

The Call

April 2010

Vol. VIII, No. IV



Stonemasons at work

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 13145 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO 64145

Fr. Jason writes—

SHARING AND LISTENING TO THE NEW LIFE GOD IS BREATHING INTO OUR COMMUNITY

Forward in Mission: *Easter Listening Tour*



Easter Season is a time to become newly aware of and celebrate life. (Easter Season is 50 days long, running from Easter Day through The Day of Pentecost.) In Easter the Lenten focus upon our human limitations, brokenness, and need for the wholeness only God can bring to completion (read “redemption”), gives way to a celebration of the new life God can and does offer us. Easter is all about life!

In particular, Easter Season this year is very special for the life of our church community. It will be our last Easter in our current ministry location. And also during this time there will be much focus and activity around preparing our new building and property. This Easter Season much “life energy” will go into getting ready for and anticipating the new life that will occur as a result of our upcoming move. Thus, this Easter Season will be all about the life given to us during this upcoming transition. Easter will be a time for us to breathe life into our new building and property, and a time for us to prepare for and anticipate the new life God will give us in and through our new ministry location.

To help deepen and expand our growth into this new life with which God is gifting our community, your Bishop’s Committee (the small group of lay leaders who pray, discern and help make decisions regarding the ministry of our church) will be hosting a “listening tour,” throughout the Easter Season.

What is a “listening tour”? What will happen during this time? This listening tour will be an intentional process by which our community will gather to reflect upon, share and listen to the “life energy” which animates, motivates and propels us forward.

Why is this important? Because, our community has experiences, core values and desires for our future that connect all of us to one another in a shared life and that gives birth to the dynamic energy that has and will allow us to accomplish our mission and goals. These experiences, values and desires bond our community and enable us to move forward into our

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future. In order to live in this future that we desire (and that God is breathing and birthing in us) we must listen well to the life God has given to us in the past, is giving us now in the present, and is calling us to live into the future. The sharing and listening that will occur during this listening tour will be vital to our living into the new life to which God is calling us.

So, during the 2010 Easter Season your Bishop's Committee will be hosting four evenings to have you come, share, and listen to the "life" that connects you to and animates your involvement with and ministry through St. Mary Magdalene.

I can't encourage you enough to join in this listening process. I can personally testify to how energizing and life-giving these events can be. Come out to one of these evenings to share your story, hear our common story and connect with the future movement and mission God is birthing within our church!

For more details, please see the "*Forward in Mission: Easter Listening Tour*" ad found on page 4 in this newsletter. Plan to attend one of these evenings and get it on your calendar today. *Come on out! You don't want to miss this!*

In the Risen Christ,
Fr. Jason+

+HOLY WEEK+

*Thursday, April 1	7 p.m.	Maundy Thursday
*Friday, April 2	12 p.m.	Noonday Stations of the Cross
	7 p.m.	Good Friday Liturgy
*Saturday, April 3	3 p.m.	Liturgy of 'The Great Sabbath' - Holy Saturday
	6 p.m.	Family Worship: ++ The Great Easter Vigil ++
Sunday, April 4	10:30 a.m.	Sunday of the Resurrection

ALL WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE AT THE STATE LINE CHAPEL

All worship is family friendly.

Child care will be provided for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil.

* **"The Triduum" (Great Three Days):** *The worship from Maundy Thursday through the Great Easter Vigil make up one long three-day worship service. The community is never formally dismissed from Maundy Thursday worship – we prayerfully go home in our worship to wait our return to continue in our walk with Jesus through his death, descent and resurrection. **Silence is kept on all church precincts from Maundy Thursday through Great Easter Vigil.***

Mary Mag's people fulfill pledges despite challenging economy

By David Garrison

The Capital Campaign Committee is pleased to report that, of the \$475,000 committed to the church building fund, the generous people of St. Mary Magdalene have donated \$449,000. *Thanks be to God!*

The committee is grateful to all who have supported the construction of our new church building by contributing so generously of your resources, especially in a challenging economy. We are confident that, with God's grace and the continued faithful assistance of the community, the final \$26,000 will be forthcoming.

Questions regarding the status of the campaign may be directed to David Garrison at (816) 246-3924. Thank you for your continued generous support of our new church home!

**Happy
Easter**

It's happening!



Fair weather on Mar. 26 found the stonemasons laying up limestone at the north end of our new church building.

Children's Ministry

Happy Easter, everyone!

This month we learn what it means to believe in Jesus and his abiding presence.

The cold weather is behind us, and the children are ready to move. We try to include games with movement whenever we can in our lessons, because in the spring little feet and arms want to fly.

We are grateful for our new volunteers, and we have room for more. If you are interested in serving with our children, please speak to one of us.

We are honored to teach your children,

Your Children's Ministry Committee,

Marilou Hart, Denise Koch, Gudrun Neumann, Ali Wormington



Getting the new building ready: *Volunteer Saturdays!*

We will have many chores to do to get the new St. Mary Magdalene church building ready for occupancy. On seven Saturdays in April, May and June, volunteers will work from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. both inside and outside the new building. Projects include painting, landscaping, and cleaning. Children are welcome to help. Donuts, coffee and juice will be ready at 8:30am. **The Volunteer Saturdays will be April 10 and 17; May 8, 15 and 22; and June 5 and 12.**

Chet Neumann will coordinate, and will be on site each of these Saturdays. If you have questions or need more information, contact Chet at (816) 835-8873.

Save this date . . . for fun

Mark your calendars now to save Sat., Aug. 28, for **Episcopal Community Services Hunger Action Day** hosted by St. Mary Magdalene Church.

The day will include playing Disc Golf (like we did last year), but will also involve other hunger-fighting activities. All ages and interests will be invited for a whole day of programs. Details will be published in the May issue of *The Call*.

Bishop search updates on web

A website regarding the search for the Diocese of West Missouri's eighth bishop is now available. It includes a timeline, what criteria the committees are looking for in bishop candidates, and the reports of listening sessions and the online survey.

To access the bishop search Web site, go to westmobishopsearch.org.

Forward in Mission *Easter Listening Tour*

Celebrating our Past and Preparing for our Future Mission

Come on out and share your stories about our church community! We'll be sharing best experiences, what you think is our community's "core values" and the wishes you have for the future of our church's life.

**You won't want to miss these important events
in the life of your church community!**

(See Father Jason's front page article for the back story on these events, and watch for an all-church mailing that will describe these events in detail, with maps to each host home.)

TIME

7 to 8:30 p.m. on each of four consecutive Tuesday evenings in the Easter Season.

You don't have to attend the meeting nearest your home.

Just choose an evening that fits best with your schedule.

DATES

Each evening is hosted and facilitated by one of your Bishop's Committee members!

April 27 - South of Hwy. 150 - The Koch Family Home

May 4 - South of I-435 - The Griffith Family Home

May 11 - North of I-435 - The Sponagel Family Home

May 18 - East of US 71 - The Garrison Family Home

CHILDCARE

Childcare will be provided by the church at each host family's home.

If you intend to bring children, please RSVP to the host family of the evening you will attend.

Buying stuff to fix up your yard can help feed our area's needy

By Chet Neumann

Will you be buying flowers, shrubs, trees and gardening supplies for your home this spring?

If so, you can benefit St. Mary Mag's hunger relief activities by shopping at Suburban Lawn & Garden's 135th Street store on Fri., May 14, between 5 and 8 p.m. Suburban Lawn & Garden will donate 10 percent of all sales that evening to St. Mary Magdalene's hunger relief activities, including the Community Garden, the BackSnack school program and the St. Mary's Saturday lunch and food pantry. That's 10 percent of *all* sales during the three-hour period, so encourage your friends

and neighbors to shop then, too.

There will also be entertainment that evening, a table of snacks and hors d'ouvres, and a free wine bar, all courtesy of Suburban. St. Mary Magdalene volunteers will greet shoppers, and explain our hunger relief ministries. You may also order items that evening for later delivery, and the 10 percent proceeds will still go to our hunger relief programs.

Please note: *The prices of trees are the lowest in twenty years. This is a great opportunity to beautify your property and also help hunger relief. Remember, Mother's Day is coming up on May 9!*

The Bulletin Board

Benedictine Study

We meet at 7 p.m. Tues., Apr. 13, at the State Line Chapel to discuss Sections 5 and 6 of *Seeking God* by Esther deWall. For information, call Cori Pursell, (913) 661-0642.

Better Than Ever

Better Than Ever Dinner Club will meet Sat., Apr. 24, at 5:30 p.m., at Jess and Jim's Steakhouse, 135th and Locust in Martin City. The restaurant is west of the intersection of 135th and Holmes. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex of the church. Call Ida Cox at (913) 906-9161 if you have questions.

Women's Book Club

The monthly meeting is at 7 p.m. Mon., Apr. 5, at the State Line Chapel. We will discuss the first 12 sections of, *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope*, by Joan Chittister. All women are welcome. If you have questions, call Celia McElhany, (816) 537-0205.

Women's Night of Bunco

There will be a night of fun, food, and Bunco on Sat., Apr. 24, at 6:30 PM. Julie Sponagel has graciously offered to have this event at her home, 8950 Conser, St. Overland Park, and Amy Lewis will be the hostess.

Money raised at the Women's Night of Bunco will go toward travel expenses of our members volunteering for the trip to Mission on the Bay (moved from Camp Coast Care to be closer to the action) where St. Mary Mag people will continue to help those whose homes and lives were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Bring your favorite beverage, your laughter, your sense of humor . . . and lots of money. For more information, contact Deacon Peisha, (816) 214-6220.



Mary Mag helping feed 140 children; can you assist?

In partnership with Harvesters and Episcopal Community Services, St. Mary Magdalene Church provides weekly backpacks of food to 140 children at the Martin City School who deal with chronic hunger. The intent is to provide these children with food during each weekend when the school is unable to provide them with breakfast or lunch.

If you've never had the opportunity to hand food to a hungry child, you're missing out on an incredible experience! Seeing their expressions of gratitude can be life-changing for those of us who are fortunate enough to not go hungry.

We're looking for help on Friday afternoons to distribute backpacks of food to these children. Volunteers need to meet at the State Line

chapel at 2 p.m. on their assigned Friday, help load the backpacks into vehicles (having a large car is not a requirement), deliver the backpacks to the school, and then distribute the back packs to our assigned children. The distribution is done by 4 p.m.

Site Council to focus on community needs

The Local Investment Commission (LINC) is the organization that helps us coordinate the BackSnack ministry opportunity at the Martin City School. In order to better meet the needs of families served by the school, LINC is setting up a site council to discuss the community's needs and how we can help meet them.

If you'd like to be a part of the site council, you'll be welcome at the meetings on Wednesdays, Apr. 7, Apr. 21, May 5 and May 19. Each meeting is from 5 to 6 p.m. in a room entered via the school cafeteria. If you bring children with you, they can play in the cafeteria while we meet.

For more information, contact Julie Sponagel at (913) 940-9089 or sponagels@yahoo.com.

If each family (yes, you can bring your children) in our church signs up for *one Friday afternoon*, we'll have plenty of volunteers! Sign-up today in the narthex or by contacting Julie Sponagel at sponagels@yahoo.com or (913) 940-9089.

You can also help each week by packing the backpacks. Listen for the bell shortly after each Sunday service and meet at the tables loaded with packs of food at the back of the education area.

+ Confirmation +

Youth Confirmation Classes

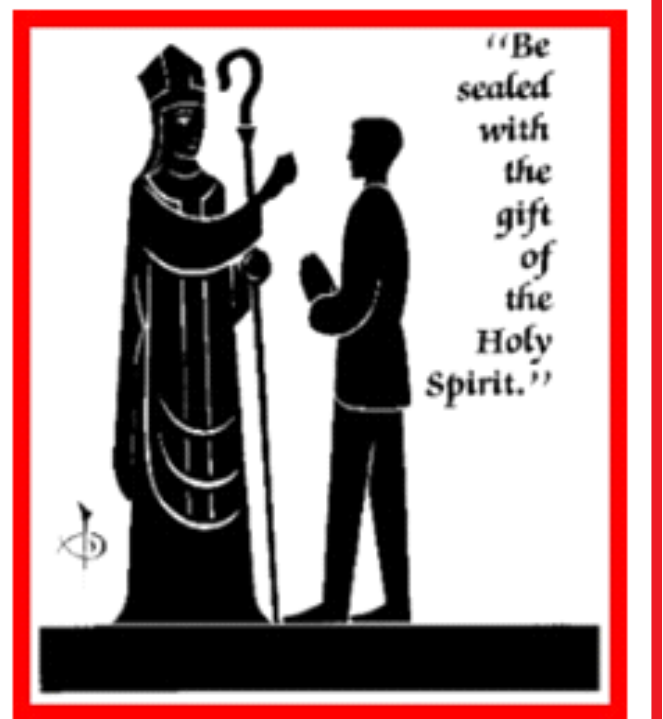
Sunday, April 11 – Noon to 2:30 p.m.
Lunch will be served.

Sunday, April 18 – Noon to 2:30 p.m.
Lunch will be served.

Adult Confirmation Class

Wednesday, April 14 – 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Dinner will be served.

Contact: 816-331-2222 or
jason@marymag.com.



It's time to take a new family picture for the directory

If you think of St. Mary Mag's as your church home, we'd like to have your family picture and contact info in our church directory. On each Sunday in April, Frank Baker will be available after service to take photos for the directory. So take a few minutes to gather your family, find Frank, and have your picture taken, either as an update or a new addition.



Adult Christian Formation



By Linda Keith

Mealtime. Maybe you are the cook. Maybe you set the table, or do the clean-up. Maybe you are racing around town taking the kids to their events and mealtime is a quick burger from a drive-through. Maybe this meal is shared with a table full of friends or maybe it is just you and the newspaper or television. Maybe you will enjoy a hearty stew or simply a piece of toast with butter. Whatever you have before you, a plant or animal gave so that you might live. You bow your head and give thanks.

Sound familiar? Each Sunday morning our community joins together to remember Christ's sacrifice as we eat the bread and drink the wine. Is it just a routine? Or is something else going on? During the Season of Easter our **Thursday Adult Study** and **Sophia** groups will be sharing conversation based on the book, *The Sacred Meal*, by Nora Gallagher. Gallagher will reach inside this sacrament with her wit, her connection to real life and her occasional "edge" to deepen our communion experience.

Books are available through Amazon.com or your local bookstore. If you have difficulty finding a book, call Linda at (816) 331-1428. Watch the weekly newsletter for the scheduled reading. Each weekly reading should take about an hour of your time at home. Please note: All are welcome to participate in these sessions – even if you don't have time to do the reading.

Adult Study

Adult Study is a time for adults to grow in faith as we walk together through the liturgical year. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 at the State Line Chapel. Our Season of Easter study will begin on Thurs., Apr. 15, and run through Thurs., May 6. For questions, call Linda Keith at (816) 331-1428.

Sophia

Sophia is an opportunity for moms with children still at home (infant through high school) to talk about our lives, our faith and our relationships. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 at the State Line Chapel. Our Season of Easter study will begin on Apr. 14 and run through May 5. Childcare is available, but you must register. Call Linda Keith at (816) 331-1428.

Adult Forum

Adult Forum is an opportunity for adults to dig into the weekly scriptures and discover the relevance applicable to our daily lives. We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 in the education area of the Chapel. For questions, call Linda Keith at (816) 331-1428.

Haiti birthing center faces new challenges

Despite the earthquake that ravaged Haiti and will affect its landscape and people for years to come, Maison de Naissance (MN) is still standing—and still growing. MN continues to need our financial support to keep it open and serving Haiti's poor.

MN focuses on the health of mothers and their babies by providing care:

- Women's reproductive health and family planning
- Pre-natal care
- Supervised delivery
- Post-natal care
- Well-baby care through infancy
- Community health visits.

Healthcare and health supplies are free to

mothers and infants at MN—no mother or baby is turned away because of inability to pay.

The future impact of the earthquake on MN is hard to predict. Many supplies are now expensive and scarce, which will increase our operational expenses and weaken the healthcare infrastructure in the area around MN. The logistics of delivering supplies are tremendously complex. The strong population migration from Port au Prince to the South will affect our patient population and is likely to increase the demand for our services.

While MN is not a relief organization, it continues to address the critical needs of healthcare for women and their babies. We will need increased financial support from many partners to sustain our programs of health and development solutions with proven efficacy.

Mary Mag needs to smooth income flow

By Kevin Bye, Financial Secretary

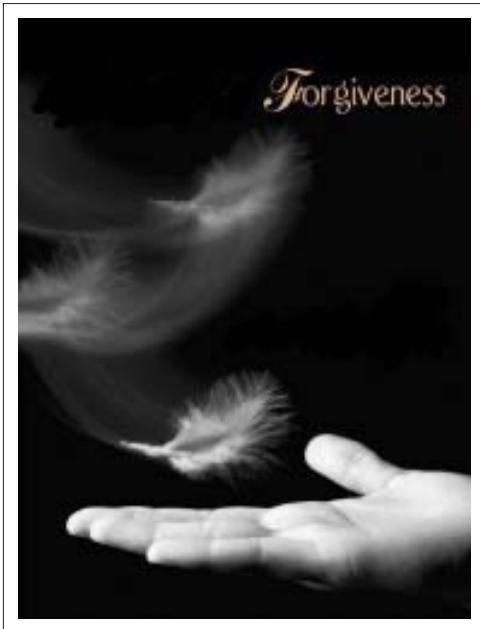
This is an exciting time in our community's life as we anticipate our move into a new, bigger, and much more permanent church home. This year is also a complex one for us financially.

We are a growing, thriving community with many diverse ministries and opportunities to proclaim the Good News of Christ beyond ourselves. In order to fund our lives together in worship, education and fellowship, as well as our missions and outreach programs, we rely mainly on funds from our congregation as pledged in our fall stewardship campaign to support the operating budget. As discussed at the Annual Meeting a few weeks ago, we currently have close to \$25,000 in monthly operating expenses.

Our congregation has tended to "backload" pledge payment heavily into the fourth quarter of the calendar year. As our financial circumstances are changing and we are using our money very differently than we ever have before, that practice has become problematic, as it does not allow the church adequate cash flow to meet our operations obligations. I encourage all members to prayerfully consider a smoother, more regular allocation of your pledge payments in 2010 and beyond, in order to alleviate cash flow concerns.

As always, if you have questions about our church's financial matters, please do not hesitate to ask me or any member of the Bishop's Committee. We would love to hear from you and talk with you about the use of God's resources through our church.

HOUSE OF GRACE
An Episcopal Retreat House
announces its Easter offering



Forgiveness:
The Way to Freedom

A retreat led by
The Rev. Jerry Skillicorn

To forgive is to relinquish the right to hold people's sins against them. Because our hurts have long memories, we are imprisoned in the past. Jesus came to set the prisoners free. This Quiet Day will concentrate on how we can pray so that the mission of Jesus can be accomplished in our lives.

For over fifty years, Fr. Jerry Skillicorn has been a skilled retreat leader and has led retreats and conferences aimed at developing one's spiritual life. He leads people through spiritual exercises, and teaches centering prayer, meditation, methods for entering the scriptural story and ways of prayer ministry.

Saturday, April 24
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
House of Grace

16808 Holmes Road, Village of Loch Lloyd, MO 64012

To register, please visit the website at www.marymag.com or contact Cori Pursell at 913-206-0869. There is a \$50 workshop fee that includes your lunch. Scholarships are available to those who need assistance. Please send your registration or check deposit in the amount of \$20 to the address listed above by April 5. Plan to arrive by 8:45 a.m. to settle in and prepare for prayer.

Here's more chances to help people in need

By Deacon Peisha Roumas

St. Mary Magdalene's is planning a mission trip to help those who continue to suffer from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. We will leave on Sun., May 9, for *Mission on the Bay* (the new base for operations formerly based at Camp Coast Care) and return home Sat., May 15. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table at the State Line Chapel.

Do not let the fear of physical activity scare you away. The camp has a variety of job opportunities. The younger and more vigorous people can go out to the sites and help with actual building, painting, and the activities of putting a house back together. For those of us who prefer a little less strenuous work, there are clerical, cleaning, and prep cooking tasks on the camp grounds.

The estimated cost of the trip is \$425. As a means to help with the cost, several events will be held, including:

Sun., Apr. 11 5 to 7 p.m. All-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner at the State Line Chapel

Wed., Apr. 21 6:30 p.m. Evening prayer at the State Line Chapel
7 p.m. Dinner at Applebee's (15% of check goes to Mary Mag)

Sat., Apr. 24 6:30 p.m. Ladies Bunco at Sponagel's, 8950 Conser, O.P.

Wed., Apr. 28 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer at the State Line Chapel
7 p.m. Dinner at Applebee's (15% of check goes to Mary Mag)

If you have questions about our trip or these events, contact Deacon Peisha at (816) 214-6220.



After a difficult winter, fair weather has brought a surge of activity to St. Mary Magdalene's construction site. On Mar. 26, the Holmes Road setting resounded with the tools and voices of carpenters, roofers, stonemasons, electricians and cleanup crew workers.

Schedule changes in works for serving at St. Mary's Kitchen

By Julie Sponagel

The people of St. Mary Magdalene Church serve food to Kansas City's homeless and working poor on a recurring basis at the kitchen of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in downtown KC—usually once each month.

For the next few months, we'll be taking some time off from this schedule due to a renovation project St. Mary's church is undertaking. For the remainder of 2010 we'll be serving at St. Mary's on June 26, July 17, Sept. 18, Oct. 23 and Dec. 25. Signup sheets for all dates are available in the narthex. School-age children accompanied by an adult are welcome to help. For info, contact Julie Sponagel at sponagels@yahoo.com or (913) 940-9089.

Still interested in helping at St. Mary's Kitchen in April, May and June while renovations are taking place? St. Mary's Kitchen staff will still have their food pantry open every Saturday and are looking for two volunteers to help each week beginning Apr. 10 through June 19. Each Saturday shift is from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and involves bagging and distributing food in the pantry at St. Mary's. If you're interested in helping in this capacity (whether you can help with only one Saturday or several), contact Julie Sponagel at sponagels@yahoo.com or (913) 940-9089.



A view of the future site of countless celebrations of our relationship with God

As the band of believers

who are St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, we seek to be—

Real

We aim to live out our faith with authenticity. We don't claim to have all the answers, but we are committed to faithfully searching for them together in the boundless truth of Christ while honoring one another in the process.

Rooted

We honor the beauty and the mystery of the Episcopal tradition, while remaining open to the Holy Spirit's call to worship today. We thank God for all the faithful followers of Jesus who through the ages conveyed his message of hope to us. In their steps, St. Mary Magdalene looks to take our place in Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Relevant

Our faith must intersect with the center of our lives to be meaningful to us and useful to others. When God decided to come into the middle of our world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, he showed us that he wants to meet people where they are, in the places they live and in all of life's circumstances. Whatever your life situation might be, St. Mary Magdalene is ready to assist you in the pursuit of a dynamic faith in Jesus Christ.

Birthdays

- Apr. 1 Diorlena Natera
- Apr. 5 Alex Fetters
- Apr. 5 Shane Wilson
- Apr. 6 Elian Steffen
- Apr. 11 Anet Stevens
- Apr. 16 John Butrick
- Apr. 16 Natalie Coleman
- Apr. 18 Coen Doss
- Apr. 19 Brian Barling
- Apr. 19 Matthew Boucher
- Apr. 21 Jaime Butrick
- Apr. 24 Kelsi Fetters
- Apr. 24 Bradley Kiehl
- Apr. 25 Celia McElhany
- Apr. 25 Will Carter
- Apr. 26 Eric Andrews
- Apr. 26 Alex Andrews
- Apr. 26 Rick Fite

Anniversaries

- Apr. 21 Ron & Donna Parker



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