St. Mary Magdalene Church Picton, Ontario





God keep our land Glorious and free

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones Baptisms:

Téa Johanna Adelaide Ruban Lola Anne Lockhurst



This child of yours, this miracle, Reborn of water and the word

The Book of Life records your name,

You smile and angels celebrate:

This child of yours, this child of ours.

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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

Courageous Generosity

The Second World War was raging. Much of Europe was under German control, and now Hitler was turning his full attention toward England. Attempting to crush the British spirit, Hitler sent his planes to bomb the largest cities in the country. The horror of



Archdeacon Bram Pearce

these bombs was usually experienced at night. As English families went to bed, they wondered, "Would the German planes come again at night and reign down their destruction?"

Everyone tried their best to find safe places to sleep, but so often, sleep was disrupted by the sounds of German airplanes, bombs exploding, and buildings being razed to the ground. Many were so afraid of these attacks that they refused to leave their homes, get groceries, or even go to doctor's appointments. The fear was everywhere and palpable.

Amid this fear, it didn't take long for people to realize that some of their neighbours – too afraid to leave their homes – were beginning to starve. A few women were so concerned that they courageously gathered at their local church. It was clear to this group that fear, not hunger, was the central problem of their time. The nation had food, but people were too afraid to leave their homes to get it.

Then came an idea.

The women of this parish banded together to gather food; some cooked, others carried the prepared meals in baby strollers. Within a few days, much-needed food was being delivered to the most vulnerable, and neighbouring parishes were hearing about it. Soon, courageous women in other towns and cities were providing meals to the marginalized and most vulnerable in their communities. These simple but courageous acts of generosity were producing more courageous generosity.

After the war had ended – on the other side of the ocean – a group of church people in Philadelphia faced a similar problem. They discovered seniors in their neighbourhoods who would not or could not leave their homes for groceries and other necessities. Many of these seniors were suffering severely, and the women of this Philadelphia church felt compelled to respond. They had heard stories about those meals being delivered in British baby strollers, so they created a parallel organization.

You may have heard of this organization. It's called *Meals on Wheels*. It began in a small English church with a few brave women and a simple idea. Their organization quickly spread to America and Canada and now serves 265 million meals annually in North America alone. When fear tried to control these faithful women, they responded with hope and love, trusting God was with them

This kind of faith is still much needed today because people very close to us still feel worried, trapped, and afraid. *The County* is the "place to be," especially during our beautiful summer months. Yet, some people in our unique community are also alone, grappling with sickness and loss; some are even hungry and struggling to get through the week ahead. There is work for us as Christ's faithful people, and there are opportunities for us to respond with our own courageous generosity.

Where is this work? Where are the opportunities? May Christ give us eyes to see and generous hearts to respond.

Archdeacon Bram+

Talent and Treasures at St. Mary Magdalene

Back around 2012, the churchwardens of the day, Brian Pinkerton and Michael Smith, among the many projects of their Never-ending Construction Company, had the idea of illuminating the stained-glass windows of the Church from the outside, making for a dramatic effect during evening events.

The wardens let it be known that anyone who wished, may pay to 'light' a favourite window. **Nell Kottick** chose to light the large stained-glass window in the Lady Chapel titled, *Christ the King*. She also wanted to light the first window from the front, of the four windows on the right side of the nave, called *Easter Morn*. **Andrew Innes and Don Watson** chose the *Good Samaritan*, the second of the four windows.



On the opposite side of the church, **Brian** and **Helen Pinkerton** lighted *The Last Supper* window, while **Shirley and Herb Stone** chose to illuminate the window of, *A Crusader.* The lower part of *The Crucifixion* window in the Sanctuary to the left of the High Altar was in constant shadow

from the outside roof line so, Brian had a switch installed to enable the window to be shown in a good light, day or night.

Dan Claxton with his intimate knowledge of the Church's electrical contracted to install the exterior illuminations. Unfortunately, two years ago, the exterior lighting of the two windows at the right of the nave began to fade and worked poorly, ultimately to shut down completely.

On review and reflection, Dan's professional advice was that, rather than repair the old elements which may not last, to instead replace the units with new, technologically advanced lighting for a more permanent solution for Nell. Andrew and Don's windows.

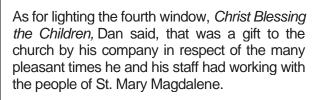
The churchwardens, now John Clarke and Herb Stone, agreed and gave Dan the goahead to fix the lighting of the two windows. But it wasn't until April of this year that the upgraded units became available and Dan went to work on the replacements.

refitted all four of however. Dan. windows on the right side, without charge! When his 'zero invoice' was guestioned, Dan simply stated he wanted to have the lights for the two windows in good working order and, he decided to light the third window. The Home at Bethanv. in memory of John Clarke who we lost suddenly in March.

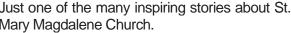


The Home at Bethanv

Dan was saddened that he was unable to attend John's funeral.



Just one of the many inspiring stories about St. Mary Magdalene Church.





Christ Blessing the Children

- Warden Herb Stone

A Conversation with Jim Macgregor

Before our chat over coffee at Miss Lily's recently, Jim Macgregor was known to this writer - and perhaps to other members of St. Mary Magdalene - for three things: a talented organist, a member of The Rotary Club of Picton, and a retired Bank of Montreal manager. And, although much of our conversation revolved around those topics, it quickly became apparent that Jim Macgregor was a man of much more than those three facets of his life.



Jim Macgregor

As with many St. Mary Magdalene members, Jim's journey to this Parish followed a circuitous route, dictated by his places of employment. Born and raised in Longueuil, Quebec, Jim recalls his early introduction to music – taking non-Conservatory piano lessons and, recollecting with a smile the times he spent with his grandmother – 'Gram' – playing hymns on the



Jim playing at closing of St. Mark's

piano. Later as an older child he sat beside and watched his great-uncle who was the organist at St. Mark's Church in Longueuil, and actually played the organ at services beginning at the remarkably young age of 16 – noting that he learned to use the organ pedals later! How interesting to realize that this talented man is largely self-taught! Jim cheerfully admits that he enjoys playing the organ except at weddings – the trumpet fanfare often expected at weddings is not part of his extensive repertoire!

After playing at St. Mark's for a number of years, Jim was transferred by the Bank of Montreal to Quyon, Quebec where he took over as organist at St. John the Evangelist's Anglican Church in 1979. His career as a bank manager then took him to Barry's Bay, where he became organist at Holy Trinity Church, and later Brighton where he served as organist at St. Paul's Anglican Church, part of the Diocese of Toronto. His subsequent transfer from Trenton to Picton as BMO manager in 1991 led him to St. Mary Magdalene Church. In the past 33 years he served as organist here for two years, and enjoyed - and still enjoys - standing in as organist when required. Over the years he has led about half a dozen Hymn Sings, popular with members of the community as well as St. MM parishioners. Jim also serves the congregation as a member of the Parish Advisory Council.

Jim's employment with the Bank of Montreal not only took him and his family to a number of communities, but also led to his becoming a

member of the Rotary Club. He first joined a service club – the Lion's Club – in Quyon, Quebec, but when he was interviewed for the managerial position at the Trenton BMO branch, he was told, 'You will be expected to join Rotary', and has been a member ever since. He served locally as the Club Service Director for four years which encompasses the logistics involved in the operation of the weekly meetings including meeting location and meals and the minutia involved in making meetings run smoothly. While he is no longer on the board of the local club, he still maintains some of his former responsibilities.



Jim playing at St. MM

Jim proudly speaks of his 56-year marriage to Sandi whom he has known since their teen years. Sandi is a retired teacher. They have three children, Lisa, a retired special education teaching assistant who lives in Lindsay, Kevin of Quinte West who works at the Bayfield Treatment Centre and Mark, an OPP officer in Brighton, five grandchildren and one greatgrand, Freddy. He speaks fondly of Robbie, a child he and Sandi fostered for two years and with whom they caught up again after about 40 years. He had become a successful young man in

Vancouver. Worthy and interesting to note that Jim, Sandi and their children have chosen careers that involve working with and caring for and about people. Jim's sister, Ros is a retired Priest in the Diocese of Montreal; she has been a super supporter and part of Jim's musical journey for all his life.

Sandi and Jim enjoy RV trips to the warm winter spots in the US and one year travelled to the west coast through Canada then heading south to California. Knowing they would not be at home for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, they started the now family tradition of celebrating 'Thankmas'. They and their family enjoy the outdoors and are pleased to call home 'the suburbs of Consecon', loving to be living in the country and The County. Jim admits to getting engrossed in TV series; his favourite authors are Linwood Barclay and Stuart Woods. 'Of course,' he says, 'I love immersing myself in pieces I am playing on the organ or piano.'

As our conversation drew to a close, Jim spoke of his favourite hymns, 'Fairest Lord Jesus' and 'Breathe on me Breath of God.' A powerful hymn that stands out in his mind is 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' and he recalls the community singing it some years ago during a Christmas service at Picton United Church. Jim likes to slow down during the playing of the last verse of a hymn and end the service on a feel-good, up-lifting note. That's how I felt after I spoke with this multi-talented, interesting man!

- Wendy LeBlanc

What Does Canada Mean to You?

As we approach our nation's birthday on July 1st, Canada Day, it is important that we all take the time to pause, reflect, and remember how fortunate we are to live in this country. It is a concept people may take for granted and, as we watch world events with sense of dismay or even shock, we need to pause to remember and give thanks.

Each Sunday, during the Prayers for the People, we pray for all people are not as fortunate:

"This week we pray for peace in our time, and for those affected by the conflicts in our world. We pray for the Israel/Hamas conflict, as well as the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and for the wisdom of leaders, and justice of societies"

So, as we celebrate, we should pause to reflect and ask ourselves, "What does Canada mean to me?"



Canada is the second largest county in the world, has two territories and ten provinces and reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and north to the Arctic Ocean. We have two official languages, French and English and a population of approximately 38 million people.

But we are more than just these facts.

Our people reflect a cultural, ethnic, and linguistic mix that is unique in the world. Our multi-culturalism is based on the core belief that all citizens are equal, and that this diversity makes us stronger as a country. We share important values such as pride, a belief in, and respect for, all individuals. For the most part, in cities, towns and neighborhoods across this vast country, we respect and care for our families and friends, we take care of each other, and live in harmony with our neighbors. It is these values that make Canada known as a friendly, peace-loving, and secure place in which to live with connections that keep us united fosters a sense of belonging and community.

This is not unlike our church family at St. Mary Magdalene. For some people, there are a lifetime of friendships and memories. For others new

to this community, this was a place to meet new people and find a sense of belonging in a new community. Some were married here, their children christened and confirmed here, many of life's milestones were recognized and celebrated within our walls. In good times, and in bad, we have looked after and said prayers for each other and showed such gratitude for the love and support of this church and its parishioners.

As we celebrate this Canada Day, let's remember this wonderful county AND feel gratitude for our connections to St. Mary Magdalene. - **Maxine Tiller**

Happy Canada Day!

A Full House for the Elmer Iseler Singers

When Chair Andrew Innes was asked if the Elmer Iseler Singers Concert held in our Church on May 4th was a success, he enthusiastically replied, 'I thought it was a huge success, but I'm biased!' As one of the team of parishioners, including Janet Howes, Angela Adams, Helen Cluett, Kirsteen Etherington and Wendy LeBlanc, he was delighted that the choir sung to a full house of over 280! 'Although we made more than \$5000, my primary objective at the outset was not



to make money but rather to bring the community into the Church to experience our beautiful worship space in the hope that some might return to worship later on. I believe we achieved that in spades.'

The audience thrilled to the world-renowned choir under the artistic leadership of conductor Lydia Adams, performing a wide range of music genres

from Psalms to Scottish ballads. The Concert was supported by 20 local businesses who recognized the value of such a performance to the community.

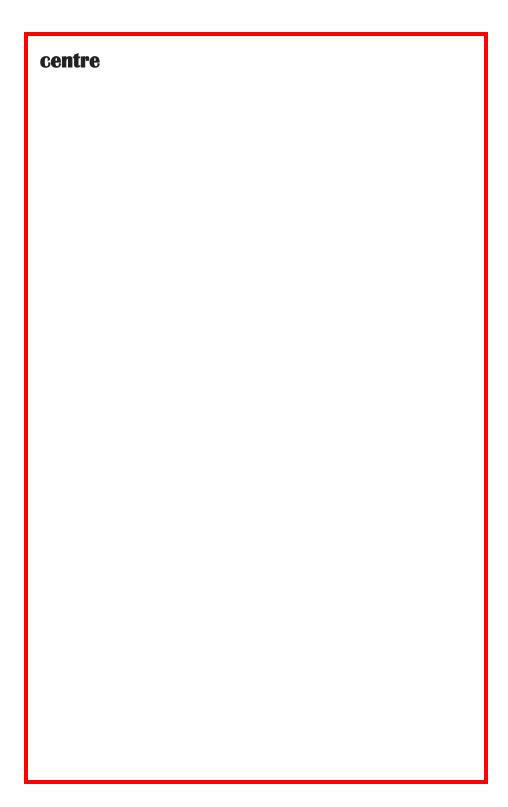
Mark Your Calendars

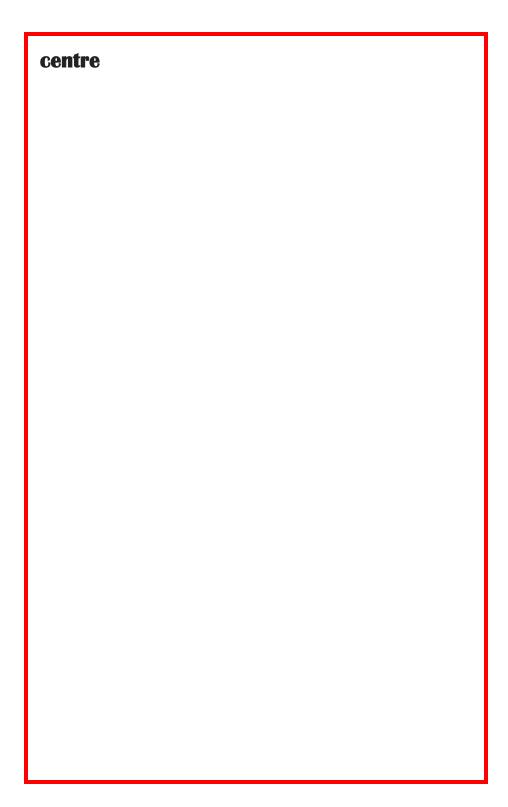
Our beautiful church is once again the venue for world-class music performances this summer. Be sure to check out:

Music at Port Milford - Tickets and info at <u>musicatportmilford.org</u>
July 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3, 7:30 pm Student Matinees July 21, Aug. 4, 2 pm

PEC Jazz Festival - Check out pecjazz.org for full schedule
Performances at St. MM: Aug. 15, 16, 7:30 pm; Jazz Mass Aug 18, 10:00 am

PEC Chamber Music Festival - Tickets and info <u>pecmusicfestival.com</u> September 13, 14, 20, 21 - 7:30; September 15, 22 – 3:00 p.m.





VOLUNTEERING in our COMMUNITY (cont'd)



When I retired from teaching and had free time on my hands I decided to do some volunteer work. The most logical place to volunteer was in the school system, knowing how helpful another set of hands is to a busy teacher. At Pinecrest school (where I spent most of my teaching time in the County) I judged speeches and lip

sync contests. It was enjoyable watching students I had taught showing their talents in these areas. However, most of my volunteer work (2004 – 2017) was at South-Marysburgh school and Athol-South Marysburgh school as both my granddaughters attended these schools. There I walked with the primary classes to Milford Library, helped with crafts for special days, baked cookies and made special-day treats, and went on bus trips, soccer tournaments and track meets. Since my granddaughters were involved in most of these activities and called me "Nana" soon most of the students and even some of the teachers began calling me that, too! Interacting with the students as a volunteer rather than a teacher was great fun.

I also volunteered for the Marysburgh Mummers presentation of OLIVER which starred our own as Fagan. Helping with the wardrobe and keeping the kids in order backstage certainly kept me busy but was so much fun! My time as a volunteer was such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. - Mary Lou Champagne

Since 2018. Susan Steele has written the artists' biographies and the program notes for the Prince Edward County Chamber Music Festival. The venue for this esteemed event is our very own St. Marv Magdalene and is held annually



in September. To the benefit of the musicians and patrons alike, Susan puts to use her background from her Masters of Arts in Musicology degree and her teaching Music History at the Royal Conservatory to create the printed programs for the Festival

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. Mark 10:45

How Do You Spell *Success* ?? Try: *B* and *B*!

Whether you spell it or do the math, at St MM on June 15

Books + Baking = Success



The event began as a book-selling fundraiser organized by Warden Kathy Condie and Deputy Warden Jules Miller for County Kids Read, part of the **Say Yes to Kids** campaign

with matching dollars up to \$1000 from the Anglican Foundation of Canada. **It made**



sense for the Book Sale to join with

the planned Bake Sale of the Magdalenas group. And what a success it was! On a beautiful sunny Saturday morning we welcomed crowds of people on the lawn at the Book Sale and indoors for the Bake Sale. In both instances, the tables were laden with goodies and snapped up by folks eager for a good read and a tasty treat.



At the end of the day, the book sellers surpassed their goal of \$1000 and with the addition of the matching funds and an amount from the St. MM Outreach Fund, the total donation to County Kids Read was \$3200.00! And the Magdalenas were thrilled to have hit the sweet spot at just shy of \$2000.00.

What a wonderful example of our parishioners working together for the betterment of our Church and the greater community!



Thanks to all our book donors, bakers, volunteers and buyers!

Gifts of the Garden



Each Christmas I receive a beautiful calendar, 'Gifts of the Garden', from a friend of mine. Knowing how much pleasure it gives me throughout the year no doubt gives her pleasure, too. Each month features beautifully illustrated indoor and outdoor plants with

care tips and other gardening hints, poems and quotations – just the ideal gift for any gardener.

Interestingly though, the calendar presents only the tangible gifs of the garden – the colours, the flowers, the fruits and vegetables all in glorious array – the things that come immediately to mind when we think of the garden in a gift-giving way. But perhaps, just perhaps, it misses the most important gifts of the garden – those intangibles that keep on giving long after flowers have stopped blooming, long after we've left the garden to come indoors for the evening or the winter, long after we've forgotten the hours spent and the aches felt in nurturing our plants.

Should there not be a calendar page that features the tranquility of the garden, that sense of peace that comes when we walk along the beds, alone, stopping to admire, to smell, to daydream? Wonderful, isn't it, that contentment that can ease the most troubled mind in a garden? But then, who could pick a brush and capture for a calendar illustration the sense of calm that comes at such a moment?



Would the calendar ever be able to show the gift of time? Ah, we day but the garden *takes* our time, puts us under pressure to finish the mowing before the storm, to get the weeds before they overtake the vegetable patch, and to spend countless hours watering, deadheading and digging. But the garden *does* give us time. It reveals to us as the seasons pass that there is an order, a progression that can't be speeded up or changed. It reminds us in this hurried world to slow down a bit, take things as they come, and not attempt to rush what can't or shouldn't be rushed. We can accept with patience this gentle orderly time in our gardens; perhaps we should learn to make it part of our daily life.

Could there not be a month devoted to the gift of hope that a garden gives us? The dreaming and planning, the optimism in planting hard, small

brown seeds and bulbs in dark damp dirt, the belief and trust in a future – those could never be caught in a photograph and are indeed difficult to put into words. Yet, gifts they are, rare and priceless.



Consider other possibilities for the calendar. Perhaps a page that captures the reveries and thoughts that come in private moments in a garden? A picture or two of the pleasure and satisfaction and sense of pride that our gardens give us? A few lines about the companionship we enjoy with our flowers? An illustration

of the profound sense of well-being, the all-is-right-with-the-world feeling that we experience at the end of a day spent in the garden?

All these possibilities – all these intangibles given by our gardens – could they not be presented in monthly form on a calendar? I think not. For they are private, individual gifts that never could be captured by the stroke of a pen or brush, or the click of a camera – they are the pleasures we receive, like my gift-giving friend, from the act of giving ourselves.

 Wendy LeBlanc (All garden photographs in this issue are of Andrew Innes' and Don Watson's lovely Picton garden.)

The Way Forward at St. Mary Magdalene Accomplishments and Activities 2024

During a visioning session facilitated by Diocesan Archdeacon Wayne Varley, a group of 14 parishioners identified three branches of growth for St. Mary Magdalene. Below is a brief synopsis of accomplishments to date for each of the branches. Please contact one of the Wardens for further information:

1. FAITH AND WORSHIP

Moved to a **single Sunday service**: bringing the entire church family together; earlier start (earlier finish)

Morning Prayer Services: introduction of lay readers in September 2024

BCP service once per month; service from high altar on 5th Sunday

Psalm: read responsively, involves the congregation, occasional sung psalm

Evensong: June 23 at 4:00 p.m. (Continued next page)

Choir: thriving, introducing new music, hymn sings

Organist/Choir Director: robust roster managed by Helen Cluett

Bible Study: core group who take turns leading study with Fran and Bram's assistance; excellent model of adult learning and fellowship

Meditation: opportunities for further development, education and outreach

2. STEWARDSHIP

Legacy Fund under development: possible start January 2025; to provide sustainable ministry and mission

Fundraising: Bake Sale: profit of \$1856.25 for operations

Increased use of Parish Hall: e.g. Women at Noon, June 20, 84 women here for lunch. St MM provides tea, coffee, room set up and take down

Increased use of Church for concerts: National Youth Orchestra of Canada here on Friday June 21 with dinner in Parish Hall. St MM provides tea, coffee, cold drinks and dessert, table set up and clean up

New Church Directory will enhance communication amongst parishioners

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Elmer Iseler Concert May 2024: profit of \$5000 (also Stewardship)

County Kids Read: book sale raised \$635 with \$725 in donations both online and cheques

Ongoing relationship with the ROC

Support for Quintissimo: recent concert here

Ongoing support for Alternatives For Women; Christmas presents for children and toiletries for mothers; Yoga classes on Wednesday evenings

Participation in PEC Children's Network: meets quarterly and St. MM invited to participate, Network of providers in children's services, information sharing and learning

Where do we go from here? I ask you to consider all that we have done and are doing; to give thanks to God for all our blessings and to pray over this during the summer months. Where is God leading us? Are there other opportunities or actions, activities that we might want to consider for 2025?

- Warden Kathy Condie



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It IS Easy Being Green!

By Deputy Warden Julie Miller

In this edition of The Vine I am revisiting my old nemesis, the plastic water bottle. Most of you who know me have witnessed smoke coming out of my ears when I encounter a plastic water bottle. There is no reason to be purchasing or using these completely unnecessary items but plenty of reasons why we shouldn't:

1. Zero...yes, ZERO... plastic water bottles are ever recycled, no matter how diligent you are about throwing them in your blue box. They are too light and have too little actual plastic to make them worthwhile for the recycling companies to bother with them. It is more cost effective just to produce new bottles.

2. In Canada alone the annual per capita consumption of bottled water is over 73 litres; that's almost 150 bottles per person of the small water bottles. That equates to over 6 million bottles - per year - just in Canada.

3. This product that has been sold to us as the 'healthy' alternative is anything but. Our local municipal water service tests our water - you know, the stuff that comes out the tap - over 300 times a year. Because water bottlers actually fall under 'food', they can be tested fewer than three times a year.

4. When the federal government banned several plastic items (cutlery, straws, shopping bags) plastic bottles were not included. Did you know that between 17-23% of all oil produced in Canada goes into water bottles? A line from Council of Canadians website states "heavy lobbying from the oil industry meant that water bottles weren't added to the list of banned plastic." Additionally it takes three times the amount of water IN the bottle to produce the finished product.

Studies show that each of us consumes the equivalent of a credit card size of plastic each week. This is due to microplastic in the environment, in very large part from these bottles that are either thrown as litter or blow out of the blue bins.



Please ... start or continue to use refillable containers!

Hats Off to the Magdalenas

It is hard to believe that almost two years have passed since the Magdalenas began meeting once again after a four-year absence during the pandemic years. From our very first gathering of 8, to today where we enjoy a group of almost 30 ladies, our re-invention has been very successful. Along the way we have accomplished much. Monthly meetings that are well attended by 25 women (+ Bram) where we feed our souls in the company of our friends and fellow Magdalenas. Our amazing support of the ROC through the Lunch Program and onsite volunteerism. Shopping and stuffing gift bags to assist Canon Fran in her seniors' ministry. Helping support other church programs such as County Kids Read and Alternatives for Women. Baking, donating funds, and volunteering for our Bake Sales. These activities help fulfill our mandate to provide opportunities for friendship and fellowship while helping our church fulfill some of its programs. And importantly, along the way, we have a lot of FUN!

In this spirit of fun, and in preparation for the new St. Mary Magdalene Parish Photo Directory, we decided to do a group photo for inclusion in the directory. But why take a "normal"



photo?? Over a luncheon of sandwiches and delicious sweet treats, the



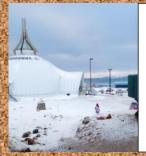
Magdalenas donned our finest hats and fascinators for the shot, everyone resplendent in bright colors, lace, feathers, silks, ribbons, and more. We had such fun trying them on and helping each other get fancied up for our photo shoot (thanks David Gilbert.) It was just another example of the strength and tenacity of these women and the friendships they share.

The Magdalenas meet monthly in the Parish Hall and all are welcome to join. Watch for details in the Church bulletin. - *Maxine Tiller*

From the St. MM Bulletin Board

Thank you to our local, community-minded Metro grocery store for donating 100 bags for our Book and Bake Sale. Much appreciated!





To cool you off on a hot summer's day

... Here's a photo Janine Dudding took of St. Jude's Cathedral in Iqaluit when she and Peter lived there. Widely known as the 'Igloo Cathedral' it was destroyed by arson in 2005 and reopened in 2012.



Garden Poem

The kiss of the sun for pardon A song of the birds for mirth One is nearer God's heart in a garden Than anywhere else on earth.

St. MM made a donation last year to the Rainbow Railroad. In June, the PEC community was able to donate their bottle returns to this important cause.



Services at St. Mary Magdalene

Choral Eucharist - Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Silent Meditation - Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.

Beginning in September, there will be a Morning Prayer Service in the Church on Wednesday mornings, led by one of our Lay Readers. Watch for further details.

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.

A Page from our History THE FIRST DOMINION DAY IN PICTON

'Yesterday was a great day in Picton,' wrote The Picton Times editor on July 2, 1867. 'From early morn the people of our quiet and orderly town were on the tiptoe of excitement, hastening hither and thither, raising flagstaffs, unfurling colours to the breeze, and all intent on enjoying themselves on this the era of their country.' Among the many persons who addressed 'an immense gathering' in the afternoon was Rev. William Macaulay of the Church of England. (From 'A Goodly Heritage' by A. R. Capon)



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