was the sister of one of his best friends and they married after he obtained his degree. Vickie supported Bob while he attended St. John's College for three more years to study Theology. He was ordered first to the diaconate and then in 1960 to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas, in the Diocese of

Brandon. He first served in Glenboro, in a four-point parish, and then returned to university studies aiming for a master's degree in Philosophy. He has served in the Diocese of Rupert's Land in the parishes of St. Thomas, the Church of the Good Shepherd and at St. Barnabas. Following studies at the Inter Faith Pastoral Institute, Bob also opened a counselling practice.

Strictly speaking, Bob is retired; however, he has served the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer for a number of years as chaplain in prayer ministry to other clergy, sharing duties with his friend from college days, retired bishop Jim Allan. He also continues in his counselling practice at the Rehab Center for Children. He and Vickie enjoy opportunities to spend time with their three daughters who are raising families in Rivers, Manitoba; Timmins, and Belleville, Ontario. They take a keen interest in the development of their seven grandchildren. They have continued to keep horses on their property but have only one at the present time.

Possibly because of the influence of his mentor, Dr. Cecil Landon, Bob has a fondness for an Anglo-Catholic style of worship, and so makes the occasional pilgrimage to St. Michael and all Angels church. However Bob and Vickie enjoy being with us and are moved by what they see as the Spirit at work in our midst. It was a great delight too, to find another "Johnian" in our congregation in the person of Wilf Thomas, whom he had not seen for many years.

Bob has already begun his support to us by taking services at Catherine Place, and from time to time will participate in leading our Sunday services as opportunity presents. He strongly affirms belief in the Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ the Lord and wants to encourage us all as companions on the journey together in faith.

Parish News

Fundraising Social for Mark Webster

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2007

Place: St. Mary Magdalene,
Sherstone (lower) Hall

Many of you have been praying for Tannis & Bob Webster's son Mark, now recovering from surgery for a rare and aggressive form of cancer. (See story p. 10). For an independent contract worker with no benefit package for support, six months off work creates a lot of financial stress which doesn't help the healing process. So a fund raiser social is being planned, including a Silent Auction. There will be a quiet area for those who prefer it.

To buy tickets, offer to sell tickets, contribute to the silent auction, etc., talk to Tannis--and watch the Sunday bulletin for details as they become available!

Parishioner Honoured for Volunteer Work

Bea Weger was honoured on April 18th at the Annual volunteer awards banquet, held at the Canad Inn Polo Park. Police Chief Jack Ewatski presented her with the "Volunteer of the Year Award" for her participation in the Victim Services Section of the Winnipeg Police Department. Bea has volunteered there since September 1996 and is a great support not only to clients, but also to her fellow volunteers because of her broad knowledge and understanding of people. She is also a person who is fun to be with, cares a lot and lives and shares her faith, as we can all attest. Congratulations Bea!

Tales from the Sale - Spring 2007

by Nancy Chan

Back by popular demand and some spare time I would like to share a few stories of our spring garage sale.

The dates were picked and Mother Nature cooperated with warm sunny days. However our children's schedules' turned into full gear. John and I were not too worried as we knew we had a highly efficient team of volunteers.

Some purchases happen before the actual sale with a call from Leslie, church secretary, a gentleman bought a little pink bike in need of some repair. I happened to be in the office the morning he returned to let us know that a very special little girl whose favourite color was pink was now riding this bike. This man had repaired the tires and cleaned up the bike. This is one of the many acts of kindness that happen during our sales every year and make all the hard work worthwhile.

Our sale preparation actually begins with the setting up of the halls the Sunday before the sale dates. In the record time of 40 minutes our congregation young and old, big and small pulled out tables, moved shelving, boxes and bags all with great big smiles on their faces.

Fran and her Bowler Hat wearing Crew made an overwhelming \$1500 this spring by promoting reading, making many children happy with toys, and reducing the landfills by selling used furniture and shoes. Fran was doing so well this year she was handing us \$200 by Tuesday to deposit, the sale didn't start until Friday!! Jessie received six very special hugs from a group of children whose day care worker brought them to the sale. Each went home with a bag of little toys.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Our Monday evening elves showed up to help sort the toys for Jessie and unpack and fold all those clothes. Alan Livingstone, with help from his daughter and her friend, helped Jessie sort and figure out all the little pieces of toys and what goes with what. Gary Brabant came with his truck to help John and Fred do last minute pick ups. Thanks guys!

With no sign of Haldean, Bea and Hilda took over the New and Nearly New area and in short order made it look like a boutique. In true garage sale worker form, Haldean arrived on Wednesday ready to dig in even though she had not unpacked her suitcase from her trip. That's what I call dedication. We were also happy to know that Dave would be around on Saturday with his truck to help with clean up, always a priority on my list.

Of course no sale would be complete without thanking my housewares sorters led by Jean Crow and my crew of handymen in the hardware department.

On Friday morning everyone was in fine form ready for a busy and long day. Geri Cassels had the hot coffee pouring and Gerry Brown unlocked the front doors. People flooded in and ran down the stairs to be first to search through our treasures. The day continued to be busy with a very large number of customers making many purchases.

Many familiar and friendly faces were seen and new customers made, Preston being one of them. He insisted he had to go to his office and stop buying things, but every time we turned around he was still in the hall.

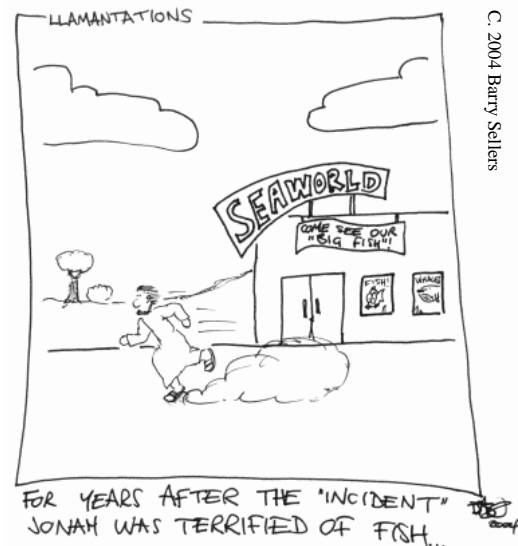
Our Wednesday Bible Study/Caterers arrived to provide us with a delicious meal or in Newfie terms "Grand Old Scoff". Again the food was great but the little extras they provide make the whole meal an experience.

When asked if they would consider doing this on a regular basis the answer was if the spirit moved them. I hope it does.

Our highly efficient volunteers turned Saturday into a Spring Sale to remember. Mary Valentine oversaw the running of the sale and the cleanup. Our men with their five trucks made one trip each with the leftovers of the sale to Value Village. Thanks to Dave Gittens, Roy Taylor, Fred Bettess, his brother's truck, John Haitisma and Preston Parsons. Reports say that at 1:15 pm the halls were cleared with Brian Crow and Ken Bettess ensuring that everything was in its place for Sunday.

With a grand total of \$4925.35 profit to report the most successful spring sale ever another little story. Joe Webb, a visitor and former parishioner during the 60's, was attending church the Sunday of our announcement and was so impressed by the number of people involved and by all fun we have with our garage sale that he wrote a check to make up our total sale profits to \$5000.

Thanks to all who help us with our sales, and see you in the fall!



Around the Diocese

General Synod

Remember, General Synod meets in Winnipeg from June 19 - 25, 2007. It's not too late to volunteer! For information, see the bulletin board by the elevator, or contact Anglican Centre (call 992-4200 or go to <http://www.rupertsland.ca>).

If you can't be there in person, everyone can participate through prayer--leaflets containing suggested prayers are on the table with the Sunday bulletins.

Faith Horizons 2007

Mark your calendars now! *Faith Horizons: Building Vital Churches Together* happens October 19 - 20, 2007 at St. Mary's Academy. Keynote speaker is The Most Reverend Douglas Hambidge.

Central Buganda Orphan Fund

The Diocese is committed to helping Ugandan children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, civil war, and malaria. Your contribution of \$100 will feed and educate a primary school student for an entire year! \$300 will provide for a secondary student. For more information, call Bud Oliver (1-204-482-4679); The Ven. Godfrey Mawejje (1-204-482-9486) or Marilyn Jackson (487-7234).

Deadline: The deadline for submissions for the Thanksgiving issue of *Magdala News* will be **September 2, 2007**.

And in Other News . . .

PWRDF Responds to the Solomon Islands Tsunami April 5, 2007

by Margaret Jones

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) has made an initial emergency grant of \$10,000 towards the Rapid Response Fund issued by Action by Churches Together (ACT) International for Solomon Islands tsunami disaster.

The World Council of Churches Office in the Pacific (WCC OP) is coordinating the relief efforts together with partners in the Pacific such as the Church of Melanesia (CoM), which is the Anglican Church in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the United Church and Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA).

CoM staff is undertaking an assessment with local Anglican Disaster Committee to determine an appropriate response to the emergency, which is currently focused on providing food, household items and water before rehabilitating homes, church buildings and other infrastructure.

You Can Make a Donation:

On-line: <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s50860>

At Canada Helps; after you fill in a donation amount, you can designate your contribution to "Solomon Islands Tsunami".

By Phone: Contact Barbara Wilkins (416-924-9199, x320 for credit card donations.

By Mail: Make cheques payable to PWRDF, mark them for "Solomon Islands Tsunami" and send to:

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund,
The Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street
Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2.

Karen Refugees

by Margaret Jones

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is interviewing Karen refugees with the goal of bringing approximately 2,000 more to Canada for resettlement. This second wave of Karen refugees will be selected once again from the remote Mae La Oon camp, as well as the Mae Ra Ma Luang camp located less than 10 kilometres away. There are an estimated 10,000 refugees in each camp.

Some 140,000 refugees from Burma's nine main minority groups have been living in nine isolated and closed camps on the Thai / Burmese border for up to 20 years, the largest refugee population in Southeast Asia.

UNHCR has identified vulnerable segments of the Karen population for priority resettlement. The UNHCR has agreed to refer refugees from these camps to Canada. Other countries that have responded include the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Of the nine camps in Thailand, Mae La Oon camp is the most remote, extremely overcrowded, and has the worst living conditions. Dwellings are built on steep hillsides susceptible to landslides. Poor sanitation and water facilities lead to serious public health risks. All of the refugees will require health and security clearance before coming to Canada.

In 2006, as part of a group processing initiative, 810 Burmese Karen refugees were interviewed and selected by Canadian visa officers. The majority have already arrived in Canada, where they have found new homes in cities and towns across the country.

Not surprisingly, after living for many years in a remote jungle refugee camp, adjusting to life in Canada is challenging. They are very grateful to be in Canada, but also face a lengthy period of adjustment.

Communicating has been a challenge, since few of the Karens speak basic English. Although they have been attending orientation workshops and are cooperative, they are accustomed to neither the classroom setting nor to retaining or comprehending orientation information. After so many years in a refugee camp, their priority was surviving day to day.

Perhaps St. Mary Magdalene could once again sponsor a refugee family. If you are interested in this possibility, speak to Margaret Jones.

"We need to transform our parish churches into mission centres that offer people a spiritual pathway through this materialistic culture. We need to lift ourselves out of survival mode, and get to work on mission. We need to confront the main issues of the day with the ancient truths of our faith, and not run away from them or suppress innovation with intolerance. And we need to offer people genuine alternatives to the mindless consumerism that dominates our TV and radio waves - alternatives rooted in the radical life and teaching of Jesus Christ."

Bishop Michael Ingham, in a sermon to the 2006 Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster.

Mark Kicks Cancer!

“Good news and bad news . . . Mark will survive . . . we came within 2 months of losing him.”

So began seven weeks of e-mails from Bob and Tannis Webster following their son Mark’s surgery on March 1 for a rare form of cancer which took his large bowel, as well as his spleen and other “non-essentials”. I’ll let Tannis tell the story in her own words:

Mar. 10 - *“ . . . he is recovering so well, there is a good chance he could be discharged in a week.”*

Mar. 11 - *“Brushed his teeth as well and said he felt like a \$100 - he may have meant a million dollars.”*

Mar. 12 - *“The stoma nurse came by to instruct Mark in the use of the appliances. She is a real sweetheart, compassionate, caring, gentle and patient. I think it was pretty hard on Mark and, of course, it is going to take some time to get used to all of this”*

Mar. 14 - *“A BANNER DAY! Mark had a good sleep last night and was feeling really upbeat this morning . . . quite excited that he had a Freeze for breakfast. Best Freeze he ever had. . . . A fellow about 5 years older than Mark came in to talk to Mark re: ilio-stomies. . . . He and his girlfriend were really positive and reassuring and answered all the questions we had from how and what he could eat (which was just about everything, including a few beers), to sports (he is involved in hockey, skiing, swimming) . . . sex, weight gains, sharing ostomy info with friends. . . . He had made himself an ostomy cover out of a hockey pad . . . provided Mark with all kinds of helpful hints and things to do to make it easier to handle his appliances . . .*

probably the most worthwhile hour we could have spent.”

Mar. 16 - *“ . . . Still has a bit of pneumonia but they said it was nothing to worry about . . . Mark is missing his friends and was feeling somewhat low today I think every once in a while he realizes just what he went through and it is quite overwhelming. . . .”*

Mar. 20 - *“Mark was having a pretty bad day. They had removed his feed tube on Monday and he lost all his energy and was feeling dizzy He also lost his appetite.”*

And so on. Good days, bad days; tubes and drains; appetite, no appetite; infections, antibiotics; hopes raised and then dashed. Until:

Apr. 16 - *“This may be it. Dr. Temple came by today and said, if nothing changes, he will discharge Mark tomorrow. YEAH!”*

And finally,

Apr. 23 - *“Mark is doing well at home and has been out walking Whitey [his dog]. . . . Prayers are still needed for relief of pain, a kickstart for his immune system, strength and speedy healing generally.”*

Yes, prayers are still needed, and financial assistance as well (see p. 6); however, at least everyone is at home now and healing can continue in a familiar environment. Needless to say, enormous relief and even more joy were evident at the March 14 Eucharist celebrated in thanksgiving for Mark’s continuing recovery.

One young man suffers a terrifying illness and hundreds of people, many strangers to one another, come together to form a community of prayer that stretches around the globe. Truly, God moves in mysterious ways.

Kids' Corner



Resource Sheet • August 19, 2007



CLOUD OF WITNESSES PUZZLE

Look in all directions to find each person of faith named in the word bank below. After you have found all the hidden words, find the hidden Bible verse by

writing all the remaining letters on the line at the bottom of the page. Begin in the upper left-hand corner and move from left to right for each line.

C	A	A	S	I	N	O	W	F	A	I	T	M	A	H	A	R	B	A	H	J
I	N	A	T	I	R	A	M	A	S	S	T	H	E	A	J	O	A	N	N	A
G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S	W	O	M	A	N	S	S	U	R	A	N	N	C
D	C	O	E	O	F	T	B	E	N	T	O	V	E	R	W	O	M	A	N	O
I	H	M	A	R	T	H	A	I	H	A	R	A	S	N	G	S	L	S	H	B
V	O	I	P	E	S	E	S	I	R	A	H	P	U	D	F	O	U	R	T	
A	H	S	C	L	O	U	D	O	F	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	E	S	A	E
D	C	O	N	V	I	C	T	I	O	N	O	S	A	M	U	E	L	F	T	P
H	I	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	N	G	S	N	O	T	J	S	E	E
M	A	R	Y	N	A	B	C	M	A	R	Y	M	A	G	D	A	L	E	N	E

WORD BANK

Jesus	Mary Magdalene	Disciples	Mary
Simon	Joanna	David	Martha
Pharisees	Susanna	Abraham	Jacob
Cloud of Witnesses	Paul	Isaac	Sarah
Samaritan		Generous Woman	Bert-over Woman

BIBLE VERSE: _____

An Offering of Love

by Doris Davidson

We sat at a feast on the floor of the studio in the Art Gallery. The food we were enjoying consisted of fish, corn, rice and strawberries. Sharon in her wisdom explained the significance of the food. Meat and fish give up their lives so that when we eat them their spirit will nourish our spirit. The wild rice is resilient and sways and binds and keeps us firm in our lives. The corn is an original food, a gift given to us from the dim past. The berries are healing especially in our blood stream.

After the feast Sharon gave us each a portion of food to take with us with definite instructions. The portion she gave me was to give to whomever I wished. I took it home and put it in the fridge, and as I saw it every time I opened the fridge door I keep questioning. *Whom do I give this to?*

On the third day it came clear to me, I was to give this to mother earth. I took the container of food, dug a shallow hole and presented to her with reverence. This was the same area I had dug up a short time earlier to trench compost a pail of organic vegetable material. But here now is no residue but only dark rich soil teeming with earthworms.

I was deeply touched as I realize mother earth is healing. When we return to earth what is organic or biodegradable, she immediately calls on her helpers to take care of it. They are all there busy working, her beetles and worms with all of her other busy ones.

Then I thought about the human and animal matter that is placed in the tomb or womb of

mother earth and is transformed into sweet smelling loam. Earth has a clean smell. A decaying corpse soon becomes sweet smelling, enriched soil. We also know that a body buried in a shallow grave, where the ground is rocky ground and soil is scarce, rich vegetation grows profusely above it along with fragrant wild flowers. It is truly a miracle of transformation by our mother earth.

Then I think of all the non-biodegradable garbage that is thrust into her crevices, that lie inert and cause her great pain. Her body groans with agony as the poisons filter through her, entering and contaminating her water table, her blood stream. Cesspools erupt to the surface, lying stinking and putrid as her condition becomes malignant and

wracked with pain. She groans from the agony of the destruction forced upon her.

"Be gentle with the earth."

--Dalai Lama

Her crystal clear, pure lakes become putrid blood poisoning. Some living lake creatures are monsters when they are born, healthy beings inflicted with poison, anomalies and malignant tumours. We are not good caretakers of our beloved mother planet. We are torturing her and causing her to painfully die.

How can we be so totally ignorant and uncaring? What will it take to wake us up? Will our future grandchildren be born with malignancies from our poisoned earth? Now is the time for us all to wake up and realize who and where we are and most of all to be aware of what we are doing. We must change our attitude and thinking and lifestyle. Please forgive us mother earth for being so utterly stupid and selfish. We love you, need you, depend on you, live in you, but continue to abuse you, why? . . .

FALL GARAGE SALE

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
3 St Vital Rd (on the corner of St.Vital
and St. Mary's Rd)

Friday, September 28th 9AM-8PM
Saturday September 29th 8:30AM-12 NOON

Books, footwear, games, jewelry, toys, kitchen items,
bedding, linens, curtains, small electrical appliances,
furniture, lots of clothing and all types of household
articles.

Some new and nearly new items

If you wish to donate any gently used items, please drop them
off at the church, Monday to Friday between 9am-12noon. For
more information, please call 253-0555.



MARK YOUR CALENDER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Fall Garage Sale September 28th and 29th

Yes we just finished one sale and planning the next. Taking this opportunity to catch the last Mag News before the summer to let you the parishioner know what you can do to help with our fall sale.

- A. Bring in your donations of gently used toys, books, shoes, purses, jewelry, kitchen items, tools, small electrical appliances, furniture and clean used clothing particularly fall and winter apparel. **Due to safety standards we cannot accept the following items; children's car seats, strollers, cribs, baby gates, high chairs, playpens and helmets. We also do not take Reader's Digest, weekly magazine publications or encyclopedias.** Tax receipts can be applied for larger items in good condition. Pictures and advertisement of very large items such as appliances is preferred over picking up the item and delivering to the church.
- B. Set up in the lower and upper hall will take place after service on Sunday September 23rd. All able bodied persons are asked to assist.
- C. Sorting and displaying of items. From Monday through Thursday 9AM – 3:30 volunteers are busy unpacking and placing donations in there assigned area. Sometimes we find occasional items we can't identify. Bring your lunch and share in the baked goods the workers often bring. Can't get away from work? No problem! Nancy and John are at the church Monday evening form 6-9pm. Come join the evening sorting crew AKA Sorting Elves.
- D. Folding Bags! Sounds boring and not very important. Yet a vital part of our sale. When the cash line gets long, having those bags neatly placed in boxes really helps. Drop by some day during the sale week to pick up a box or stay and have a coffee while folding.
- E. Be a St. Mary Mag Greeter. We are known for our friendly and helpful service at St. Mary Magdalene. Gerry Brown is always looking for some one to greet our shoppers and inform them of what we have for sale.
- F. Friday evening meal. Any church group or group of parishioners who would like to provide a simple hot meal to our workers please come forth. Dinner starts around 5pm serving 24-28 persons.
- G. Clean up crew!!!! Many of our workers as exhausted by Saturday Noon and we need fresh bodies to pack up, fold tables and put away shelving units, carry and deliver the leftover items to Value Village. From 11:45 to 1:30 we need as many persons as possible.
- H. Any persons with a van or truck, which we can load, with boxes to deliver to Value Village please contact Nancy or John at 254-2574.
- I. Advertising!!!!!!!!!! At the beginning of September flyers will be available at the church, on the Greeter's bench or the church office. Place them in your apartment building or pass them on to friends.

Thanking you in advance Nancy and John Chan

An Explanation of God

[Editor's note: This story has been on the internet since May 1993. It may or may not be true--but it's fun to read!]

This was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista , CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to "explain God." I wonder if any of us could have done as well? (and he had such an assignment, in California, and someone published it, I guess miracles do happen!)

Explanation of God:

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and per-

forming miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God."

Parish Calendar Summer 2007

<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
6 Easter 5	3 Trinity Sunday	1 Pentecost 5	5 Pentecost 10
8 Vista Park Lodge 2 pm CANCELLED	9 Harvest	13 Harvest	10 Harvest
11 Harvest	10 Pentecost 2 Parish Picnic (to be confirmed)	8 Pentecost 6	12 Pentecost 11
13 Easter 6	12 Vista Park Lodge 2 pm	15 Pentecost 7	19 Pentecost 12
15 Corporation Meeting 6:30 pm	17 Pentecost 3 Healing Service 7:30 p.m. (to be confirmed)	22 Feast of St. Mary Magdalene Luncheon to follow service	26 Pentecost 13
17 Meadowood Manor 2 pm	19 Corporation Meeting 6:30 pm	29 Pentecost 9	
20 Ascension	21 Meadowood Manor 2 pm		
22 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm	24 Pentecost 4 First Nations Sunday		Coming in September
25 Catherine Place 2 pm	26 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm		2 Pentecost 14
27 Day Of Pentecost Jazz Vespers 7:30 pm	28 Catherine Place 2 pm		9 Pentecost 15 Worship Committee Meeting
Weekly Activities:		Contact Numbers:	
<i>Monday - 7:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Prayer Group</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>253-0555</i>
<i>Wednesday - 12:00 noon</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>Fax & Hall</i>	<i>256-6893</i>
<i>Saturday - 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>stmary@mts.net</i>