

MAGDALA NEWS

September
2009

THANKSGIVING

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)

Give thanks to
the Lord, for he is
good; his love endures
forever.
PSALM 106:1



THE PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

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From The Editors

At the end of last term, most school signs read “Have a safe and Happy Summer” and that has of course been our hope for one another throughout the past few months.

In spite of the weather being a disappointment for some, most of us have been able to get out and about and stretch a little. Some have enjoyed the great outdoors and others the great indoors. Several people have traveled to other countries. Some have flown, others have cruised. Some did their globe trotting via Folklorama. Some people camped, attended jazz and folk festivals and the “Fringe.” Others went to rural fairs and some visited great cities including Ottawa, the nation’s capital. Some got on with renovations, entertained visitors or read books in the backyard.

The good thing about higher rainfall is that lawns and flower gardens have benefited, and our own churchyard has been spectacular once more, offering a smiling face and welcome to all who pass by. Whatever you’ve been up to, we would like you to share it. What a gift it is to be free to do all these things and how thankful we are to have the fun of meeting with family and friends, old and new. The “people” aspect of this is always an opportunity to meet Christ in others and to be Christ to them.

Of course, life continues to unfold and during this season. Some of our church family members have encountered events which are not happy, but sad and unwelcome. This is when we need to remember and lean on God’s promises such as “I will never leave you or forsake you” (Heb. 13:5); and as the

hymn reminds us, “take everything to the Lord in prayer.”

As we enter the second half of the long season of Pentecost in our church calendar, please read about new programmes and activities being planned at St. Mary Magdalene and in the Diocese and decide how you can commit to sharing your gifts in ministry within and outside the parish and in your daily life.

Heather Birtles

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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

The scene is a seedy bar. Randy "The Ram" Robinson, an aging professional wrestler, is showing all his scars to his friend Cassidy, a woman making a living in questionable ways.

Cassidy: "He was pierced for our

transgressions, and was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Randy: What was that all about.

Cassidy: It was the passion of the Christ. You have the same hair. You've never seen it? Dude you gotta. They throw everything at him. Whips. Arrows. Rocks. They beat the living [...] out of him for the whole two hours. He just takes it.

Randy: Tough dude.

Cassidy, pointing at Randy: The sacrificial Ram!

In this early scene from *The Wrestler*, the audience is asked one of the major questions of the film – in what ways might this fallen wrestler reveal Jesus to us? It's not an easy question. Despite the confidence of Cassidy, we are reminded throughout the film just how far Randy is from Jesus. He deals Vicodin and Percocet from his trailer; he continues to take the steroids that are so destructive to his aging body; he is estranged from his daughter through his own negligence.

And yet we are also reminded, time after time, of the grace that can penetrate even a life like Randy's. We are reminded partly

through the scars that make Cassidy think of Jesus' suffering, and through the Jesus tattoo on Randy's back. Grace and hope are shown in Randy's love of Cassidy (despite *her* own failings), his friendships with the boys in his trailer park, and his attempt to make good with his daughter. One of the most moving scenes in the film is of Randy and his daughter, reliving once-lost memories, dancing and laughing together in a condemned and decaying ballroom. It is a moment of reconciliation, forgiveness, and love.

Even if Randy fails his daughter once again, and ends the film without anything to live for but his faded glory, we are offered an extraordinary insight. As we encounter our own inability to be as holy as we might hope, there is a Holy One that works grace through us in ways we don't even know. And as we look to those around us--even if they are the most miserable failures in life and relationship--grace may well break through them too.

[Please note that *The Wrestler* is an R rated movie, so it's probably not for you if you are offended by coarse subject matter, and I certainly wouldn't encourage you to take it home to the kids! Having said that, it is a powerful, and extraordinarily well-written and -acted film. Other than those two words of warning, I highly recommend it.]

Preston+

"I thought that being faithful was about becoming someone other than who I was, in other words, and it was not until this project failed that I began to wonder if my human wholeness might be more useful to God than my exhausting goodness."

- **Barbara Brown Taylor**, *Leaving Church*

Deacon's Corner



The Reverend Deacon
Dayle Michaud

Prayer: What exactly is it, and how should we do it? We pray in many ways. We pray on Sunday mornings with prayers that are written in our worship books--the same prayers that are said with regularity almost every Sunday morning as we gather together as

community.

There are prayers said by the intercessor who is scheduled that morning--prayers for the World, prayers for the Church, prayers for individuals, for countries, for people who are suffering, ill, or dealing with difficulties. We pray when we are singing the hymns we sing on Sunday morning during worship, and we are praying when we gather around the table to receive the sacrament. There is someone available to anoint us after we have received Eucharist if we wish, accompanied with prayers for healing both inwardly and outwardly.

In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 5, verse 17, he says that we as the children of God should pray without ceasing. That means that as we go about our daily lives, we are holding a continual conversation with God. It sounds like an impossible task, but I think that if it was a habit we all followed, we would be calmer and might find the answers to our questions and requests with more frequency.

I receive regular emails from an Anglican Women's chat list. There are many prayer requests that are sent by a variety of women who are connected to the Anglican Church--some priests, some deacons, some sisters,

some lay people. It is wonderful to see the prayer chain that takes place, with responses to the prayer requests from all over the world.

A recent email gives an example of what prayer is, according to one of the Desert Fathers. It says "Abba Nilus said 'Prayer is the seed of gentleness, and the absence of anger.'" It's pretty difficult to feel anger when we are in the midst of prayer. That doesn't mean that there aren't times when we'd like to give God a good piece of our minds, and when we are very disillusioned with God, as well as angry with Him/Her.

I think, however, that although we might want to yell at God at times, and sometimes do, that might not be considered prayer, even though it is communication. Prayer, on the other hand, comes with a humbling of our spirits, and a time of submission to the God of Love, the God of Compassion, the God who understands our needs and knows them even before we utter a word, whether silently or out loud.

If prayer is an act of gentleness and freedom from anger, it cannot help but bring us closer to our Creator and to each other. Happy praying!!

Dayle+



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Companions on the Faith Journey

Joe Darlington
by *Heather Birtles*

We are fortunate in our congregation to have several Lay Readers licensed by the bishop to assist the priest with services of worship. **Joe Darlington** entered this ministry in our parish and continues to serve on occasion; but his principal commitment for some years has been to the parish of St. Peter, Dynevor.

When **The Rev'd Geoff Woodcroft** was Chaplain at St John's College he also took services at St. Peter, Dynevor, and Joe began to accompany him. Joe took courses at St. John's College and completed the Education for Ministry (EFM) programme offered at St. Luke's under the mentorship of **The Rev'd Bob Brownlie**. He feels he is helping to keep the old church open as "home" for the people of Peguis First Nations, who value the opportunity to continue worshipping in the place where Chief Peguis is buried.

Lianne Marsh's father was once priest there, and her sister Isla is also a Lay Reader in that community. Joe reminds us that there are occasions when we are all invited to join in special services there; namely Father's Day, which coincides with "Peguis Days" when Chief Peguis is celebrated; and at the first weekend in December for a Candlelight Service of Advent Lessons and Carols.

Joe grew up in Toronto. His family worshipped in the Catholic Apostolic tradition begun in the 1820's in London, where Anglican priest **James Haldane Stewart** taught and encouraged prayer and spiritual renewal which inspired many supporters. At the same time **John McLeod Campbell** had a great following and influenced **Edward Irving**, a minister in the

Church of Scotland. Irving, through his own teaching and preaching, influenced thousands to spiritual renewal. Because of rejection by the establishment leaders of the day, those followers formed congregations of their own and a new structure developed. At the turn of the 20th century there were 1000 congregations in this universalist church, 13 in Canada. When the leadership died, funds passed to the Anglican Church of Canada and the money was used to establish today's "Anglican Foundation."

Joe was confirmed in the Anglican Church; and after his marriage lived in Pickering, Ontario, where his son and three daughters were raised. His work with computers took him to Vancouver and eventually to Winnipeg where he managed a computer services firm for ten years. Before "retirement" he was self-employed in designing software for small businesses. Not one to be idle, since then he has enjoyed part time work in the University of Manitoba Library. This often allows him to offer support to students from overseas, and he was delighted to be a guest recently at the graduation of a Chinese student whom he has helped in this way.

Joe and Pat were married in Winnipeg in 1985; and when **Joan Hill** introduced Pat to the choir at St. Mary Magdalene, Joe was soon to follow. The Darlingtons enjoy travel, and this often means visiting family who are located in as far-flung places as St. Albert and Calgary, Alberta; and Ottawa, Ontario. They also care a great deal about animals and support the Winnipeg Humane Society as volunteers. Currently they share their home with Angel, a Pekinese who was happy to move from the shelter to their house. Joe appreciates our continuing prayer support for his ministry in the church and in the world.

Thanks, Joe, for being our companion on the faith journey.

Parish News

A New Face in the Office!

It's official--the parish has hired a new Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. Her name is **Judy Asker**, and these are the days/times that she will be available in the parish office:

Monday	7:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Tuesday:	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Off
Thursday	7:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Friday	7:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Because **Doreen Giesbrecht** wished to hand off the bookkeeping task that she has done so admirably for years, and **Lesley Aremu** did not wish to take it on, Vestry and both staff members agreed amicably to advertise for someone to fill the combined position. Out of about 150 applicants (!), Judy was selected.

A warm welcome to Judy, and many, many thanks to Les, who has a new job but is also helping to orient Judy; and to Doreen, who will continue at least for the time being as Envelope Secretary. At the risk of being impossibly cliché, well done, thou good and faithful servants!

Kitchen Table Wisdom

Eighteen months ago our parish donated funds to Winnipeg Harvest. When he received the cheque on behalf of Harvest, **David Northcott** spoke to us of the vulnerability of seniors in our area who live alone; and as a result of depression, isolation and poverty, may become malnourished.

In response to this information we approached the Youville Centre and offered them the use of our newly renovated kitchen

to help seniors prevent their situation from deteriorating to this extent. The result is a new program, in which our church is a partner, called Kitchen Table Wisdom. Anyone 55+ is invited to register for this program, which will be held the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary Magdalene, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Under the initial guidance of a registered dietician, the group will prepare and share a meal, learn new recipes and enjoy one another's company. The program is modeled after one used in St. James, and it is anticipated that friendships will form and that leaders will emerge from within the group. Men and women who match this age category are welcome to join by calling Youville Centre at 255-4840 to register, for fun, food and fellowship.

If you have questions, come to the "kick off" session on September 16 from 10 am - 1 pm, where the programme will be explained and demonstrated. The first group session will begin on October 7, 2009, at 9:30am. The cost of each meal will be \$5.00. **Margaret Jones** and **Heather Birtles** will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

PALs News

by *Marla Benjamin*

The PALs initiative is an opportunity for our younger generation to establish meaningful connections with adults in our faith community. Our lives can become so busy it is hard to connect with those who are not part of our immediate circle.

This initiative invites each match to share of themselves and get to know each other better. It is delightful to see both junior and senior matches learning and growing.

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As summer sets in, people disperse to visit family and friends or travel. To keep in touch, the PALs were invited to share their experiences with their PAL with post cards. It will be fun to gather again and see who went where and how they passed the summer. Hopefully we can conclude our year long commitment with a meal and stories. Stay tuned, Pals!!

Weekend of Fun, Friendship and Renewal at Luther Village by *Marla Benjamin*

July 3 – 5 was sunny and full of laughter as 24 campers gathered at Luther Village. Although the water temperature was cool, that didn't stop some of the kids. (It did stop some of us bigger kids, though.)

The purpose of the weekend was to share fellowship and strengthen Christian bonds. **Jane Barter-Moulaison** organized a delightful, reflective activity based on Bible passages. It incorporated reading and discerning, and challenged us with art. It was so wonderful watching different groups relate, and the creativity was awesome. Within a short time poems, pictures, music and stories were inspired. Thanks, Jane, for your leadership.

Preston led a discussion focused on Christian youth education and the experiences of our younger parishioners over the past year. How wonderful that our young people are valued enough for their input to be sought and welcomed! Thanks, Preston, for caring about families.

No church gathering is complete without delicious food and there was plenty for the entire weekend! Thanks to all for living in

community, which included sharing food preparation and clean up and sleeping quarters too. The tent filled with boys (and a token Mom) lasted both nights. The girls may have to work on their hardiness skills!

No camping trip is complete without camp fire sing-a-longs. Luther Village staff led the campfire for all campers, including devotions. Our talented musicians, Nancy and Bev, kept the music lively with our own crew long after the fire was doused! Praising God through music can be powerful and so much fun.

Our group joined all the campers and staff on the beach for Sunday Worship. Unlike much of the rest of summer, the sun shone beautifully! Imagine that! Although the weekend drew to a close for most of us, a couple of our gals stayed on for another week of Christian camping with other grade 7-9ers.

This year brought new faces to Luther Village, and it is hoped that the camping tradition can continue.

Our Favourite Recipes

Rhubarb Pie (Lesley Aremu)

Pastry for two-crust pie
 3 1/2 - 4 cups finely cut rhubarb (otherwise you'll get a stringy pie)
 2 eggs
 1 1/2 cups sugar (use less for tarter pies)
 2 Tbsp flour
 1 Tbsp butter

Mix flour, sugar, eggs and rhubarb and place in pie shell. Dot filling with butter. Add top crust, either lattice or one piece, slashing to allow for the escape of steam as the pie bakes. Bake at 425°F for 40 minutes, or until filling bubbles.

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Crumb Spice Cake (Margaret Jones)

2 cups flour
 1 cup sugar
 ¾ cup margarine or butter

Mix as for pie crust and put aside 1 cup of crumb mixture.

To the remainder add:

1 egg
 1 cup raisins
 1 cup cold coffee
 1 tsp baking soda
 1 tsp cloves

1 tsp cinnamon

Mix well, pour into an 8” x 8” x 2” pan. Sprinkle with saved crumbs. Bake at 350°F for about 35 minutes or until a test toothpick comes out clean.

Parish Leadership - Contact Information

Rector’s Warden	Margaret Jones*	256-3832
Deputy Rector’s Warden	Bill Regehr*	257-3714
People’s Warden	Alan Forrest* (2nd alt.)	256-3471
Deputy People’s Warden	Heather Birtles* (3rd alt.)	255-8128

Vestry/*Synod Delegates

Josie Cantafio	256-0452	Bev Josefchuk	261-0338
Brian Crow*	255-2633	Pam Parisian* (1st alt.)	253-9848
Doreen Giesbrecht	256-1668	Marguerite Pernitsky	256-4867
John Haitisma	261-8236	Tannis Webster	237-6081
Therasa Hunt	255-0187		

The Parish Register

A new regular feature to mark major life events and passages in our congregation.

Marriage

Congratulations to **Tanya Meta McClory** and **Justin Ian Daniel Baker**, married August 21 at St. Paul’s Anglican Church.

Baptism

Welcome to **Shelby Anne Gittins**, baptized September 4 at St. Mary Magdalene.

Death

Give thanks for the lives and witness of **Betty Mainer** and **Don Wyatt**, whose funerals took place June 19 and July 23, respectively.

Around the Diocese

**St. Bartholomew
 50th Anniversary Celebrations**

Join the people of St. Bartholomew’s parish in a series of anniversary events:

- Sept. 25:** Wine & Cheese at the church. 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. \$5 per person.
- Sept. 26:** Celebration Banquet at St. Mary Magdalene: \$25/adult; \$12.50 per youth (8-12); \$7.50 per child (2-7)
- Sept 27:** Anniversary Liturgical Celebration at 10:30 am followed by cake and coffee.

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Faith Horizons

Faith Horizons, the Diocese's biennial educational event, will be held at St. Mary's Academy, **October 2 - 3**. Keynote speaker **Alan Roxburgh** is author of *The Missional Church: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. This year's theme is "Word and Deed: What are we doing to be part of what God is doing in today's world."

Cost is \$40, Saturday lunch included. Obtain details at http://www.rupertsland.ca/healthy_parishes/faith_horizons.html or call Diocesan Office at 992-4200.

Annual Bishop's Dinner

The Annual Bishop's Dinner provides the Bishop of Rupert's Land with discretionary funds to support ministry, mission, pastoral needs and special initiatives.

Join **Bishop Donald Phillips** for dinner on **October 27** with guest speakers **The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz** (Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada) and **Lynne Samways Hiltz** at the Caboto Centre, 1055 Wilkes Avenue. Reception at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm, guest speakers at 8:30 pm.

Tickets are \$120 each with a charitable receipt for \$80, or two for \$200 with a charitable receipt for \$120. Special pricing for students. For tickets, call 992-4200.

FaithForum Presents Phyllis Tickle

Declining church membership, fluid denominational boundaries, social/ecological justice issues and renewed interest in ancient liturgies: In her book *The Great Emergence:*

How Christianity is Changing and Why, renowned author **Phyllis Tickle** says that these are just some of the signs pointing to a major restructuring of institutional Christianity, a phenomenon that recurs about every 500 years. Join her for a seminar presented by FaithForum and sponsored by the Diocese of Rupert's Land, among many others.

Date: **October 31, 2009**

Time: 9 am to 4:45 pm (registration at 8:30)

Place: Booth College, 447 Webb Place

Cost: \$60 (\$20 for students/seniors) before October 15
\$75 (\$25 for students/seniors) after October 15
\$8.75 for lunch (optional, must register before October 15)

For more information or a brochure/ registration form, see the bulletin board or go to www.FaithForum.ca.

And in Other News . . .

PWRDF's *One Voice* CDs Feature Eclectic Mix of Music

What do you get when you mix the music of top Canadian musicians with a passion for social justice? You get *One Voice*, a double CD set created to raise money and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). Featuring big-name stars such as **Jully Black**, **Bruce Cockburn**, Blue Rodeo, **Loreena McKennitt** and **Oscar Peterson**.

Both CDs are eclectic compilations of music donated by the artists. One disc, *Celebration*, features contemporary music, while the other CD, *Inspiration*, features choral and classical music mixed with songs from jazz artists. See **Margaret Jones** to purchase your CDs.

A Trip Covering over 470 Degrees of Latitude: Part 1

by Alan Forest

This trip, to perform inspection of electrical manufacturing plants in Europe and Asia, had been expected for a month or so. However, in early July it all “came to a head,” and I was on my way. In fact, the taxi was waiting for me outside the office before my airline ticket arrived. Our client had also been in a rush; so rather than a “round the world” trip following the sun, it was arranged for me to fly return to Japan via Europe. This meant doing eleven separate flights.

The first destination was Zagreb, Croatia. The last leg of this journey was from Frankfurt to Zagreb, during which I experienced an amazing coincidence. At the gate in Frankfurt, I and another gentleman had our seats reassigned. After some time in the air, I turned to this gentleman and asked him “Do you speak English?” to which he replied “Yes I do”. So I asked him “What do you do?” He said “I am an electrical engineer.” Of course, I told him I was an electrical engineer. My next question was “Where do you work?” “At Siemens” he replied.” To which I said “I am visiting Siemens.” Well, it turned out that his name was Ivica and he was returning to Zagreb from a trip. Also, he was attending the same meetings as I was! He subsequently showed



me round Zagreb one evening, and took me to dinner.

Croatia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and I found the architecture style similar to that in Vienna and particularly that in Budapest. Part of Zagreb is on a hill, which makes it very interesting. One of the best known churches in the city is St. Marks, which is in the upper part of the city:



Even older is St. Catherine's which was commenced in 1620, and dedicated in 1632:



My next stop was Japan. But I'll leave that for another time.

