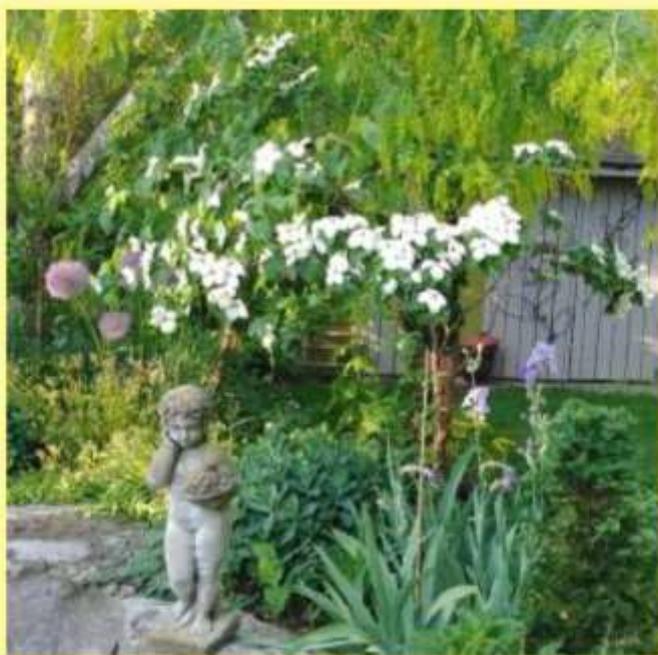


St. Mary Magdalene Church, Picton

The Vine

Summer 2021



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

Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932)

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones

Birthdays

Donna Maas – 90 years Evelyn Rubie – 95 years
Nancy Watson – 90 years

Passings

Joan McLean

A few weeks before her 100th birthday



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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.

Our Rector's Message:



When I wrote for the previous issue of *The Vine*, I was hopeful that the end of the pandemic was in sight, and I was looking forward, having been denied in 2020, to celebrating Easter in the church with all of you. And then came the third wave with a vengeance, and another shutdown. To me it has felt rather like C.S. Lewis' Narnia in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*: "always winter, but never Christmas." We observed Advent in church, but then the building was closed for Christmas. We marked Lent in the church, even opening in time for Ash Wednesday service, but then we were closed for Easter.

This pandemic has been a wearying time, and I see the signs of that weariness all around. A year is a long time to be kept from the people and the activities we love, a long time to be afraid people close to us might get sick, or we might get sick, or worse, we might make someone else sick. Still, we find encouragement from our spiritual ancestors who walked this road before us. The people of Israel faced terrible setbacks, but clung tight to their hope that God would not abandon them, but would ultimately set things right. They sometimes lived for years and even generations waiting for their situation to improve, but they never gave up the hope that the God of love would restore his damaged creation. As Christians, we know our faith in Jesus does not promise us a life without storms, but as I mentioned in a recent sermon, it does promise that even in the fiercest storm, Jesus is in the boat with us.

That gives me encouragement to look forward to better times. We are able to resume gathering for worship on July 11th. A great many of us are receiving our second vaccination shots (Joan and I received ours on July 4th). And while it is not here yet, I am very much looking forward to the time, not too far off I hope, when once again we can worship together *without* masks, and *with* singing. In the meantime I am proud to be part of a church community which all through the pandemic has looked out for one another and for others with such faithfulness and care. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all in person soon.

Yours faithfully, Charles



Sunrise by David Gilbert



Our New Green Column

I am excited to have been asked by Wendy and Maxine to write the first article for the Green column of the Vine. I'm sure that with your contributions it will be a

great learning experience and an enriching read. Please consider contributing your ideas. Tell us about your passion for improving the earth's plight. One of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church is "*to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*" This first article concerns trees and their impact in our world.

I have been entranced by trees, gentle wise giants, for most of my life. It began when a farmer friend in his eighties planted 100 maple seedlings on a steep hill where erosion was occurring. Speaking with him, I realized that tree planting is about possibilities. When we hold an acorn or a maple key in our hand, we can visualize the grown tree standing tall and proud, doing its work to beautify and to help our world.

Trees' contribution to our world is limitless, providing us with necessities of life: shade in the summer, homes for the birds to raise their young, wind breaks, leaves in the fall which nourish the land, and food. Our trees give us life, with their complex systems of taking in carbon dioxide and giving us oxygen. One can see the

Maker's hand in this chemistry of enriching our world. Leaders are now focused on tree planting to reduce the terrible impacts of climate change. Imagine the Creator actually providing a solution to the problem that we humans have created!



Fruit Spray of Stella Cherry Tree

I think that caring for little trees is like the parable of the shepherd caring for his sheep: if one is lost He will find it. Our seedlings are such tiny beings. We can often lose them to rabbits, insects, caterpillars. They succumb to drought or to extreme cold. We (Michael and I) care for them because we love them and because of that possibility of the mature being from the small acorn. We once found a potted cedar at the dump and lugged it home to plant. It has become a lovely big healthy tree, and it seems to know that it was rescued from death!

The Anishinaabe people call trees ***the standing people***. For tree lovers, they represent elders, ancestors, and friends. I love to touch them, to show them that I am a caring, appreciative friend.

There is research to prove that our trees are caring, sentient beings. Science now says that the forest is a social network. In his book, "The Hidden Life of Trees" Peter Wohlleben says that ideally, in the forest, tree parents live together with their children, communicating with them, sharing and supporting the young. They are mysterious complex beings, and for me this reinforces the unending love of our Creator.



Catalpa in Bloom

Please, give your trees a pat and say thanks! And plant some. You'll never regret the richness of having a tree friend.

- **Josie Farrar**

(Photographs by Josie Farrar)

Pages from Our History

Not so many years ago, social life in most communities revolved around gatherings of members of church congregations. Below are a few excerpts from 'A Goodly Heritage' by Alan R. Capon highlighting summertime events involving the St. Mary Magdalene family.

'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 flagstuffs, unfurling colours to the breeze and all intent on enjoying themselves on this the new era of their country.' Rev. William Maccauley, first rector of St. Mary Magdalene, addressed 'an immense gathering' in the afternoon.

Ten years earlier, a ***PIC-NIC to the RIVER TRENT on board the STEAMER 'TRENTON'*** on June 18, 1857 was advertised in *The Picton Gazette* for the benefit of the church of St. Mary Magdalene.

Other excursions and pic-nics were noted in the local newspaper .On July 6, 1900 a Sunday School excursion to Glen Island aboard the steamer 'Merritt' made several trips during the day ending with a moonlight cruise. In July 1901, the Guild of the Church ran an excursion to Forrester's Island and Deseronto on the steamer 'Ella Ross'. In June 1959, the Junior and Senior Sunday School Picnic was held at Outlet Beach. In memoirs written by Marion Lyons Richmond in 1973, she notes that 'George Cook's firm always supplied all the ice-cream for the annual Sunday School Picnic during the 1920s.'

NOTE: The spelling '*pic-nic*' was used in The Picton Gazette to the early 1900s. The word dates to 17th century France when the word *pique-nique* referred to large gatherings involving food and wine. The event was adopted by the British in the 18th century.

An Old-Fashioned Church Pic-nic

Church Ladies' Egg Salad Sandwiches

When your 6 year-old daughter announces that 'The Church ladies' egg salad sandwiches are better than yours, Mum' it's a rather hard bite to swallow! So, just what is **your** secret for making **Church Ladies' Egg Salad Sandwiches**? We asked several of our experienced cooks to let us in on their top tips:

Nell Kottick uses Hellman's Real Mayonnaise (as it's Canadian, eh – she quips) adding a bit of green pickle relish to give a nice flavour along with salt and pepper. She uses both white and brown bread but notices that white bread sandwiches are devoured first!

Mary Lou Champagne adds a little green onion and uses mayo or Miracle Whip whichever she has on hand. A little lettuce, salt and pepper, and her preferred brown bread make a perfect sandwich.

Pauline Smith likes to use lots of mayo, sliced green onions, fresh-ground pepper and some salt with the chopped-up eggs, spread on whole wheat bread. Even better when eaten without the crusts.

Kathy Condie is a bit of a purist when it comes to her favourite sandwich. She adds a bit of Hellman's mayo with green onions finely chopped and serves it on very fresh multi-grain bread.



A Trio of Old-Time Thirst Quenchers

1. **Imperial Drink (Dates from 1862):** Mix 4 pounds white sugar, 1 oz. citric acid, 2 oz. tartaric acid and 1 Tbsp. Epsom salt (available at drug stores). Pour in 2 cups boiling water, stir and cool. Add juice and grated rinds of 3 lemons and 2 oranges. Stand overnight then strain into a bottle. Add 2 Tbsp. of mixture to a tall glass of water and ice.

2. **Strawberry Lemonade:** Bring 1 cup each of sugar and water to a boil; cool. Add 4 cups cold water, 1 cup lemon juice and 1 cup pureed strawberries. Serve over ice.

3. **Rhubarb Punch:** Boil 7 cups chopped rhubarb in 3 cups water until soft; strain. Make a sugar syrup of 1 cup each white sugar and water; add syrup to juice. Chill. Add 1 large bottle gingerale just before serving.



We asked a few of our parishioners and now family secrets are out!

BRAGGING RIGHTS for making the **BEST** picnic/BBQ fare go to ...

Edith Morash is well-known for her wonderful pies both with the congregation and the members of The Magdalenas who enjoyed them at their monthly luncheons.

Julie Miller's son Aaron Miller tells us, "Whenever we are having a BBQ, we always ask mom to make hamburgers. The rest of us bring the toppings but no one can make a burger as tasty as she can! They are always the perfect consistency, size and never fall apart. :)"

Joan Mercer's egg salad and salmon sandwiches are a hit with family members and at church functions. Daughter Janice Heard reveals that Joan always uses sandwich bread with crusts removed, and makes the egg salad extra tasty with pinches of both onion and celery salts.

Our Rector **Charles Morris** is famous for his chili recipe, a pot luck fav at the churches he has served over the years. Joan McBride reports that their kids love 'Dad's Chili'.

Early in the 1950s I remember our Church Picnic taking place at 'Martins'. Despite Martins' location between the Outlet River with its popular diving tower and the Outlet Beach, swimming was not a part of picnic activities. Instead, there were safer supervised events like the sack race. The sack race used burlap potato sacks, some still embedded with the dust of potatoes. After the race on a hot, sticky summer's afternoon, a refreshing, cleansing swim wouldn't have gone amiss. A nice memory of innocent times when the most serious world crisis was not being allowed to swim for one afternoon. – **Herb Stone**

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The PWRDF is the Anglican Church's agency for sustainable development and relief, which, with the support of individual Anglicans across Canada, and with partner organizations, works to provide humanitarian aid in times of crisis and to improve health, reduce hunger, poverty and gender inequality in the world's most vulnerable communities.



One of its partners is the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), founded in 1983, which, with the PWRDF and other faith-based groups has the goal to eliminate global hunger, by delivering emergency food supplies, when needed, improving nutrition, especially in pregnant and nursing women and young children and most impressive of all, to me, helping local organizations to educate farmers in improved, climate friendly and more sustainable agricultural methods.



These efforts have been increasingly important during the COVID-19 pandemic which has further threatened food security in many ways, including disruption of work due to illness, loss of wages with which to buy food, disruption of food distribution systems and the need for women, who would otherwise be helping in the fields, to care for children unable to attend school.

In 2019/2020, the CFGB provided over \$42 million of assistance for almost 900,000 people in 34 countries. The effects of the pandemic are likely to be prolonged in less developed areas of the world, so continuing support of the CFGB programmes will be important.

Earlier this year, **our Parish contributed \$3680 to the PWRDF, earmarked for the CFGB.** Every dollar donated to this cause is eligible for a matching grant of up to 4 times, from the Government of Canada. Talk about "a big bang for your buck"!!



David Sutton

When conditions permit, I plan to arrange for a representative from the PWRDF, and the CFGB to speak to us in person, to encourage our continuing support. – **David Sutton**

(Editor's note: David is our parish's representative for the PWRDF. Thank you, David, for your work on this important and worthwhile mission.)

Garden Meditation

Most of us are inspired by natural beauty, finding inspiration, and sometimes comfort, in nature. Sometimes, we experience moments of great clarity, moments when we see, and sense, the interconnectedness and wholeness (Holiness) of God's creation and the presence of God in all things. A Garden is such a place.



A garden is a work of art created by taking natural elements and rearranging them to harmonious effect. Colour, form, texture, and the interplay of light and dark, among others, are important considerations in creating a garden. The result, when successful, leads to a heightened sense of beauty and sitting in a garden becomes akin to “sitting inside a painting,” a totally immersive experience.

Surrounded by beauty, a beautiful garden is a wonderful place to meditate, and we can do it with our eyes open or closed, it really doesn't matter for, in either case, we are giving our full attention to God.

With our eyes open, we can reflect on the order and beauty of Creation, taking in the sights, sounds and scents of the garden; or with our eyes closed, direct our attention to the divine presence at the centre of our being. In fact, there is



nothing to say that we must choose one over the other, for we can do both, allowing the presence of God **without** to lead us gently to the presence of God **within**.

- Andrew Innes

Photos this page and on cover by Andrew Innes.

The beauty of the trees
The softness of the air
The fragrance of the grass
They speak to me.

The summit of the mountain
The thunder of the sky
The rhythm of the sea
Speaks to me.

The faintness of the stars
The freshness of the morning
The dewdrop on the flower
Speaks to me

The strength of the fire
The taste of the salmon
The trail of the sun

And the life that never goes away

They speak to me. And my heart soars.

Chief Dan George



● From the St. MM Bulletin Board ●



Thank you to Parishioners who supported our local radio station, 99.3 County FM, during RADIOTHON 2021. The station promotes community events including our church's and showcases community musicians some of whom are members of the St. MM family.

Wait on the LORD:
be of good courage,
and he shall
strengthen thine heart.
Wait, I say,
on the LORD.
Psalms 27:14



Thank you to our talented David Gilbert for the beautiful photos of *Stars at Point Petre* (on left) and *Trees* accompanying 'And My Heart Soars' poem.

Back to Church!

On Sunday July 11th we will resume in-person services in the church. By that date, the Province will be in Step 2 of its reopening plan, and a great many of our parishioners will have received their second vaccination shot. Those factors and our continuing pandemic-safe protocols will give us confidence that we can gather for worship safely. Here are the key details:

- Services will be at 9:00 and 11:00, and the 11:00 a.m. service will be livestreamed. With Step 2 we can admit 75 people in the church, so we will be able to accommodate you at either service.
- The Provincial limit for outdoor gatherings is 25, so we will be able to freely chat outside when the weather is fair – maintaining social distance is still recommended.
- We will continue to wear masks and sit at least 6 feet away from those we don't live with.
- Communion, bread only, will be brought to the congregation.
- The 11:00 a.m. will include music as before, but we still must wait for choral and congregational singing, as these are not permitted yet.

It will be wonderful to be able to gather in our beautiful church once again. We hope to see you there.



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