

**St. Mary Magdalene Church**  
**Picton, Ontario**

# **The Vine Thanksgiving**

## **2024**



Let all things now living a song of Thanksgiving  
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and  
stayed us  
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.

- Hymn #403, Book of Common Praise

## St. Mary Magdalene Milestones



### *Farewell to*

**Elizabeth Cowan** and **Richard Line**  
as they move to a new home in Nepean.

### *Birthdays*

Michael Calnan – 60 years  
Jim Macgregor - 80 years  
Maureen Townson – 80 years

*Baptism:* Oakl   Flo Prinzen

*Best Wishes to All!*



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**Our Mission:** As followers of Jesus, to be a loving, welcoming, joyful and caring community that reaches out to others and fosters spiritual development for all.

# A Message from Our Rector

## *The Sound of Silence*



Archdeacon Bram Pearce

**It can be challenging to find a quiet moment in our world today.**

A smartphone rings and the person standing beside you suddenly talks so loudly that you are completely distracted. Vibrations from your smartphone suddenly alert you to a new text message, and your focus is stolen from whatever you are doing. We worry if we haven't heard anything after sending an e-mail to a friend, and today's mobile devices keep us constantly connected to the internet like a hospital patient hooked to an IV.

We live in a busy world, and not only are the experiences in the physical world of 'flesh and blood' competing for our time and attention, but we are also increasingly experiencing much of life in another virtual world. This is the world of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Netflix.

I wonder what difference it would make if you turned off the television for a few moments every day, shut the laptop, put away your smartphone, and tried to be quiet? What difference would it make if, every day, for a few moments, you fled to a peaceful place and practiced silence?

This idea of fleeing the noise of our busy lives reminds me of a story in the Book of Kings concerning Elijah, one of the great Jewish prophets (1 Kings 19:9-18). In a challenging period of Elijah's life, he begins questioning the validity of his ministry. It is a 'crossroads moment' where Elijah is unsure if he will continue to be faithful to the life he has been called to live.

In this period of uncertainty, God appears to Elijah and says to him, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Elijah listens. He travels the tracks of Mount Horeb when a mighty wind suddenly and violently shakes the surrounding landscape. Yet, God was not in the wind. A massive earthquake follows the wind, but God was not in the earthquake. Finally, there is a fire on the mountain and then "the sound of sheer silence (1 Kings 19:12)."

There has been much discussion about this passage of scripture over the centuries, but what is clear is that God was absent from the wind, absent from

*... continued next page*

the earthquake, and absent from the fire. Yet, God was very much present that day, present in the silence.

The silence of God is an idea many people are uncomfortable embracing. We want God on the move, always available, listening to our requests, and attentive to our time. We want a god we can control, not the One we quietly wait for. As a result, we fail to wait on God and fill the silent spaces of our lives with various types of noise.

But what if we did wait for God, and we did so by making more room in our lives for the “sound of sheer silence?” Would it make a difference? The saintly voices of our Church would answer this latter question with a resounding “Yes!” Whether it is St. Benedict, St. Teresa of Avila, or a more modern ‘saint’ like Thomas Merton, the consistent message from these men and women is that something profound happens when we begin to make time for God through silence. Picture the wordless experiences of two lovers watching a sunset or the intimacy shared between a mother as she cradles her baby for the first time in her arms. There may or may not be words exchanged in such moments, but love is growing in profound ways in the rich soil of this solitude.

While it would be naïve to suggest that silence is a panacea for all the ills of modern lives, the scriptures suggest that the voice of God is rarely heard in the grandiose and loud places like palaces and crowds. Instead, God’s voice is heard in seemingly insignificant places like a wilderness walk, a remote village called Nazareth, in the simple act of breaking and sharing bread, and in the sound of sheer silence. If we want to hear from God, consider listening in these places.

**- Archdeacon Bram +**



## **Coming Events at St. MM ...**

### **Learning to Pray in the Tradition of Thomas Keating**

- A contemplative prayer workshop led by Fr. Bram on

Thursdays, **October 10, 17, 24, 31** at 1 pm. in our nave. No cost to register for this series.

**October 21** – Monthly meeting of the Magdalenas at noon in Parish Hall

**October 30** – Monthly Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Waring House Restaurant

**December 6 & 7** – *Command Performance Christmas Concert* once again at St. MM; watch for further details of this outstanding event

## October

Crimsons and golds announce that  
fall is here

Maples and birches colouring their  
leaves.

Swiftly the streams are flowing,  
crystal clear

Down through the valleys deeply  
lined with trees.

By edges of the woods I see brown  
deer,

October paints its picture with such ease,  
As misty mornings clear with gentle breeze



While flying flocks of geese now  
reappear.

Thanksgiving comes, we praise the  
Lord anew

For Autumn's bounty come at  
Summer's end.

Too soon, the days of gold that  
once we knew

Will usher in a colder kind of  
friend.

The vivid, gaudy hues that Autumn makes  
Will mute to frost and Winter's white snowflakes.

Poem and watercolour paintings  
are by **Rowena Hawkins**.





## A Conversation with Pat Brant

**When Pat Brant and I met over lunch, it was the day before the annual Picton Fair.** Pat was delighted to once again be one of the judges of the baking, canning, and youth crafts and artwork entries – an onerous job to complete in only a few hours before the exhibits opened to the public. But for Pat, being busy is simply a part of her life – a BIG part of her life.



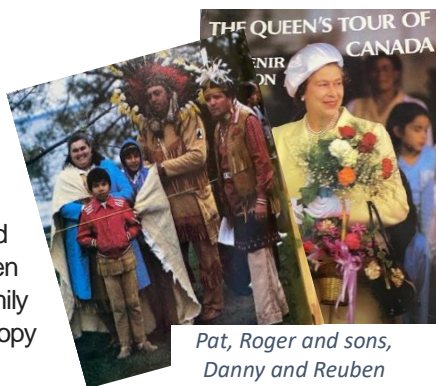
*Pat Brant*



Born and raised on Fish Lake Road in Prince Edward County, Pat was one of 17 children in the Peeling family! In her elementary years, she attended a one-room school which is still standing on Highway 49. Her family were members of the United Church in Northport and it wasn't until she married Roger Brant, an electrician, in 1969 that she was inside St. Mary Magdalene Church. The young couple (she was only 18) moved to the Tyendinaga Reserve having purchased land from Roger's parents. Pat and Roger, a

Mohawk, operated a dairy farm and Pat is still involved with the farm after 54 years. She took lessons in the Mohawk language and proudly speaks of her four children and seven grands, who carry on the traditional language, music and arts and crafts of the First Nations people. Her two daughters, Janice and Jennifer, trained as teachers. Jennifer teaches the Mohawk language at a school on the reserve, ensuring that the heritage of the paternal side of her family remains strong for future generations.

A proud moment for Pat and Roger took place when they were invited to attend the visit of the Queen to Fairfield Park, Amherstview in 1984. This exciting event – they were within reach of The Queen – was photographed and published in a book. Pat has been collecting this book to present to family members and was delighted to find a copy at St. MM's book sale this past spring!



*Pat, Roger and sons,  
Danny and Reuben*

Pat and Roger initially attended the Pentecostal Church on the Reserve but moved to All Saints Anglican where for many years, Pat served as Warden. Just under one month before Roger's passing, they celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by renewing their vows in a ceremony officiated by All Saints' Rector

Brad Smith. In Roger's memory, Pat had church signs installed in both All Saints and Christ Church Chapel Royal.

A busy family life, including doing all the bookkeeping for their dairy farm, didn't hold Pat back from opening her own business, *Pat's Variety and Farm Produce*, a general store located on Highway 49 just north of Slash Road. Not only was the store known for its merchandise, but the *Just Past the Pines Jamboree* held there annually for 20 years attracted hundreds of country music fans from far and wide on the July 1<sup>st</sup> long weekend. When it closed in August 2010, the store had grown with the addition of a hall that held monthly Customer Appreciation Nights, weddings, birthday and anniversary parties and other celebrations. As well as baking and decorating cakes, Pat and her staff catered to hundreds of people on a regular basis! "When you come from a family of 17 kids, you know how to do big meals!" she joked with her trademark smile. Pat's daughter, Jennifer, frequently performed there and is a well-known local musician, leader of the Jennifer Brant and Mustang group, specializing in country, gospel and folk music. When I commented on her incredible number of activities, Pat laughed and humbly – and maybe not too accurately – quipped she was a Jack of all trades and master of none!

Pat and her partner of over seven years, Gary Rorabeck, are familiar faces and a faithful couple who have chosen St. Mary Magdalene as their spiritual home. Pat's baking skills are renowned beyond the church and she frequently contributes to coffee time following the Sunday service. Students from the Christ's College Choir Cambridge (shown here) who billeted with her in 2023 would have enjoyed her baking and cooking skills as well as staying on the Reserve! Pat loves the people of the St. MM congregation and the comfort of the Sunday services and counts much-loved gospel hymns such as *The Old Rugged Cross* and *Amazing Grace* as her favourites.



Pat has been a people person all her life. She loves nothing more than being surrounded by family, friends, and even strangers. This trait of hers has led her to watch people and get to understand them. And that has led her to instill in her children and grandchildren the drive to be life-long learners. **'Keep learning and keep doing'** is her motto. And for older folk, she adds, **'Keep going, keep good company, and keep looking for opportunities to do things with other people.'** Then Pat looks at me and laughingly says that she often thinks, *'Somebody kick me! How did I get here?'* Well, Pat, the answer is simple: you've taken the advice you've given to others and made it work for you!

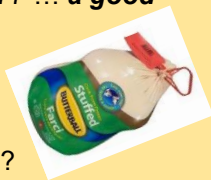
- Wendy LeBlanc

# THANKSGIVING...

**THANKSGIVING** is a wonderful time of the year for getting together with family and friends – a time for re-living old, and making new, memories. Several members of our congregation share memories of their Thanksgivings past. Do these trigger memories for you?

David and I were married on Thanksgiving weekend 1977 ... **a good memory**. On our first anniversary (1978) David and I decided to host Thanksgiving dinner. I was a fairly inexperienced cook, and I had never before prepared a turkey dinner. (You may already be able to see what is coming!) What could go wrong with a Butterball? Well, of course the giblets were frozen inside in a plastic bag. I did not discover the plastic bag until we were trying to carve it for dinner. As I remember, the rest of the meal was not too bad. Of course, we learn by our mistakes. I no longer serve Butterball turkeys!

- **Marie Connor**



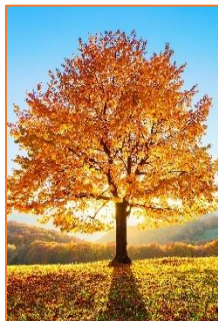
## UP IN FLAMES!

As always our family of 12 were celebrating Thanksgiving at my sister's home. The beautifully decorated table was heaped with food, served family-style. When asked to pass the basket of dinner rolls, my nephew reached over the candles and the paper napkin in the basket caught on fire! The flames were quickly extinguished but the memories of that event will forever remain a family legend.

-**Wendy LeBlanc**

My friend, who is a terrible cook, asked me how to prepare baked potatoes. One Thanksgiving, she took my advice literally and pierced the skins of the potatoes with a fork ... and left the forks in the potatoes which turned out quite over-cooked!!

- **Tuula Saunders**



Thanksgiving weekend weather is often warm, sunny and beautiful! So difficult to be indoors cooking a turkey!!

-**Angela Adams**



# Memories & Mishaps

I had wonderful plans for spending Thanksgiving weekend in Newfoundland with my family and attending my nieces' baptisms – a much-anticipated family occasion. Fog put a halt to all flights to St. John's, and I watched the event live-streamed on my laptop in Halifax airport where we were forced to land. - **Maxine Tiller**

## WE CAN ALL RELATE TO THIS...

My father-in-law proudly made a cabbage coleslaw for Thanksgiving dinner and placed it in the refrigerator until the meal. When I went to the refrigerator to get dessert following the main course – what did I find – you guessed it - his coleslaw! Sadly, it was our last special family meal with him before he passed away.

- **Mary Lou Champagne**

My family still talks about the time my uncle prepared Thanksgiving dinner and used the water he cooked the turnips in to make the gravy!

-- **Sarah Eskins**



## THANKSGIVING EMERGENCIES

When we arrived at my son's home for Thanksgiving dinner together, we were surprised to discover no wonderful turkey fragrance in the air! His oven had malfunctioned, so we barbequed the bird instead and had a late celebratory meal!

Another year, following a typical Thanksgiving meal that featured over-indulgence, my husband feigned having a heart attack. It was only when the police cruiser arrived with lights flashing, that we realized my son had called 911 believing it was a real emergency! - **Christine Pearsoll**

Many years ago when my daughter was two years old we were invited for Thanksgiving dinner at my father-in-law's home in another town. My mother-in-law had passed away six months earlier. He announced that he wanted to cook dinner for us. When we arrived on that Thanksgiving Sunday he mentioned that he had cooked the turkey the day before and had kept it in the oven overnight. Oh dear, we thought - what to do? The stuffing and all had been in the oven all night! We were very concerned about eating it, especially for our daughter. I decided I needed a little Divine intervention to help with this quandary. I had always had a great relationship with my mother-in-law and wished she was there to advise me. So with help of a prayer to both God and to her, the answer came to me clearly: **don't hurt his feelings, take a chance**. So we ate the meal with a minimal amount of dressing and we were all fine. I still think we were protected with prayers. - **Janine Dudding**

## A Tapestry of Friendship

**We are so thankful for having our very own family minister, The Rev. David Hawkins, in our lives.**

Our wonderful relationship started on Friday evening, October 4, 1968, at our Wedding Rehearsal in Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Shannonville, 56 years ago. We became instant good friends. The Rev. Hawkins had just arrived in Ontario on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from Saskatchewan to assist Canon Wright at Christ Church in Belleville. He was given the task of performing our marriage ceremony on October 5, 1968.

Our son, Dennis Gordon, was born the following August 1969, and our daughter Melanie in 1973. Both were baptized in Holy Trinity by David in October 1969 and May 1973, respectively.



Lynda's dad passed away in June 1984 with The Rev. David assisting at his funeral.

Then in 1984, David decided to return to England to care for his elderly Mother. We were privileged to have David visit us for two to three weeks every year and eventually Rowena joined him.

In January 2002 we traveled to England for Don to be David's Best Man in his marriage to Rowena. Then in 2004 David and Rowena moved to Ontario and settled in Wellington where he previously had ministered at St. Andrew's.

Melanie, our daughter, and son-in-law, Adrian, were married in August 2004 on our waterfront property in Cressy by David. David and Melanie were able to get permission from the Bishop to perform the first outdoor wedding ceremony in Prince Edward County and

registered it to St. Mary Magdalene. David made the day perfect for everyone with his emotional address regarding his relationship with our family over the years.

Our first granddaughter, Evelyn Jane, was born in July 2006 and was baptized in St. Mary Magdalene by The Rev. Bob Hales and The Rev. David in October 2006. Also, Lynda's mom passed away in October and once again, David officiated at the funeral.

Our grandson, Noah Gordon, was born in December 2007 and then our second granddaughter, Annabel May, was born in 2009. They both were baptized by The Rev. Richard Pitcher and The Rev. David In April 2008 and April 2010, respectively, in St. Mary Magdalene Church.

We also had the privilege of David renewing our Wedding Vows in 2018 on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Over the years as we have built new homes, we have had the honour of David blessing each room in those homes.

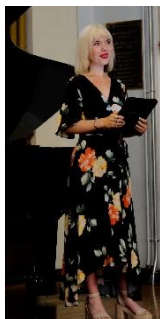
Don and I have had a wonderful, blessed life together after falling in love the first day of high school, September 6, 1960. Don had just turned 13 and Lynda, 14.

The Rev. David has been a huge part of our happiness.

**- Lynda Hopkins**

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## Musical Blessings



Thank you to **Roanna Kitchen**, accompanied by **Michael Goodwin** on the piano, as well as **John and Penny Kitchen**, for their incredible performances at the August 18 service. Along with our amazing choir and guest artists, we are truly blessed to have so much musical talent in our midst.



# ***“Everyone Loves a Good Pie”***

## **Magdalenas' Update**



**On the very sunny Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Magdalenas hosted the second annual Bake Sale.** The date coincided with the County Kids Read Book Sale hosted by the staff and volunteers of both the Church of St. Mary Magdalene and of County Kids Read. The event was held on the front lawn of the church, which drew much foot and vehicle traffic down Main Street. Inside the open doors of our beautiful church, tables were laden with freshly baked goodies and the delicious smells of pies, cakes and cookies filled the air. There were so many lovely comments: *“nothing like a good old fashioned bake sale”, “these pies look delicious”, “this church is beautiful”,* and *“who made these cookies?”*, among many others. It was a place to chat, meet new and old friends, and grab yourself some dessert and a new book. Both events were very successful and are a great example of community spirit and the results of hard work by an army of volunteers.

Make no mistake, the Bake Sale is a lot of work, with the Magdalenas owning much of the responsibility of organizing and executing the event. Whether one signs up to contribute baked goods, or through financial donations, it takes the hands of many to make it successful. So, thank you to the folks who baked, donated, set up tables, priced the goods, collected payments, greeted people, did clean-up duty, and made the day successful...thank you to the Magdalenas and to the others who helped.



The Bake Sale raised \$2300 this year, it was decided at the monthly Magdalenas' meeting in July, to donate these funds to the Church to assist with the projected deficit. In addition to that total, there was \$500 held in reserve from last year's sale, and an additional \$192 from the Magdalenas' lunch-money kitty, making the total \$2992. These funds are a solid contribution to assist with the financial life of our parish.

It is so gratifying to see the re-birth of the Magdalenas. We are 28 members strong, and our mandate is to meet in friendship and fellowship, and to engage to support some of the projects of our parish. We meet monthly over lunch and enjoy lively conversation and discussion on how and where we can contribute to our church and our community. *All are welcome!*

**- Maxine Tiller**

# St. Mary Magdalene On the Move

**COMING SOON!**



**We thought it would be fun to create some social events outside of the Church** where we can meet up, enjoy each others' company and discover some of what The County and surrounding areas have to offer.

For example, we might take a trip to Base31, enjoy lunch and a movie, visit the ostrich farm, Cressy Mustard in Waupoos, live local theatre, Golden Valley Restaurant in Trenton ... the options are endless and we are completely open to suggestions.

It'll be a chance for us to get to know each other better, enjoy a laugh and, perhaps, experience something new and exciting.

We'd like to start in November and are hoping to make this a quarterly activity.

We'll meet at the Church if we're going far afield and will arrange transportation as necessary, but everyone will be responsible for their own costs and must be able to meet the physical demands of whatever activity is on hand. Friends are welcome to join us. It's always great to meet new people.

We'll be asking for volunteer drivers, so will likely have to limit the number of participants depending upon the number of drivers available and the capacity of the venue.

We'd really like your ideas. Where would you like to go? What would you like to do? Let us know by email, phone or grab us for a quick chat after Church on Sunday. We're eager to get your feedback.

Looking forward to getting together and having a jolly good time.

**- Angela Adams, Wendy LeBlanc and Maureen Townson**





## It *IS* Easy Being Green!

By Deputy Warden Julie Miller

### Trash Talking!

I am often asked for clarification on which items go where. What is recycled? What is composted? What is actual garbage? This article is by no means comprehensive, but I'll discuss some of the most common items we use daily.

We all typically start with **coffee** in the morn...the **grounds** go into the compost as well as the **filter** (we use the bamboo unbleached type), along with toast crusts and all **food scraps** throughout the day. A **plastic bread bag** can be reused many times - for cheese, for the half tomato you are saving for salad later - anything you would have used a Ziploc bag for, you can reuse your bread bag, until it is beyond reusing and only then do you put into the recycle box. Purchase your yoghurt for lunch in the largest size available and scoop out your serving size into a bowl. When the yoghurt is done you can reuse the **plastic container** for food leftovers, snacks that are open but need to be sealed, for example, and the best re-use ever is to take it to Bulk Barn to use instead of plastic bags. **Napkins, tissues and paper towels** all go into the compost bucket, although it is much better to use cloths instead of a single use paper. Of course, there are exceptions where you must use paper towel! **Cans and jars** go into the recycle bin after a rinse out. You can toss brown **cardboard** into the compost bin but if it's larger than 4-5" it's too unwieldy and would do better in recycling. **Newspaper** too can be composted, unless there is a stack which it makes it difficult to break down, although it can be used to line your green bin to keep it a bit cleaner.

**Clothing** is one thing that simply must be put in the garbage: but did you know that thrift stores and the foodbank will accept clothing as long as it's clean and not torn or too worn? They also accept **small appliances, pots and pans**...just about anything that has life left in it can be reused by someone! This is considered the 'circular economy', which encompasses the familiar 3Rs. The addition of a fourth – **RESTORE** - involves taking an object like a broken kettle and having it fixed. I know this is simple to say but more difficult to do. Recently the Public Library had a repair clinic for this exact problem. Keep watching for the next one!

**We can all do our part to make our world a greener and cleaner place!**

## From the St. MM Bulletin Board



***The Thanksgiving Altar a Decade Ago***

Thank you to  
Deb Hedges,  
Janet Howes, and  
Wendy Murphy

**Our Office  
Support Team**

for filling in  
during Shirley's  
absence!

Thank you to Canon Fran Langlois for organizing and to everyone who volunteered to greet visitors to St. MM during our Open Doors in the summer:

Deb MacCallum  
Marie Connor  
Nell Kottick  
John Hughes  
Josie Farrar  
Helen Cluett  
Kathy Condie  
Jay Crockford  
Margaret and David Hards



*Josie Farrar*



We want to thank the congregation for the luscious farewell cake and for everyone's good wishes.

You're all so kind! We will miss St. Mary Magdalene quite dreadfully! *Richard and Elizabeth*



## Services at St. Mary Magdalene

Choral Eucharist - Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Silent Meditation - Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.

Morning Prayer Service – Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

(Coffee and treats at 10:45 a.m.)

*Parishioners are reminded that the first Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring your non-perishable or monetary donation to assist with this very important mission.*



## The Vine Newsletter

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