

The Vessel

A Publication of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church
"A Community Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"
December 2009

St. Mary Magdalene
Episcopal Church
4775 Cambridge Street
Boulder, CO 80301

Rector

The Rev. Mike Houlik

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Mary Hardy

Deacon

The Rev. Rhoads Hollowell

Children's Ministers

Barb Houlik

Tammi Bailey

Youth Minister

Don Martinson

Administrative Assistant

Kim Freymiller

Worship Schedule

Saturday

5:00 pm Eucharist Service

Sunday

8:15 am Eucharist Service

10:00 Eucharist Service

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

From the Rector:

At our annual meeting in 2007 I announced my intention to retire from full time ministry sometime in 2011. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but it makes more sense now (both economically, personally, and parochially) to push that date back (possibly to 2013). I hope that meets with your approval; it gives both St Mary Magdalene and myself a bit more time to get ready.

In preparation for the January 2010, Annual Meeting, I offer the following stewardship update. 112 responses have been received:

- 40 responses have increased their pledge over 2009
- 9 responses have decreased their pledge from 2009
- 38 responses have stayed the same
- 14 responses were new pledges
- 11 responses declined to make a pledge

for a total of \$313,606. We have yet to receive another 30 responses. If you have not yet responded, either with a pledge or to let us know that you do not plan to make a pledge, please do so, so that we can create a budget based on realistic income projections. In the first draft of our 2010 budget, we estimate our final pledge number at \$320,000, the same amount as our pledge number in 2009. No doubt the proposed budget will go through some further revisions, but it includes among other things:

- Compensation for Mary Hardy to continue to serve St Mary Magdalene
- A 3 % cost of living increase for the staff
- 10% giving to Outreach
- 10% giving to the diocesan budget and 5% to the regional budget
- \$5000 of support for St Brigit
- A contingency reserve

In a difficult economic environment we have done well to keep our staff, program and giving intact. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to serve. We have also been more intentional about inviting others to visit St Mary Magdalene -- two 'Come and See' Sundays and a booth at Niwot's Nostalgia Days, all of which we hope to repeat in 2010. If you have questions or comments for us, please contact me or a member of the vestry.

God bless,
Mike

Christmas Candlelight Festival

Saturday, December 19th
5:00 pm

performed by
Tara Performing Arts High School

Featuring Haydn's Missa Cellensis in C,
"Mariazellermesse"

On Saturday evening, December 19, at 5:00, Tara Performing Arts High School will present a Christmas Candlelight Festival at St Mary Magdalene. Their program includes some Lessons and Carols, portions of a Rachmaninoff evensong, a Russian 'Our Father', portions of a mass setting (either Mozart or Vivaldi), and a number of other pieces. Some will be performed, some will be sing-a-longs with the audience. Instrumentation includes a harpist, handbells, cellos, violins and violas. This performance is for members and guests of St Mary Magdalene, and there is no charge.

Please plan to come and enjoy; it promises to be a wonderful event. The program will be an hour and a half--ending about 6:30 pm. There will be seats for 150 attendees. This event will take the place of our usual Christmas pageant or Lessons and Carols. The previous location for Tara's Christmas performance was the Orthodox church on Jay Road, but this year it is at St Mary Magdalene. Please let us know what you think of the performance so we can decide whether or not to have them back.

Tara Performing Arts High School will be selling tickets for their other performances that weekend--Friday, December 18 at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm, Saturday, December 19 at 8:00 pm, and Sunday, December 20, at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

All ages are welcome; keep in mind audience members must be able to sit quietly through a one and a half hour music concert. A nursery will be provided.

Hot chocolate and snacks will be served in the education wing following the performance.

Worship Committee Notes:

There will be a number of changes in the liturgy beginning Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. These changes will continue until Ash Wednesday (February of 2010).

- The Nicene Creed will replace the Affirmation of Faith.
- The Book of Common Prayer version of the confession will replace the one we've been using.
- 'Create in Me' (SFW #22) will replace 'Paths Intertwining' as the Call to Worship.
- The Prayer of St Francis will replace the post-communion prayer we've been using.
- Eucharistic Prayer A, p. 361, will replace Eucharistic Prayer B, p. 367.
- S-124 in the hymnal will replace the 'Holy, Holy, Holy' we've been using.
- S-161 in the hymnal will replace the 'Lamb of God'.
- Hymn #56, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", will replace the "Gloria in Excelsis".
- The Opening Acclamation, 'Blessed be God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit', will replace the acclamation we've been using.

There will be no 5:00 Saturday evening service, December 26, 2009, because of its proximity to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services on the previous Thursday and Friday. Services on Sunday, December 27, will be at the usual times of 8:15 & 10:00 a.m.

Music Night

**Friday, December 4 at 7:00 pm
at the home of Robin & Patti Guilford
1058 Diamond Court, Boulder
Bring a snack and beverage to share**

Youth Handbell Choir



Want to play in a Bell Choir? Students in grades 4-8 are invited to play carols in our new handbell choir at the 4:30 service on Christmas Eve. We will

be playing Suzuki tone chimes, which sound like hand bells, but are cylindrical. No music reading experience is necessary, but bell players must be able to read English proficiently. We will rehearse on December 23 from 1-3:00. We'll be playing "Away in a Manger" and "The First Noel." It would be really helpful for players to be familiar with these carols before coming to rehearsal. We will need 12 players. If you are interested, please email Cheryl Andrews at cherylsandrews@yahoo.com, or call her at 303-673-9160, as soon as possible so we'll know how many players we have. If we do not have enough interested students in grades 4-8, we'll extend to high-schoolers.

We hope to continue playing as an ensemble at St. Mary Magdalene after Christmas.

Labyrinth

The indoor labyrinth will be available to walk on December 2 and 9, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm

The labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in many cultures around the world. Labyrinth designs on pottery, tablets and tile date back 4,000 years. The labyrinth became part of the western Christian tradition during the Middle Ages, when it was incorporated into Cathedrals across Europe. The Medieval Eleven Circuit Labyrinth is replicated on the floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France, where it was placed in 1201. This is the style of our labyrinth.

Labyrinths help one quiet the mind, find balance, and encourage meditation, insight and celebration. They are open to all as a non-denominational, cross-cultural tool for reflection. The labyrinth is not a maze. There are no tricks to it and no dead ends. It has a simple circuitous path winding to the center. The person walking it uses the same path to return and the entrance becomes the exit. The path is in full view, which allows a person to be quiet and internally focused. The labyrinth is a path of prayer, a walking meditation, a crucible of change, a watering hole for the spirit, and a mirror of the soul.

Christmas Service Schedule

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve
4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm

Friday, December 25
Christmas Day: 9:00 am

NO 5:00 SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
on December 26.

Sunday, December 27,
8:15am and 10:00 am.
No Godly Play this morning.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Larry Royds
- 2 Ian McKinley Mulcare
- 3 Hannah Driscoll
- 6 Ric Vertuca, Don Martinson
- 7 Jon Cooper
- 8 Nicholas Kapela, Scott Herring
- 9 Mindy Buzas
- 11 Allison Reid, Tom Godfrey
- 12 Miriam Peters
- 13 Richard Delaney, John Metzger
- 14 Jane Rogers
- 15 Robin Guilford, Jere Freeman
- 16 Matthew Kachensky
- 17 Colleen Conant
- 22 Brianna Poley
- 24 Rick Dauer
- 26 Megan Herring
- 29 Tim Beaton, Meg Thornbury,
Deborah Royds, Katy Schmoll,
Sarah McKee Cooper
- 30 Alison Rowan
- 31 Eric Kallgren

If we missed your birthday or anniversary please call the church office and we will add your name to the calendar.

Women's Epiphany Gathering

**January 7
7:00 pm**

The women of St. Mary Magdalene are invited to an Epiphany gathering on Thursday, January 7, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Guests are welcome. There will be light refreshments served, time for visiting with one another, and a reflection on the season presented by Mary Hardy. We will also discuss ways in which women's spiritual, friendship, and support needs might be met over the coming year. Come stand or sit by the fire and enjoy the company of some wonderful ladies--a great way to start the new year! If you need childcare in order to attend, contact the office by the end of December so that arrangements can be made.

Please RSVP to the church office
if you plan to attend:
office@stmarymagdalene.org
or 303-530-1421.

Cambridge Cake Update

Thank you to everyone who purchased cakes this year. Once all the cakes are sold, we will make about \$400 for outreach. A special thanks goes to Terry McDanel for donating the honey used in the cakes. Terry has provided honey for many years, and we appreciate that he does this for us! The next special thanks goes to our bakers - Karen Bennett, Vivian Dratch, Sarah Delaney, Kim Freymiller, Karen Klena, and Carol L'Orange. It could not be done without your help!

Thank you everyone who has taken name tags to donate gifts to the families we have adopted this Christmas season. Please wrap the gifts and attach the name tag with the name and number. Let's all try to follow Father Mike's advice and get our shopping done before Advent or soon after! Gifts do need to be brought to church NO LATER than Sunday, Dec. 13, but the sooner, the better!

Godly Play News

Did you know that some people can walk right through one of the great times in the church year and not even know what's there? That's why the church set aside time to help people get ready. Advent – a time to get ready to come close to the Mystery of Christmas. We need this time to get ready so we don't walk right through this great Mystery and miss what is there. This is true for children as well as adults. There are many ways for the children of St. Mary Magdalene to “get ready.” One is to participate in the annual Walking the Labyrinth/Candle Making event. Walking the labyrinth is a way to slow down and think about the journey we are on. Candle making is a way to remind us we are getting ready to welcome the Light of the World into our lives. This event will be Wednesday evening, December 2 from 6:30 – 8:00.

Another way for the children to get ready is to use an Advent calendar. These are available in the kiosk and there is one for every child in the parish.

During the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service the children will carry the Nativity figures up to the crèche. If your child would like to participate please sign them up on the sheet at the kiosk. The number of participants is limited to 13. This number includes the narrator. The figures are in the storage closet just to the right as you come in the front door of the church. Please take a look at them and make sure your child is able to carry them as they are fairly large.

At the end of December we will finish Session 2 of Godly Play. January will begin Session 3 and we still have a few slots open for volunteers to help. We also have a few slots open for Session 4, which begins in March.

May you all have a blessed Advent season in which to get ready for this wonderful Mystery.

Yours in God and play,
Tammi and Barb 

Book Club

Our next book is Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*. We will meet at Marge and Ed Szoke's home on Friday, Jan 8 at 7pm, 610 Country Lane, Boulder, 80301. Respond to szokebou@comcast.net or (303) 494-9150.

Our second book is R.D. Rosen's *A Buffalo in the House*. Amazon has it used for \$0.95 plus shipping! We will meet at Donna Hackney's home on Friday, Feb 19 at 7pm, 7788 Devonshire Way, Boulder, 80301. Respond to d.hackney@comcast.net or (303) 581-9598.

Here is an Amazon review of *The Lost Symbol*:

Is *The Lost Symbol* as good as *The Da Vinci Code*? Yes! Dan Brown has mastered the art of blending nail-biting suspense with random arcana (from pop science to religion), and *The Lost Symbol* is an enthralling mix. And what a dazzling accomplishment that is, considering that rabid fans and skeptics alike are scrutinizing every word. *The Lost Symbol* begins with an ancient ritual, a shadowy enclave, and of course, a secret. Readers know they are in Dan Brown territory when, by the end of the first chapter, a secret within a secret is revealed. To tell too much would ruin the fun of reading this delicious thriller, so you will find no spoilers here. As with many series featuring a recurring character, there is a bit of a formula at work (one that fans will love). Again, brilliant Harvard professor Robert Langdon finds himself in a predicament that requires his vast knowledge of symbology and superior problem-solving skills to save the day. The setting, unlike other Robert Langdon novels, is stateside, and in Brown's hands Washington D.C. is as fascinating as Paris or Vatican City. And the pace is relentless, the revelations many, and there is an endless parade of intriguing factoids that will make you feel like you are spending the afternoon with Robert Langdon and the guys from *Mythbusters*. Nothing is as it seems in *The Lost Symbol*--but Brown also challenges his fans to open their minds to new information. Skeptical? Imagine how many other thrillers would spawn millions of Google searches for noetic science, superstring theory, and *Apotheosis of Washington*. *The Lost Symbol* is superior. --Daphne Durham

Here is the Amazon review of *A Buffalo in the House*:

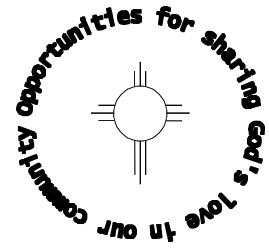
Amid the noise, dust and confusion of a moving buffalo herd near Yellowstone National Park, a newly born buffalo calf strays from his mother, never to see her again. Eventually "mother" would be Roger Brooks, a retired commercial airline pilot, and his wife Veryl Goodnight, a sculptor, who adopted and named the buffalo Charlie, after Veryl's legendary great-great uncle Charles Goodnight, who helped bring back buffaloes from near extinction. Author R.D. Rosen tells the story of the couple and the joys, difficulties and sorrows they experience while raising Charlie from week-old bottle-fed calf to 1800-pound bull. Reading of these experiences just drained my emotions. I treasure this book for its revelation of how an animal can affect so intimately those who care for it. I was drawn mostly to Roger's close attachment to Charlie. "Ethologists and philosophers argue endlessly about what animals feel," the author writes, "and whether they feel in the same way that humans do. In Charlie's case . . . it was a question of something else altogether: how deeply an animal can get a human to feel." There lies the beauty of this book.

Interwoven with Charlie's story is the history of the plight of the buffalo, or bison, an American icon. I value the book for its documentation of the hardships of the buffalo in American history and the efforts of caring people trying to protect this majestic animal, a living symbol of America's heritage. Today, the herd at Yellowstone is the only continuously wild herd left in America, yet these buffalo are frequently mistreated. Rosen writes of efforts to preserve the Yellowstone herd, especially the work of the Buffalo Field Campaign, a group that is at the forefront of efforts to protect the wild buffaloes.

Enjoy! See you there!
Janet and Bob Poley

Outreach Opportunity!

The St. Mary Magdalene community is invited to participate in a Habitat for Humanity "Apostles Build."



Builders and lunch providers are needed as follows:

First Build Day:	Saturday, Dec. 12
SMM provides lunch:	Saturday, January 9
Second Build Day:	Friday, January 22
Third Build Day:	Saturday, March 6

The home we will be working on is part of a multiple unit complex. The structure will be enclosed before we begin.

To participate, please sign up on the sheet provided at the kiosk so that Mark Christie can coordinate our efforts with Habitat for Humanity. You will then be directed to the online Habitat for Humanity registration where the needed forms can be found.

In other Outreach News -

The Outreach committee has been able to designate funds to many organizations in 2010, thanks to the generosity of our SMM community. Organizations that have benefited include:

- St. Benedict's Health & Healing
- Gunbarrel Preschool
- Habitat for Humanity
- 9 News Health Fair
- Compassion International
- Mary's Hope
- Hope International
- The Well
- Colorado Haiti Project
- Lillian Vallely School
- HOPE Longmont
- Crop Walk
- SMM Community Garden
- Asia Transpacific Foundation
- Episcopal Church Ramla
- SMM Youth Mission Trip
- Diocese of Jerusalem
- HfH Apostles Build

The Outreach Committee usually meets on the 3rd Monday of the month.

**Anyone with an interest in what the church does
for Outreach is welcome and encouraged to attend!**

Our next meeting will be January 20, 2010.

Come and see how we can celebrate and share God's love...

December 2009 Calendar of Events

		1 9:15 Centering Prayer 6:30 pm Men's Group Bowling	2 6:30 – 8:00 pm Children walk Labyrinth/ Candle-Making 6:30 – 8:30 Labyrinth available to walk	3	4 7:00 pm Music Night at Guilford's	5 5:00 pm Worship service
6 8:15 Worship 10:00 Worship	7 5:45 pm EFM	8 9:15 Centering Prayer 6:30 pm Choir practice	9 6:30 – 8:30 Labyrinth available to walk	10 9:00 am Mindful Handicrafts	11	12 8:00 am Habitat Building Day 5:00 pm Contemplative service
13 8:15 Worship 10:00 Worship 5:30 pm Vestry meeting & party at Katy Schmoll's	14 5:45 pm EFM	15 9:15 Centering Prayer 6:30 pm Choir practice	16	17 9:00 am Mindful Handicrafts	18 6:00 pm Staff Christmas party	19 5:00 pm Christmas Candlelight Festival
20 8:15 Worship 10:00 Worship	21 7:00 pm Outreach	22 9:15 Centering Prayer	23	24 Christmas Eve services 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 10:00 pm	25 9:00 am Christmas Day service	26 NO 5:00 service
27 8:15 Worship 10:00 Worship	28	29	30	31		

Treasurer's Update

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to give you an update on the current year's financial performance. Through the end of October, plate collections were \$3,000 under the budget of \$15,000 and 2009 pledge payments were below the budget of \$250,000 by \$11,000. In addition, the November and December budget targets are high due to the holidays and include plate receipts of \$10,000 and pledge receipts of \$70,000.

Although we have been faced with some major maintenance costs this year, the expenses are currently running under budget by \$6,000. A portion of this is attributable to reductions in funding outreach as well as our tithes to the diocese and region due to the shortfall in revenue. If you have fallen behind in your pledge, please bring it current so that we can meet all of financial commitments.

December Ministry Duties

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Greeter	8:15 Bob & Janet Poley 10:00 Frank & Karen Lamb	8:15 Katy Schmoll 10:00 Peter & Jeri Chandler	8:15 Shelby & Carolyn Kesterson 10:00 John Thornbury, Jane Rogers	8:15 Bob & Janet Poley 10:00 Frank & Karen Lamb
Healing Prayer	8:15 RJ Harrington 10:00 Linda White, Cheryl Andrews	8:15 Cheryl Andrews 10:00 Jeri Chandler, Linda White	8:15 Jeri Chandler 10:00 Linda White RJ Harrington	8:15 Linda White 10:00 Jeri Chandler, Cheryl Andrews
Ushers	8:15 Rick & Karen Dauer 10:00 Doug & Leslie Harvison	8:15 Bob & Dickey Lee Hullingerhorst 10:00 Niles Oien, Tiffany O'Meara	8:15 Neil & Maria Cox 10:00 Win & Spen Kellogg	8:15 Dennis & Jenny Kapela 10:00 Robin & Patti Guilford
Altar Guild	8:15 Keyo Ross 10:00 Janie Pierre	8:15 Mark Handschy 10:00 Vivian Dratch	8:15 Arlee 10:00 Arlee	8:15 10:00
Eucharistic Visitor	Heather & Devi	Shelby & Carolyn	Karen Klena	Sarah & Eric
Lector/ Chalice Bearer	8:15 Tina Fredo 10:00 Fanning, Kip White	8:15 Sarah Wheeler 10:00 Gete Bond, Janet Poley	8:15 Larry Burgess 10:00 Julia Lee- Taylor, Peter Chandler	8:15 Carol Hall 10:00 Kip White, Fanning
Acolyte	8:15 Alison Rowan 10:00 Shea & Meagan Herring	8:15 Alli Mulcare 10:00 Cate Thornbury, Emiko Fredo	8:15 Mark Lillie 10:00 Colin & Devin Doyle	8:15 Patricia Hyde 10:00 Alison Rowan
Sound Engineer	8:15 10:00 Eric Tussey	8:15 10:00 Bea & John Morreale	8:15 10:00 Phillip Killeen	8:15 Alex Petroy 10:00 Meg Thornbury
Nursery Helper	Patti Guilford	Niles Oien	Trish Wood	Carol Park
Coffee Hour	Cheryl Flink	Gete Bond	Need volunteer	Need volunteer