

The Vine



A Logo ... an official name... and a new website

It has taken a while but we now have a church logo and an official name. The logo and the name, will now appear on all church printed matter - letterheads, posters, bulletins, programs, advertising, etc.



The search for a logo began some time ago in the Spring of 2009 when the Communications Committee decided we needed to develop an identity for our church. After the call for design ideas from members of the congregation, eight were submitted. These were then voted on.

The final logo (shown here) is based upon the design submitted by Brian Pinkerton and Michael Smith. It is now incorporated into our new website and was used publicly for the first time this summer.

This year, the Communications Committee also proposed to standardise our name to be:

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church Picton

This was endorsed by the Parish Council and in this form it will appear on all church communications.

After several years in the planning our new church website is up and running. It has involved a lot of work to organise and present our church information into an attractive, user-friendly format. The site needs to be easy to use and easy to upload new material to keep the content current. Much of this work will be carried out by Rev. Charles and Penny Kitchen, our secretary. The site already is a wealth of information. Soon all past issues of "The Vine" (all nine editions) will be available to read on the website. So check it out!

stmpicton.ca



St. Mary Magdalene
Anglican Church, Picton

From the Rector

Advent is one of my favourite times of year. While I don't always enjoy the shorter days and colder temperatures, for me the season is loaded with delightful anticipation. The house is filled with the aroma of wonderful things in the oven. Decorations begin to appear, the Advent Wreath marks the progression towards Christmas, and time is spent searching for that perfect gift for those closest to us. All of that guides my thoughts and reflections and emotions towards that most wonderful gift of God's son Jesus, whose birth we will soon celebrate.



I appreciate being guided that way, because as the days grow shorter and colder, it is just as easy to reflect on the growing darkness of longer nights as a symbol of growing darkness in so many places and so many lives. Spending too much time reading the paper or watching the news can easily lead to sadness and even despair: we see daily evidence of a frightening world with solutions nowhere in sight. The Advent season is designed to help us tune into God's perspective.

Week by week as we light the Advent Wreath candles, we celebrate our shared faith that darkness will not overcome the light. As we worship Sunday by Sunday through the season, we are reassured that God is not asleep and not unaware, but is actively preparing for the day when the darkness of sin and despair will finally be banished. The work of evil is pervasive, and the cost to overcome it is high, but our Advent worship proclaims that "every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed," and leads us towards our celebration of Jesus the light of the world coming to shine into the darkness, and reinforces our faith that the darkness has not and will not overcome it.

That brings me great comfort and encouragement on cold dark December days. I hope you will find the same as we worship together this Advent at St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church.

Yours faithfully, Charles



Welcome Penny Kitchen: our new Parish Secretary

In September we were pleased to welcome Penny Kitchen as our new Parish Secretary. For some years, Penny fulfilled a similar role at Picton United Church. She was thinking about a change when we announced we were looking for a new Parish Secretary and so she applied. In short order the Rector and Wardens agreed she would be a great asset in our office. Penny is well known around The County. She grew up here and along with her husband, John, and daughter, Roanna, she has been active as a musical performer. Penny is also a freelance artist and animator. She is now the friendly person that greets you when you call or visit the office. We are very happy to have her as part of our ministry team.



We wish to thank Rev. Fran Langlois who did a great job as our interim Parish Secretary for over a year.

Scenes from our Christmas Tea and Bake Sale



Are you feeling a nudge?

Often when God is guiding us to take up a new responsibility it feels like a nudge that keeps coming back. As we approach the New Year, our church organization needs people to prayerfully discern if they are being nudged by God to help with the Parish's mission and ministry. There are opportunities to serve as wardens and members of Parish Council, to help with publicity, the audio-visual system in the church, the altar guild, our many outreach programs. Are you feeling a nudge? If you are please speak to Rev. Charles or one of the wardens – we will be happy to answer your questions and help you discern where God is inviting you to serve.



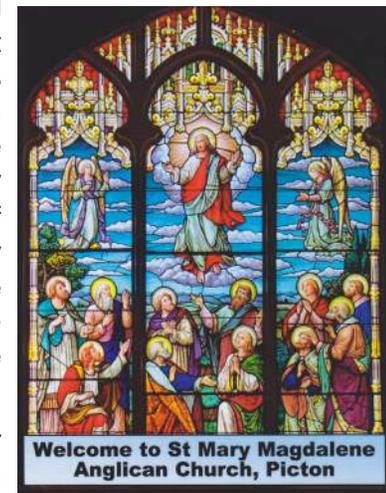
Simple Tools for The Great Commission

The church exists today because Jesus told his followers to go and make disciples. Anglicans are often a bit shy about sharing their faith, but it isn't difficult: it can be as simple as inviting someone to join you at an event at the church. We have two important tools to help with this:

First: We have many events that bring people to the church who might not normally come. Whether it is the Christmas Tea and Bake Sale, the Community Hymn Sing, or the Jazz Mass and this fall the Remembrance Day Jazz Vespers, you may find it easier to invite someone to one of those rather than to a regular Sunday morning service. Easter and Christmas are special occasions, and you may be surprised how grateful someone might be for an invitation.

Second: We have information cards for most events to help you to extend an invitation. In the church, we have brochures on the history of the church and the stained-glass windows, and recently we have postcard-sized cards that feature our beautiful Ascension stained-glass window and our contact information (including our new website). If you bring a friend to a service or event at the church, make sure you give them one of these cards.

One invitation and a card by itself may not lead someone to become a follower of Jesus, but you never know: it may be just the start they need.



The 2014 Diocesan Synod

Every two years, every Anglican diocese brings together lay and clerical representatives of all its parishes and various administrative units to applaud achievements, share difficulties and make decisions about future action. In a densely-packed urban diocese, this is perhaps not a big deal, but many Canadian dioceses are largely rural and cover such vast areas that Synod may be the only chance people have to see one another face to face and hear what's been happening. That's certainly the case for us in the Diocese of Ontario.

Our Synod was held this past October 16-18 in Kingston. It was a noticeably upbeat gathering, despite the nearly universal problems we know all about at St Mary Magdalene: aging congregations, declining revenues to devote to good works, and a general uneasy fear of slipping into irrelevance. The Bishop's enthusiasm and confidence were infectious, even through anxious debate about the diocesan budget and parish apportionment.

Presentations were made on programs and activities – Camp Hyanto, for example, contributed not only a lovely video of campers having fun but sent three counsellors to speak to us about what working at the Camp had meant for their own spiritual development. A variety of workshops was available, as was a great deal of good food. And interspersing the business-related discussions were prayer, worship and singing, both formally at the Cathedral and informally in the hotel conference room. The Bishop led us in Coventry Cathedral's Litany of Reconciliation on the steps of the Cathedral, in the teeth of icy rain, and it was deeply moving.

One of the more important matters of business was the Ministry Task Force Report, which proposed a parish action planning process. The Report was adopted by Synod and action plans will be developed, parish by parish, and implemented in the coming year. Here at St. Mary Magdalene we are a little ahead of the game. Our Parish Council has been discussing Outreach at each of its meetings since April and is in the process of identifying and planning for Ministry initiatives under three broad headings: Seniors, Youth and Arts and Culture.

At this year's Synod our church was represented by Rev. Charles, Rev Fran and lay delegates Elizabeth Cowan, Andrew Innes and Bob Mason. Herb Stone attended as an observer. Please consider putting your name forward for the next Synod in two years time; it's an enlightening and stirring experience.

Elizabeth Cowan/Andrew Innes

Repairing the Tower

A major campaign will be underway very soon to raise money to reconstruct our bell tower. It has been in need of repairs for a many years and it has now reached the stage where something has to be done. If we do not secure the safety of the tower, it is possible that the church itself might have to be closed.



In January **1995** the church received a report from McNeely Engineering Consultants Ltd (Kingston). At that time, they identified significant deterioration of the tower, due to ongoing water penetration and seasonal freeze-thaw action. They recommended a comprehensive program of restoration, but no work was done to repair the tower exterior.

In the intervening 20 years, the tower has continued to deteriorate to the point of masonry falling to the ground. After the severe winter of 2013-2014, the tower was inspected last summer and minor, stop-gap repairs were made. We were advised that more extensive repairs are needed in the next year or two.

A tower task force was formed by the Churchwardens in summer 2014, and it includes people who are experienced in fundraising and project management. You may contact Herb Stone for further details.

In June, we requested and received a proposal from Eastern Restoration (Belleville) for the needed work, at an estimated cost of \$297,000 (plus HST). They are experts in restoration work of this kind. They are able to undertake the necessary work in summer 2015.

Exercising due diligence, the Wardens then retained the services of Andy Huctwith, P.Eng (MMM Group Kingston) to review the project. He is very familiar with church buildings. In his opinion, Eastern Restoration is an experienced company with a good reputation; the scope of the proposed work is appropriate, and their cost estimate is reasonable.

On November 25, the Synod Council of the Diocese approved the project, so that we can now proceed. Members of the task force will now meet with Eastern Restoration to specify precisely the details and schedule of the work to be undertaken. A special fundraising campaign will be launched in early 2015.



Supporting ministries to young people

Like many parishes in the Diocese, St. Mary Magdalene is concerned about the lack of young people in our congregation. Several months ago with this in mind, Parish Council decided to strengthen its relationship with young people in the community through the Prince Edward County Recreational Outreach Centre (ROC, our local youth centre). We also host the County Kids Read group. In addition, many members of our church, through the 500 Club, are supporting children in Haiti, so that they can attend school and have hope for a brighter future. These initiatives are in keeping with the recent Ministry Task Force, presented to Synod, which recommends that churches, "look for opportunities to engage with youth in their community ... thereby sowing the seeds of a deeper relationship."

County Kids Read - a book in every child's hand

In 2009 members of the Prince Edward County Arts Council sat down to discuss the low literacy scores for children in The County. Under the umbrella of the Arts Council, we resolved to take steps to insure that every child in the community not only had access to books but ownership as well. With a few volunteers and a modest budget we began distributing books. We called the program County Kids Read.

In The County, literacy scores are significantly lower than the provincial standards. The *Vital Signs Report 2013* highlighted literacy issues and the high percentage of low income families in The County. Studies have indicated that children in low income families have no books or significantly fewer books than children in middle income families. Having age appropriate books in the home is critical to literacy acquisition and an appreciation of reading.

The mission of County Kids Read is to promote literacy by providing free books to low income families and at risk children and youth in Prince Edward County.

County Kids Read works with eleven existing community organizations which serve the needs of low income families. We provide books and work with these organizations to make literacy a priority. We are currently handing out over 700 books per month.

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church has been a supportive partner in our program, providing a clean dry space in the basement of the Parish



Hall for the storage and sorting of the books. County Kids Read is very grateful to the church for its support of this important program.

If you would like to be come involved by giving a donation of time or money, please contact Anne Preston at anne.preston@gmail.com. We can provide tax receipts as the Prince Edward County Arts Council is a registered charity with Canada Revenue.

The ROC

Since 2000, the ROC (Recreation Outreach Centre) has provided a variety of programs to local youth in a safe and nurturing environment. The ROC promotes the healthy development of body, mind and spirit though physical activity and sports, creative arts, healthy lifestyle choices and mentoring. There are no fees for children to attend the regular programs and nutritious snacks are provided.



For several years, our church has supported the ROC summer camp (for which there is a fee) by sponsoring children to attend and by catering some of the camp lunches.

In October, we held a community Hymn Sing at the church, and we raised over \$800. The organizers of that event donated the proceeds to the ROC's Nutritious Snack Program for children who attend the evening programs held in Queen Elizabeth Elementary School. Many children do not eat healthy foods and some arrive hungry.



The snacks are usually prepared by volunteers, but once per month some of the children help prepare the food for all the children to enjoy. The aim is to emphasize that healthy foods and healthy eating are an important part of a healthy life.

The ROC also runs programs in The County schools for girls and boys in Grades 7 and 8 during the day and for teens (ages 13 -18) in the evening.

The ROC is a registered charity and provides tax receipts to donors. If you would like more information, you can contact Darlene Thompson at 613-476-7901 (ext 219) or by email: darlene.roc@live.com

Bringing Hope in Haiti

Since 2009, many people in our church have been members of the “500 Club”, whose purpose is to provide schooling for children in Haiti.



Originally the children were housed in an orphanage in the city of Gonaives, but after several flooding events due to hurricane rains and a major earthquake, the children were moved to St.-Georges, which is west of the capital Port-au-Prince. We are presently paying for the educational needs of eighty children - this includes school fees, as well as the required books and uniforms. We are also collecting French-English dictionaries as there is interest in learning English among the older children.

Lillian Purdy (a County resident and president of Foyers Angele) has recently returned from a trip to visit the children in Haiti. She reports that the children are in good health and spirits and are thrilled to be in school. The school teachers and director assured Lillian that the children attend regularly and work hard. We hope that when they finish their education, they can help their families and their country.

Every dollar donated through the “500 Club” goes to support the children - there are no overheads. So, every penny counts!

Tax receipts are provided for donations. For further information, you can visit the website foyersangele.org or contact Michael Smith at 613-471-1135 or by email at: mikewsmithster@gmail.com

Would you like to host a Study Series?

We offer study series in the Church several times a year, usually for about 5 weeks. Typically they are offered in the church from 11am to noon following the mid-week communion service.

Wednesday morning may not work for everyone, but driving to the church in the evening is difficult for many. What about hosting a study series in your living room? The series on the Lord’s Prayer that was offered during



Lent and the current “Hard Questions about God” series have both been well received, and Rev. Charles would be pleased to repeat them with small groups in people’s homes. In the last issue of “The Vine” Bob Mason encouraged people to consider forming small “Life Groups” to help us grow in faith and fellowship. This

could be one way to host a small group with some help from the Rector before thinking about trying it on your own. A group of at least 5 people to help carry the discussion would work. So if you and 4 or more friends would like to host a series, please contact Rev.Charles to make arrangements (613-503-0199 or charlesmorris78@gmail.com).

Belly to Belly 2015

In 2014 members of our Parish participated in “Belly to Belly”, a project in the Diocese of Ontario to lose weight and raise money for the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund Food Security program in developing countries. Barb Ansell, Josie Farrar and Mike Langlois rose to the challenge and between them raised \$1241; the Diocese as a whole had 50 participants and raised \$13,676.

The project is returning in 2015. The target is to have 100 people across the Diocese participate and raise \$28,000. The idea is simple: sign-up to lose weight and get sponsors to pledge for each pound lost. The initial weigh-in is on 6 January (Epiphany) and the final weigh-in on 29 March (Palm Sunday). Rev. Charles will be participating; so perhaps you would like to join him. An information and pledge form is available at the back of the church or from the office. Please think about participating: lose your Christmas weight-gain, and maybe more, and help fight world hunger.

With Eyes of The Heart (second series)

Once again, the “With Eyes of the Heart” series was a resounding success. Over four Wednesday evenings in November, eight County artists presented their work and spoke about their creative processes. They brought alive how their spirituality and beliefs informed their work in their chosen medium.

Jutta Naim, painter, talked about how she started to create art work while living in Israel as a therapist. She was alone in a remote area and needed an expressive outlet. The work that she brought to show us resulted from that time. She described her creative journey in a deeply personal way, touching everyone in the audience.

Marjan Mozetich, composer, brought his beautiful music to share with us. Dialogue was almost not necessary, as his pieces move and inspire, are so uplifting. They filled the church, leaving everyone breathless!

Joan McBride, actor, described her creative and spiritual life on stage and off as like the three strands of a braid: storytelling, faith and imagination. Threading her talk with small performance pieces, her range as an actor was there for all to see and appreciate.

Dave Alexander, painter, commanded our attention in his own quiet way. With work spanning several decades and in different media, he described the connection between his religious and creative life, in his deep concern for human justice and the environment; as well as the life changing experience of studying world religions “in situ.”



Vanessa Pandos, glass artist, was so eloquent in her presentation. Her description of light and dark was inspiring and her pieces both challenge and delight.

Graham Davies is a black and white photographer, and his medium evokes a contemplative sense and a poetry all its own. He showed many photos of the Royal Hotel before it was closed, a piece of local history.

Anne Boyle, painter, fiber artist extraordinaire, described her journey as one of love of bible stories. She has created many banners that hang in

churches and her amazing paintings also depict those stories. The detail in her work is quite beautiful.

The last presenter was Louise O Donnell, poet, and she read from many of her poems. She had always been inspired by the work of Carl Jung. But mostly, images come to her giving her inspiration. Her poems are touching and beautiful, allowing the listener to picture the images too, a great sharing.

Anne Howells/Andrew Innes

Stewardship 2015

On Sunday November 23, Rev. Charles outlined our Stewardship Program. Last year it was decided that our Parish should raise enough money to operate the church, employ a full-time minister, and support our mission and outreach projects. The aim is to reach such a balanced budget within three years.

Our primary source of funds is donations from parishioners, and in 2014 we have seen our givings increase by more than \$25,000. This is very good news and we should all congratulate ourselves.

In 2015, the second year of our three-year-plan, we should again look to increase our givings. That may seem like a big challenge, but the experience this year demonstrates we can do it. We are experiencing modest growth in our attendance, and we can hope that as newcomers join us they will choose to support their new church home.

Please consider completing a pledge form indicating your intended level of support for 2015. Only the envelope secretary receives this information, and it is understood that if unexpected situations arise you can revise your intentions, but completing a pledge helps the Wardens manage parish finances more effectively.

Please also consider using pre-authorized-giving (PAG) and have your donations automatically charged to your credit card or bank account. PAG makes it very easy to maintain your support when you are away, and many people find it a very helpful way to manage their donations. Details are available at the back of the church, or you can speak to our Treasurer, Mike Langlois.



Read and Rejoice!

The annual **Jazz Mass** was held on 17 August and was presided over by Rev. Charles and the music was provided by The Brian Barlow Trio and the church choir. As in the past years, the church was full.

PEC Music Festival performed six classical music concerts in the church plus two performances geared to teenagers from the local schools 19 to 28 September. The musicians really appreciate the wonderful acoustics of our church building.

Food and help for the “**Loaves and Fishes**” lunch held in the Salvation Army Hall on the last Wednesday of September is provided each year by St. Mary Magdalene. About 80 people enjoyed a lunch of shepherd’s pie, salad and dessert. Each month, a different organisation prepares the food, and it is free to anyone who wishes to attend.

A **Community Hymn Sing** held in the church on 5 October was a popular event. More than 120 people were led through 25 well-known hymns by organists Jim Macgregor and Michael Goodwin. The singing with the help of a combined choir was heavenly and the fellowship over warm apple cider was delightful. Free-will donations raised over \$800 for the ROC (Recreation Outreach Centre) nutritious food program. This was a real feel-good event! Another Hymn Sing is planned for 24 May 2015 and so there will be a need for more requests.

This year’s **luncheon** fundraiser for **Hospice Prince Edward** was held in the chapel on 9 October. It was a very successful event, raising \$2217 through free-will donations.

The “**Joyful Noise**” singing group, who regularly entertain residents in The County’s retirement and nursing homes, Rev. Charles and other members of the church were on hand to help celebrate the **October Birthday Party at McFarland Nursing Home** on 22 October. Residents sang along, enjoyed cake and ice cream and people to visit.

The **Christmas Tea, Bake Sale and More** (Grandma’s Cupboard, Candy sales, White Elephant, Silent Auction and Gift Basket Draws) held on 1 November in the Parish Hall raised \$4180. Again, tables were waited on by the men of the Parish dressed in red bow ties, white shirts and black pants. So popular was the event we ran out of food.

On **Remembrance Sunday** war-time memorabilia belonging to members of the congregation were displayed in the church.

On **Remembrance Day** a **Jazz Vespers - “The Pity of War”** was held in the church. Music was provided by The Brian Barlow Trio and the church

choir and readings of prose and verse by members of the congregation. It was very well attended by people from throughout the community.



Scenes from the
Jazz Vespers

A delightful concert “All ye who Musick Love” was performed by the **Four Play Baroque Ensemble** (Josie Farrar, Michael Goodwin and Ernie and Maryl Neufeld) with guest, Jane Mcgall, in the church on 16 November. Proceeds (\$600) are being donated to the Church Building Fund.

Again, many of our church members, in various capacities, supported the PECM Hospital Auxiliary’s annual “**Festival of Trees**” held at Isaiah Tubbs Resort from 28-30 November. Help was focussed on the success of the Bake Table. The Parish Hall was used as a collection point for the baked goods.

The Picton United Church **Food Bank** continues to receive many donations of non-perishable food and toiletries collected on Food Bank Sundays (first Sunday of the month).

We continue to collect **postage stamps** for OXFAM and new and lightly used **children’s books** for “County Kids Read” program to encourage childhood literacy. Organisers use the basement of the Parish Hall to store and sort books. We are collecting French/English dictionaries for school children in Haiti who wish to learn English.

The weekly **Coffee Time** after both 9 and 10.30am Sunday services continue to be a very important time for fellowship.

Truly an uplifting experience

After some years of being out of commission, and after several months of frustrating delays waiting for parts and the necessary government inspection, the elevator in the church is finally back in operation. The Parish Hall is again wheel-chair accessible. During the repairs and necessary upgrades, the elevator door on the Church Office level was reversed making access to the elevator considerably easier. A team of operators, including the Wardens, John Hughes, and Rev. Charles have been given instruction on the proper operation of the elevator.

Pictured here, Bob Rolston finds himself going up in the world, much to his satisfaction and relief.

We are happy to see full accessibility restored to our church and Parish Hall. Many thanks must go to Herb Stone for masterminding a successful application to the Provincial Trillium Fund, which paid for the full cost of the necessary upgrades, \$30,900. The multiple-use of our church buildings and the endorsement by several community groups formed an integral part of the application.



Milestones

Birth:

Reid Mason, 20 November 2014, parents Edmund Mason and Margaret Ballantyne, grandparents Bob and June Mason.

Marriages:

Deborah Calderone and **Raymond Cranley**, on 5 September. Both from Douro-Drummer, Ontario.

Victoria Osborne and **David Ewing**, 13 September. Both from Ottawa.

Passings:

James Cuthbert, missing and presumed drowned, October, brother-in-law of Rev. Fran Langlois.

Stephen Whitehouse, aged 60, on 8 November, son of Rev. Stan Whitehouse.

Worship Services

Sunday	9.00 and 10.30 am
Wednesday	10.00 am
Christmas Eve	4 pm Family Service 7 pm Carols 7.30 pm Communion Service
Christmas Day	10 am Communion Service

Upcoming Events

Command Performance concert: 2 pm Sunday December 7

Kentwood Christmas Service and Party: 2 pm Tuesday December 16 (at Kentwood)

Community Carol Sing: 2.30 pm Sunday December 21

Community Hymn Sing: 7 pm 24 May, 2015 in the church with Jim Macgregor on the organ and the church choir.

Men's Breakfast: 8.00 am last Friday of the month at The Waring House

Magdalenas' Potluck Lunch for the women of the Parish: 12.00 noon usually last Friday of the month in the Parish Hall. The next lunch will be in January.

Food Bank Sunday: First Sunday of every month. Please donate nonperishable food items and/or toiletries.



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