

December 2018

The Vine



St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church Picton



Love Divine - c.j.mccabe, SCA

Christmas 2018

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heaven, to earth come down.

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones

Wedding

Gabriel Karantjas and Jennifer Lagani

Anniversary

Don and Lynda Hopkins - 50 years

Farewell

Kathy Hegedus and Ed Beeksma



Don and Lynda



Ed and Kathy



Jen and Gabe

Passings

Doreen Hepburn Roderick John MacLeod
Joan MacLeod Karen Tiller



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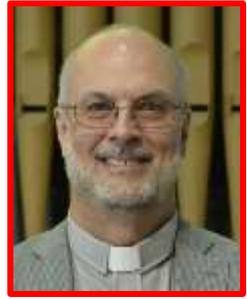
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Rector's Message

Christmas is coming! I love this time of year with its familiar customs of festive lights, nativity scenes, advent wreaths, and Christmas trees. Some of these customs will be the same as last year: Joan and I will light the same advent wreath we have used for years, and we will lovingly rehang our cherished Christmas tree ornaments. Other customs will be a little different. When my oldest daughter Rachel was two, my mother gave me the nativity scene we had used at home when I was growing up, and I have set it up in my home every year since. But not this year. Rachel and her husband have two little boys of their own, so Joan and I decided this year the family nativity scene should pass to them, one way of sharing the Christmas story with another generation. Of course, Joan and I will still have a nativity scene in our home: a new one with which to begin new memories of sharing the good news.



At our November *Food for Souls and Bodies* event we shared the story of the Journey of the Three Wise Men as they searched for the new born king and brought their gifts. We told the story from the perspective of three camels, aided by three quite hilarious camel puppets. That was another way of sharing the Christmas story with another generation, creating new memories of sharing good news of great joy.

That's what I love about Christmas: in ways old and new, each year, it embraces us in the mystery of God coming and showing his love for all of us. I look forward to joining with you for worship this Christmas, as once again we receive "good news of great joy for all the people." For us "is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."



Away in a Manger
c.j.mccabe, SCA

Yours faithfully,

Charles

The Colours of Christmas



We often take for granted the poinsettias on display during the Christmas season. They're bright, cheery, and are traditional Christmas colours. But, did you know that red, green, gold and silver, and even blue and white - so much a part of our Christmas floral arrangements - originated in symbolism surrounding the Christ Child's birth?

Red symbolizes the blood of Christ. Green stands for everlasting or eternal life. Gold and silver reference the star of Bethlehem. White is symbolic of purity innocence and peace. Blue is the colour traditionally associated with the Virgin Mary.

Merry Christmas

A Community Hymn Sing

For several years we have held a **Community Hymn Sing at St. Mary Magdalene**. This year's program, held on September 30, included plenty of singing interspersed with selected readings. Traditionally we solicit input from the congregation, resulting in a mixture of old favourites and some newer hymns that have become quite popular. We end up with a good variety – something for everyone. Some of the many choices were: *How Great thou Art*; *Onward Christian Soldiers*; *In the Garden*; *Nearer My God to Thee*; *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*; and finishing off with a spirited rendition of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*.

This year, **Jim MacGregor** and the **Choir** provided the musical leadership. We appreciate all the behind-the-scenes help with advertising, photo-copying, preparing the slide presentation, distribution of posters and refreshments.



All who attended enjoyed the evening of singing. It was great to be part of and to hear the resounding joyful noise, along with raising \$295 for the Picton United Church County Food Bank through the freewill offering. There may have been a few sore throats the next day from the evening of singing great hymns, but it was a worthwhile, fun event. We hope to see *YOU* next year!

Jim MacGregor

Our Christmas Tea and Bake Sale



The wet, grey weather did not dampen the spirits of the 170 visitors who attended our annual Christmas Tea and Sale on November 3rd. Every one enjoyed the food, the festive atmosphere and the warm fellowship. This year's event had a particularly welcoming atmosphere and many were heard to remark what a wonderful event it was.

The Bake Table was loaded with pies, Christmas cakes, loaves, mince tarts, cookies, and breads; it was one of our most successful Bake Tables in recent years. Grandma's Cupboard was well-supplied with an array of jams, jellies, honey, mustards, and pickles. The White Elephant Table this year concentrated on Christmas items and was a popular spot. Our Silent Auction, as in past years, featured an original water colour generously donated by our own "Old Master", Tom Field. The Gift Basket Draw was popular as people competed to win one of the five gift baskets or one of the two Amaryllis bulb kits.



The day was a great success and we raised \$5,037, supporting our annual donations to

the ROC for their Prince Edward County Youth Centre and the Gilead Fellowship towards their Christmas Dinner.



Many thanks to those people who contributed their time and effort to make the event such a wonderful success.

Nell Kottick, Helen Pinkerton and Pauline Smith

Saying It with Flowers



As coordinator of the Memorial Flowers Roster, Joan McBride occasionally has the opportunity to connect with the contributors in interesting ways. On a Sunday in October every year, the flowers are donated by a former parishioner, Barbara Widdifield, who now lives in Vancouver. This year, Joan sent a photo of the flowers to Barbara along with that Sunday's bulletin. Barbara fondly remembers Herb Stone, Robert and Donnie Wilson and other friends from her days in Picton. Recently, Joan received a note from Barbara who shared some memories of experiences at St. Mary Magdalene Church, and she thought it might be of interest not only to those who know her but also to those of us who enjoy learning about our parish history:

Dear Joan,

Many thanks for your note, picture of memorial flowers and the bulletin. I am pleased that the flowers were given to a shut-in.

I have many happy memories of my life at St. Mary Magdalene's (Busy Bees, Junior Aux., A.Y.A.P. and the services).

I took organ lessons from Frank Bronskill (organist) who was blind and I played at the odd evening service. (not up to Frank's skill!!!)

My husband Patrick and I were married at St.M.M. and our middle child was baptized there.

Best Wishes, Barbara Widdifield

P.S. The flowers looked beautiful.

Remembering Karen Tiller

Karen Tiller was warmly remembered at a special Memorial Service in the church on November 5th. Karen was a member of our parish for many years, and until recently she was our Parish Treasurer. Karen moved away from The County to be with her family in England, where she died in her sleep most unexpectedly in September. Karen had many close friends in the parish, through her work with the Arts Council, and around The County. For all of us, this came as a terrible shock, and especially for her sister, Maxine, who is one of our Newsletter editors. We will miss Karen greatly.

Food for Souls & Bodies

This fall we started a new initiative: **Food for Souls & Bodies**. It's a fun gathering in the Parish Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month, for everyone, ages 0 to 99, to share in creative crafts,



stories, songs, and

a meal! Our first event in September was modestly attended, and a much larger crowd joined us in October. A great team working with our Rector, Charles, organizes all the different

aspects of the evening, and everyone has been having a really good time. There is no event in December, but in January why not join us on the 4th Tuesday for **Food for Souls & Bodies?**



A Page from Our History - 1928

It had been customary to have the Christmas Eve service begin at midnight. Mrs. Webster [Editor's Note: Mrs. Katherine Webster, choirmaster, who arrived in Picton the previous summer] recalls suggesting that a half hour of Christmas carols to be performed starting at 11:30 p.m. might be appropriate to the Season.

Mr. Winter [Editor's Note: Rev. Cecil Winter] was extremely skeptical about congregational interest and was sure that they would continue to arrive just prior to midnight, carols or not. At 11:30 the church was filled and the music making took place as planned. It was agreed that a prelude of this sort for the Christmas Eve service should be repeated in following years.

From: *A Goodly Heritage* by Alan R. Capon



Giving to our Community ...

St. Mary Magdalene has a well-deserved reputation of giving to the community year round, both as a congregation and as individual parishioners seeking to do God's work.



The gift of *Sharing*

Hospital Auxiliary
Public Library
Reaching for Rainbows
Food Bank
...and so much more



The gift of *Caring*



The gift of *Outreach*

County Kids Read Ministry to Seniors
ROC- Recreational Outreach Centre
Youth Unlimited
Meals on Wheels
Alternatives for Women
...and more!



The gift of *Volunteering*



The gifts of *Loving* and *Welcoming*



The gift of *Music*

As followers of Jesus, we are a loving, caring, welcoming, and joyful community, and by our example we encourage Christian spiritual development and outreach for all.



... and fulfilling our *Mission*

Observations as a First Time Delegate to Synod

Rooted in Faith; Growing in Spirit



Synod is a gathering of the clergy and lay representatives for the purpose of administration of the Diocese. It includes planning, setting of priorities, and establishing the budget to support the work of the Diocese. It is also a great opportunity to learn from each other as we share the various ministries that we are developing in our local communities. As a first time delegate to Synod and as someone new to the Anglican Church, I was interested to learn more about the structure and function of the church. *(Shown in photo is Fran with our banner displayed at Synod 2018.)*

We, as part of the Diocese of Ontario, are part of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario which is led by a Metropolitan, an Archbishop who has jurisdiction and pastoral oversight over an ecclesiastical province. Our new Provincial Metropolitan is Archbishop Anne Germond of the Diocese of Algoma in Sault St. Marie. She presided over the opening Eucharist at the Cathedral and participated fully in the Synod. She is a passionate leader with a clear vision for the church going forward.

An overall theme of Synod was Reconciliation emerging from The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation, following the 1940 destruction of Coventry Cathedral in England. The promise and expressed hope was “to build a kinder, more Christ-like world”. Three medieval nails from the ruins of the Cathedral were formed into a cross and became a sign of the hope of reconciliation.

In Canada we hear the word reconciliation in relation to repairing the relationship with our First Nations people. Bishop Michael announced a new ministry of reconciliation for our diocese, “From the Steps to the Street”. This ministry includes First Nations people and those who are in need; the poor, the homeless, the sick, and those who find themselves on the outside or feel not welcomed. To support this ministry, delegates were shown videos demonstrating reading and food programs in different churches across our

Diocese. Reference was made to the *County Kids Read* program started here at St. Mary Magdalene Church; we created a model that is being adapted to serve other communities!

Delegates also participated in group discussions. It is evident that there is a tension in the Diocese regarding the Marriage Canon. I sensed a commitment to continue the dialogue in an effort to move forward together.

It was interesting to learn about the work of the Diocesan Centre. This is not simply a one way relationship where we send money to the Diocese office in Kingston; significant funding has been made available to support new initiatives. There is a strong commitment

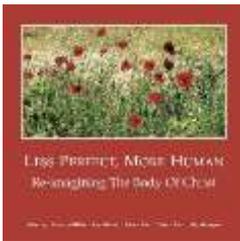


to support the local churches as we collectively seek to serve, and to take our ministry from the “Steps to the Street”. We are a Diocese on the move, seeking to reach out in new and creative ways; to engage with, and support, local churches and communities.

Kathy Condie

Joyeux Noel

Inspirational Book Launch



On September 9th, we welcomed the editors from Two Fishes Press to launch their latest book “*Less Perfect, More Human: Re-imagining the Body of Christ*”. **Joan McBride** and **Helen Cluett** spoke to the congregation and introduced us to this wonderful book. It is a collection of inspirational writings from the

editors, accompanied by spectacular artwork and photography. Thank you to the editors **Rosamond Bailey**, **Amy Bodman**, **Helen Cluett**, **Thayer Cluett**, and **Marjorie Seguin**. **Two Fishes Press** was founded in 2005 to articulate a new understanding of the nature of Christ. This is their sixth book.



Joan with Marjorie, Rosamond, Helen & Amy

Liturgical Fashion

During a baptism earlier this year a young fellow had a close look at the vestments Charles was wearing. Perhaps you have been just as curious, but less willing to explore.



The white robe that Charles wears is called an *Alb*. Its style is reminiscent of the long white tunic commonly worn in the Greco-Roman world. Next comes the *Stole*, a kind of long scarf. You may notice that Charles wears his around his neck and hanging down the front, which is how a priest wears a Stole. Fran wears her Stole across

her shoulder and tied at the side, which is how a deacon wears a Stole. The Stole comes in different colors associated with different seasons of the church year: blue for Advent, white for Christmas and Easter, purple for Lent, red for Holy Week, Pentecost, and some Saints' days, and green for the rest of the year.



For services of Holy Communion, over the Alb and the Stole is worn the *Chasuble*, like a large poncho, which also matches the color for the church season. St Mary Magdalene has Stoles and Chasubles for each season, and Charles usually wears them. Charles has one Chasuble and Stole set of his own: a white set, a gift from his former parish when he and Joan moved here to Picton, and that is the one you most often see him wear at Christmas and Easter.

Charles has one very special item of "liturgical fashion." A *Cope* is a decorated cape, usually worn by senior clergy, and usually only for special occasions. The Cope is only worn at the start and finish of a service when the priest is coming in and going out, and in earlier times would have had the practical value of providing warmth. Two years ago, when Bishop Michael appointed Charles to be Archdeacon of Ontario, St Mary Magdalene gave Charles a gift of a beautiful Cope to honor the occasion. You will see Charles wearing this Cope at the start and end of our Christmas Eve candle-lit service.



Our Nativity Window

Our beautiful Nativity window is one of 13 stained glass windows created by Robert McCausland Limited, Toronto for St. Mary Magdalene. Dedicated to the memory of Francis Owens by his widow in 1926, the window is on the south side of the sanctuary.



With the assistance of Shirley Stone, we uncovered information about the Owens family. Francis was born in 1855, son of George Owens and Eliza Mulholland of Bloomfield. The family owned the canning factory, The Bloomfield Packing Company, located on Stanley Street in Bloomfield, now County Traders. Francis, listed as single in both the 1901 and 1911 Census, married Amanda Lewis Donaldson (b 1874) in 1919, and died in 1923; he is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. Amanda (d1963) is mentioned several times in our church history, *A Goodly Heritage*, written in 1980 by Alan Capon. More research is needed to find the location of their home, likely in Picton. If you have more information to share, please let The Vine editors know.

Joyous Christmas

Ponderings from c.j.mccabe, SCA

Christmas, wonderous Christmas!

The colours traditionally associated with this most special time of year are red and green. But what of wonderment? What colour is it? Marc Chagall, famed 20th-century artist of folklore and dreams, said that *"In our life, there is a single colour, as on an artist's palette, which provides the meaning of life and art. It is the colour of Love."* If Chagall's words are indeed true, then how blessed are we to know that the colour of wonderment is Love.



May God bless us, one and all, this Christmas and fill our hearts with wonderment now and forever more.

claudia jean mccabe is a painter, teacher, graphic designer, story-teller, and dreamer. She is profoundly grateful to live in the County, and to call St. Mary Magdalene church and family 'home'.

Coming Events @



Christmas Services

Christmas Season services begin on Sunday, December 23rd with a ***Service of Nine Lessons and Carols*** at 10:30 a.m.

At 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve we will have our **Family Service, *The Prince of Peace***. This is an intergenerational service for kids of all ages, from 0 to 101. Similar in format to our *Christmas Stories, Songs & Cookies* afternoons in Advent, this service offers an engaging account of Christmas in song and story for all ages that will enchant and fill you with Christmas Spirit. We like to emphasize: *no prior church experience needed*.

At 7:15 p.m. on Christmas Eve before the main service begins, we will sing some well-known Christmas Carols.

7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve is the starting time for our traditional candle light communion service.

At 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day we will have a lovely Christmas morning choral communion service.

Sunday, December 9 and 16, 4 p.m. - *Christmas Stories, Songs, and Cookies* returns on two Sunday afternoons in December. On December 9th we present a reading of the story ***A Charlie Brown Christmas***, and on the 16th we feature a reading of ***The Polar Express***. Along with the stories we have lots of singing, and of course, cookies! Mark your calendars for 4 p.m. on those two afternoons, spread the word, and bring a friend.

A Page from Our History – 1897

An overheated stovepipe set fire to the Church of St. Mary Magdalene the Sunday before Christmas, creating considerable consternation among the congregation then assembled at service. “An alarm was sounded and the Tecumseh Ward reel was soon playing a stream of water on the burning structure. The fire was soon extinguished and little damage was done,” reported The Picton Gazette on December 23rd, 1897.

From “A Goodly Heritage” by Alan R. Capon

Remembering the Armistice

We all left the November 11 Remembrance Day Jazz Vespers Service a little more reflective, a little more humble, and a little more hopeful that one day God's kingdom will come in its fullness and war will be no more. The incredibly moving service with its traditional Remembrance Day hymns played with jazz undertones, the sung prayer, Hymn for Remembrance, led by **Malcolm Ross**, and the sing-along medleys of WW1 songs invited – no, insisted on - audience participation. And who could not be stirred by the readings of poetry and historical writings so beautifully rendered by members of our congregation, along with viewing the personal wartime remembrances of family members so lovingly displayed?

This was a significant evening for all in attendance.

Our admiration and gratitude goes to Joan McBride who conceived, researched, wrote, and directed the event. Our special thanks to **Charles** and **Fran**, readers **Angela Adams**, **Nona Bussell**, **Kirsteen Etherington**, **John Hopper**, **Lorraine Hyatt**, **John McCarthy**, **Fred Robinson**, **Stuart**



Ross, and **Don Watson**, musicians **Brian Barlow**, **Neal Davis**, **Mike Francis**, and **Blair Yarranton**, and **Michael Goodwin**, and to all the behind-the-scenes assistants, **Nell Kottick**, **John Hughes**, **Kathy Condie** and **Jay Crockford**. In the words of one of the evening's sing-along songs, 'Bless 'em all'.

Peace on Earth

Ringling our Bell 100 Times for 100 Years



More than 30 people gathered to ring our Church Bell at sunset on November 11th. An initiative of the Royal Canadian Legion, places of worship across the country rang their bells at sunset local time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended World War I. John Hughes, our chief bell-ringer on Sunday mornings, got us started, and then each person took a turn giving the rope three or four pulls.

Worship Services

Sunday - 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday - 3:30 p.m., Meditation and Silent Prayer

Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. (Bible Study at 10:30 resumes Jan.9)

December - Please see Coming Events for complete information on Christmas Services

Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 – Mid-week services cancelled

Upcoming Events

December 9 & 16 – 4:00 p.m. Christmas Stories, Songs and Cookies

January 22 – 5:00 p.m. – Food for Souls & Bodies

Men's Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. last Friday of the month

Magdalenas' Potluck Lunch: Parish women meet at 12 noon in Parish Hall for a potluck lunch, last Friday of the month.

Food Bank Sunday: First Sunday of the month; non-perishable food items including pet food, and/or toiletries

Happy New Year



The Vine Newsletter

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