

The Bells of Saint Mary

June, 2009

With My Hand on the Plow: Servant-hood, Formation & Renewal

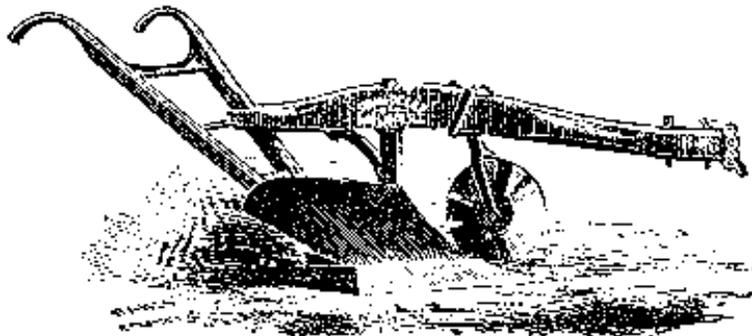
This edition of the Bells comes to you just as we have completed our celebration of the "Birthday of the Church"-- Pentecost. When we gathered the whole community at the one service at 10 o'clock in the morning on May 31st, we did so to celebrate our common life together in the sure knowledge that there are "many gifts, but one Spirit." And it is the working practical knowledge of this that informs our Vestry's leadership in the three primary areas of focus in ministry for our church this year; servant-hood, formation and renewal.

Being a servant to others is an embracing of my own working definition of what it means to be a Christian. "Think of the other person before you think of yourself" is how you have heard me say it, many times in sermons and in conversation. My understanding of it comes from a time probably ten years ago when my then 14 or 15 year old son asked me how it was that Deborah and I had been together for so long...and the words just came out of my mouth. And when I heard them, I realized that the Lord had given me some wisdom to live by, which I have sought to give away the knowledge of ever since.

We need to be about the business of serving one another. It is how we will best care for one another, how we will continue to

grow our church, and how we best can embrace the Gospel message of Jesus. When we see other's working, pitch in. When you see something that needs attention, tend to it. If our folks are in hospital, visit them. Jesus says to us: *"I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."* (John 15: 13 -14) Serving one another is an act of Christian

friendship, and treating each other as friends brings honor to God our Father, and to God's son Jesus, who is our Master and our Teacher.



Formation is the life-long work of any committed Christian. What's the old line? "If you ain't growing, you're dying". If we want our lives as Christian people to be complete and fulfilling, then we need to be studying the scriptures, going to church and worshipping God, and seeking always to learn more about how we can best put our faith into action. This is why I called Trudy to come to St. Mary's as our Missioner for Christian Formation. Trudy knows more about Christian Formation than anybody I know in the church. And after 25 years of working in the church myself, and most of it in the field of Christian Formation, that is saying something.

We have put together for the remainder of this year some remarkable offerings for folks of all ages here at St. Mary's. Because of our Vestry's commitment to these three primary areas of ministry for our parish, they have agreed to move the time of our principal worship service to 10:30 on Sunday mornings, so that all of us can have access to the time that we will be making these offerings. Please read through Trudy's article in this edition to get the details. What I want to say to you is that what we are offering is the very best stuff we have. It is new, it is the result of years of working in the field, it is carefully thought out, and it is intended to deepen our faith, offer new skills and approaches to ministry that will enliven our church and grow our community.

Renewal. It is such an important word. It is critical to our understanding of what it means to be a believer in Jesus Christ, and how it is that we can live that belief in our daily life. Renewal takes on many forms. For some of us we may find renewal in ancient practices such as Centering Prayer or Labyrinth meditation. For others it may be Cursillo. Still others find renewal in retreat away from the noise and pace of daily life, and entering into the spiritual discipline of engaging the Daily Office in monastic settings. But it is always about "re-charging" our batteries. I believe that opportunities for us to gather as a community also provide the opportunity for renewal. Events like the coming Luau in the Park...the Annual Parish Picnic on June 7th at Ken Adams Park is an opportunity for renewal. Renewal of your community is an essential part of feeling renewed. To gather together as one family, eat together, share a meal together, play some games with our kids, sing together, make Eucharist together... these are important reminders that we matter to one another, and that we matter to God.

Our recent service on Armed Forces day was another day that was tremendously renewing to our community. So many of you have made mention of what a great feeling was in church that day. How "right" it felt to lay hands on those of us who have served in the Armed Forces of our country, and how good it was to do that at church. That sense of the holy that somehow seems so elusive in a "normal" day was so evident on that Sunday...this feeling-- this hard-to-put-words-to-but-you-know-it-when-you-feel-it feeling...this too is renewal.

As we enter into our summer months, please know that the direction we are going is one of renewal, and formation and servant-hood ministry. Our offerings of Vacation Bible School, our Sunday morning Christian Formation hour, our Annual Parish Picnic, everything we do will be with this guiding focus in mind. I am not so concerned with growing our church into thousands of people who can't get enough (although I would certainly LOVE it that if that is the Lord's will for us!) so much as I am concerned that we treat our church as what it is: Christ's Body in the world. And when we keep that fixed in our hearts, that the Church is Christ's Body in the world, we will be just fine. Because we will be caring for our community as we would care for Jesus. And in doing that, we will grow our church, and we will care for our people, and we will continue to reach out to the everlasting arms that hold us, and encourage us, and send us ever forward in ministry. And that is exciting, and renewing, and it forms us as strong in our faith and bold in our actions. And that is what being church is all about.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael

JUNE 7th: CHURCH SERVICE AND LUAU AT KEN ADAM PARK

Grab that Hawaiian shirt out of the back of your closet and bring yourself, your family, and friends to Ken Adam Park (right next to the Lompoc Allan Hancock campus) at 10:30am Sunday, June 7, for a musical, prayerful service under the oaks. The service will be followed by a Luau picnic (we will have an authentic roast pig), recognition of our Sunday School teachers, and games for the children. Sign up sheets are being circulated at church for side dishes. St. Mary's will provide paper goods, coffee, water, and lemonade. If you prefer another drink, please bring your own. Come socialize with your fellow parishioners. This is really RADICAL hospitality.



If you would like to help with set-up and/or clean-up, please contact Mike Munson at 637-7400.

Bells Themes for July and August

The July theme is the "Red Shirt Project"; articles are due to the editor June 17th. The August theme is "Mary"; articles are due to the editor July 17th. I will be out of town for most of August, so we'll have to work out arrangements for the September edition (I'll probably edit it on the road with my trusty laptop.) Themes for the following months are:

September:	Back to School
October:	Harvest
November:	Thanksgiving
December:	Anticipation
January, 2010:	Shining Light

John Beeler
Bells Editor

Spring Tea Thank You

On Saturday the 25th of April the St Martha's Guild hosted their annual Tea. We had a full house. Fitch Hall will hold 120 and although there were a few empty chairs...none of us working in the kitchen were seated...We did no advertising except within our parish, so I would like to thank all of you who brought a friend or friends to witness St. Mary's Radical Hospitality. I would like to include a thank you note we received:

To Edythe and Crew:

Once again you have outdone yourselves in providing not only a beautiful setting, but a fabulous tea for us ladies.



"Nature" flower arrangement from annual tea.

We have come to look forward to such a special event, and the outpouring of your love in such a tangible way.

I hope you are as blessed as we are.

Hugs and Thanks

Diane J.....

I too would like to thank the members of our St. Martha's Guild...from the invitations to the Clean-up committee, every one worked tirelessly and with great love. Cynthia Leroy and Jeanne Kendall spearheaded the invitations..helping them was Charlotte Compton and Charlotte Hayes.



Charlotte Hayes photo.

Jeanne Kendall, Ruth Hicks, Charlotte Compton and Alice Drus made the gift baskets....We chose "A Pocketbook of Miracles" as our theme this year. Designing and setting the Tables were Martha's Guild members Jane Longley, Heather Quinn, Suzy Griffin, Anita McManigal, Dana Norris, Barbara Manchester, Linda Everly, Ruth Hicks, Bonnie Fairbanks, Kay Rowland, Jeanne Kendall, Heidi Holdsambeck, Lou Hodges and myself. Some arranged their own flowers, and the rest were done by Heidi Jansson, assisted by Charlotte Compton. Heidi also decorated the entry area with flowers....Helping to set up along with those who set tables were Deanna Daggon and Charlotte Hayes. The bulletin boards were covered with old purses and beautiful scarves. Molly Gerald designed the flyers, and did all the printing that was needed.

Anita McManigal made the tea, and the fabulous kitchen crew were Edythe Ortiz, Carol Shuemaker, Anita McManigal, Kay Rowland, Bonnie Fairbanks, Kathy Gonzales, Mary Jo Wright, Barbara Holt, Molly Gerald, Kim Smith, Heather Quinn, Gisele Boyd-Snee, Elizabeth Hatcher, Lou Hodges, and Heidi Holdsambeck. These ladies baked, prepared, and in many cases served. Our clean-up group was Alice Drus, Louise Larson, Ruth Hicks, Jane Longley, Kathy Gonzales, Barbara Holt, and I am sure may others....To you all I am so grateful. God Bless.



John Beeler photo.

Norma Anderson

The New Education Hour

On Sunday, June 14 at 9:15 AM, St. Mary's will begin our new education hour. We foresee many benefits to this shift. We believe ongoing life-long Christian formation is the right and responsibility of all church members. We cannot be good evangelists and spread the Good News when we don't fully know it or understand it ourselves. We certainly won't be able to pass the faith on to our children if we are unsure ourselves. Creating this education hour

enables more parishioners to participate. Many of our older members don't drive at night. People can have the option of attending either service and still be able to attend classes. Parents will have something meaningful to do while their children are in Sunday School. The children will be able to participate fully in worship, and our acolytes won't have to miss class.

Summer Sunday School will begin its video series, and the J2A group will continue to meet in Dave's room. Our first adult classes will be presented by our Stephen's Ministers, who have made themselves knowledgeable in all aspects of elder care. In August, I will offer several weeks of training on leading small adult study groups. In September, I will present a few weeks of different methods of Bible study. The plan is to have a solid, well trained corps of Adult Study Leaders. The leaders will be able to choose from a large array of resources, books, study guides, lesson plans and series, and DVDs. Our church will build up an up-to-date teaching collection from such respected sources such as The Thoughtful Christian, Leader Resources, and Church Publishing.

Come this fall, we will have a series of Sunday Morning Learning Circles in place. People can move freely in or out of the different circles, as their interest dictates. The circles will be of varying durations, usually lasting anywhere from one to six weeks. When we are in full swing, you can expect the following types of circles to always be available:

- + Children's Godly Play and All things New
- + Rite 13 and J2A
- + Bible Study—different types
- + A parenting Group led by Trudy
- + Short Term Topical Studies on the church in the world.

This system will allow us to be responsive to new developments and issues, as well as to the needs of newcomers. Your ongoing input and participation will allow us all to grow together, and will make this a success.

Trudy Ardizzone, MSW
Missioner for Christian Formation

Help Wanted: The Story Keepers

Some of you may be old enough to remember the excitement of Saturday matinee serials at your local movie theater. These cliffhangers made you eager to return each week to find out what happened to your favorite heroes and heroines. This year for Summer Sunday School we will be following the adventures of *The Story Keepers*, a thirteen part video series. The story follows the trials and triumphs of a baker named Ben and his family. The story is set in the Rome of AD 64 when Nero is persecuting Christians. Often on the run and in danger, the family recalls the parables and teachings of Jesus to help them maintain their courage and faith.

We will need thirteen volunteer "Story Keepers" to manage Summer Sunday School. Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex on Sundays, and in the church office during the week. Responsibilities include bringing a snack, showing the video segment, leading a dis-

cussion about the video, or doing a related activity in response to the segment shown. Leader guide sheets will be available for each week, and will be kept in folders in a box at the church office. Each episode is a half hour. Our Sunday morning Education Hour is from 9:15 to 10:15. The typical sequence is:

- + Experience the story {watch the video}
- + Engage the story {participate in a simple activity}
- + Embody the story {the children tell what they watched in their own words}
- + And if time permits, you may expand the story using supplemental ideas.

We are all required to be story keepers, for that is how our faith is passed on from generation to generation. Before we ever learn theology we learn stories. We start to own our faith when the stories become our story. Help us engage our next generation at St. Mary's by volunteering to be a "story keeper" this summer.

Trudy

More Christian Formation News

EFM Classes To Begin This Fall

We are going to try again to put together a group for Education For Ministry (EFM). EFM is a distance learning theological program of the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Participants commit one year at a time to meet weekly in seminars lead by a trained mentor. Completion of the program takes four years, during which participants study the Bible, church history, and twentieth century theology. EFM provides a comprehensive, experiential education in the foundations and message of our Christian faith. Through a commitment to an ongoing small group process, group members learn how to do theological reflection and to identify the ministry they were called to through their Baptism.

We need a minimum of six and a maximum of twelve to make a viable group. Classes will begin on September 16. They will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Since LA. is a sponsoring diocese, the cost per year is \$340.00. If you need financial assistance you may speak to Fr. Michael about available scholarships. Trudy has the registration forms and some prospectuses. You can also read more about EFM on line. **All registration forms and checks must be in by June 30** so that we can receive our books in time for September.

Vacation Bible School

It's never too late to register for our terrific Vacation Bible School, **My Big Fat Greek VBS**, June 15-19. Children four and up, teens and adults are welcome to join our early church community. Fun, fellowship and learning are the order of the day. Contact Trudy Ardizzone to sign up.

Summer Camp

It's not too late to consider summer camp for your child or teen. These away from home experiences can be character building and create fond lasting memories. Try one of the fine Episcopal Camps in our diocese:

Camp Wrightwood---Joseph Mondragon and Sloan Hamilton, Directors
760-249-3615 - campwrightwood@ladiocese.org

Camp Stevens - Canon Peter Bergstrom, Director
Julian, Ca. 760-765-0028 - www.campstevens.org

Online Classes

The Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership [CALL], which is part of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific is offering four online classes this summer:

- + Greening North American Christianity
- + Creating Opportunity from Transition: Dealing with Change, Conflict and Growth
- + Digging Up Damascus Road: Reading Paul
- + Relationship As a Sacred Path

This is a great way to learn something new without leaving home. For more information or to register contact:

www.cdsp.edu/center_online, 510-204-0703, or e-mail call@cdsp.edu.

Check out **The eMinistry Network** for other online classes and web seminars.

Preparedness and Caregiving

Beginning with the June 7 picnic, St. Mary's second service will begin at 10:30am rather than 10:00am. The purpose of this change is to allow for Christian education for adults and children from 9:15am to 10:15am.

Stephen Ministry will be sponsoring the first series of adult classes during this time period, starting June 21. This series of classes will continue for four Sundays. Our themes are "Be Prepared" and "Christian Caregiving".

The June 21 class will be about Advanced Health Care Directives. Our Lompoc Hospital is advising everyone to have a directive before any procedure, major or minor. Be prepared. We will have examples of directives, and tips about filling them out.

Our June 28 class will center on types of wills and offer information so you can decide what is best for you!

On July 5 the Stephen Ministry team will be explaining what Stephen Ministry is, and what our caregivers have to offer.

July 12 is still in the planning stages, but we hope to have a special guest speaker from the Diocese.

This series will not be just lectures: there will knowledgeable guest speakers, handouts, role play, and opportunities for questions and answers. Everyone is invited. We hope you will join us.

Sally Goetsch, Kay Rowland, and Nancy Straight
Stephen Ministry Leaders

HOW ARE WE DOING??????????

In these times of trial and tribulation, the title question is a very interesting one. The economy has taken a nose dive, something both Democrats and Republicans agree on, something you never thought would happen.

I for one was very concerned about my business this year, as I was planning on semi-retiring next year when I am eligible for full Social Security. Peg and I are working very hard to reduce our debt, so that we could have Social Security pay our fixed obligations, and work small jobs to support some travel. But then the bottom fell out, and I did not know if we would have any work, much less enough to pay off our debt.

What does this have to do with St. Mary's? St. Mary's is a lot like my business, it is dependant upon the generosity of others to survive. Let us look at some figures (*page 10*).

We are at a monthly expense rate of \$3,313.00 more then income. Income is \$1,779.00 below our projected income for the first four months of 2009. If this trend continues we will, for the second consecutive year, end with a deficit. This does not mean we have a debt; St. Mary's is blessed to have cash reserves to make up a deficit, but it is not a bottomless pit. As we speak, your vestry is working on ways to shore up the reserves by increasing our interest income which is a difficult task when interest rates are at the 0.5% level.

Your Vestry is working to reduce the spending, but we, the congregation, are the only ones who can increase the income. The numbers I gave above are through April, and summer is just around the corner. This a time when income historically goes down with parishioners on vacations, sports keeping us busy on weekends, etc. I know we all have good intentions to make up our short falls in the fall, and most of us do! But if we are already behind in our giving, can we really make up 6 or 7 months in 5 or 6 months?

My business has increased; Peg and I are on back on our planned track. When I saw an increase in business, I made a decision to double my giving, so as to help make up for those in our congregation who can not give as they want. I ask each one of you to reevaluate where you are, and how you can increase your giving, to give us a positive balance at year's end.

As I write this I have received a phone call from my customer, telling me she has been evacuated from her home because of the Jesusita fire. Another stumbling block in my plans as I have hundreds of dollars of equipment at the house, which may be lost, and what about the time I have spent there, who pays that? I know in the end it will work out; it is just aggravating...but it will not stop us.

Just as the economy should not stop you.

Howard Gould, Vestry Liaison, Finance MDT

The Bat in the Belfry

Well, friends, Mother's Day has come and gone and Mom and Dad, Bertha and Boris Bat, have returned to their own belfry. I don't mind telling you, I'm exhausted. Want to know why? (I thought you'd never ask. I need someone to listen to my sad tale!)

First of all, my Mother's idea of a good time is cleaning things, and not just cleaning, but throwing things in big, black garbage bags. Now, that in itself is not a bad thing. It's just what she throws away that becomes a matter of concern. She doesn't really look at what she's throwing.

Her method of operation is this: "Here's a stack of papers! They're probably no good. Into the trash bag with them! You've probably read these magazines, right? They're useless! Out they go!" She successfully destroyed my library and my notes for the novel I'm writing. (Yes! I'm writing a novel. Don't laugh. You might end up in it! My Mother certainly will!) Not only that -- I can't find my library card, my TV Guide, my phone book or my copy of "Gone With the Wind." Of course, I have the cleanest belfry on the coast of California, but somehow that doesn't ease my pain a lot. Actually, the loss of "Gone With the Wind" is kind of symbolic. Like the wind that swept Georgia in the novel, the wind named Bertha destroyed all in her path. She makes disasters like Katrina and Ike look like gentle breezes.



Maxine Smith with her birthday cake at the May 24th service (photo by Pat Middleton)

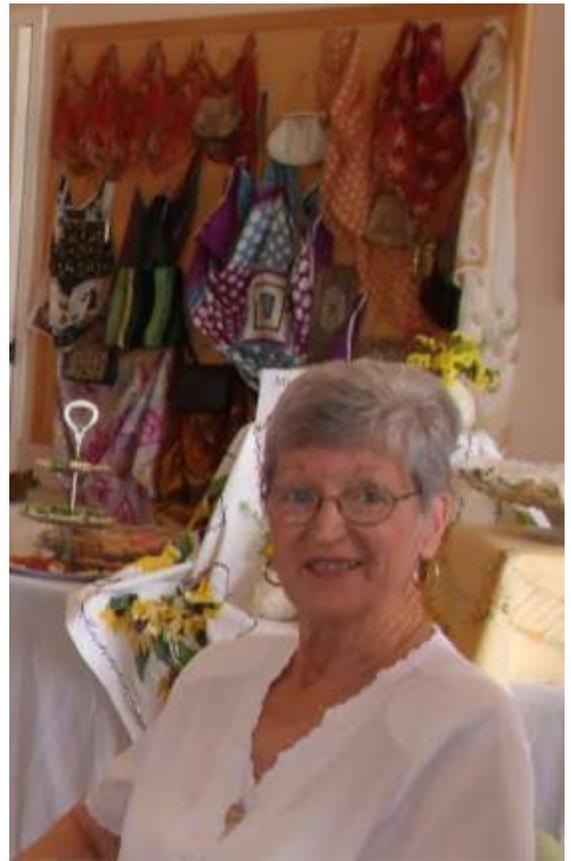
I know that I sound ungrateful, but I think it's just the shock of being so clean! Of course, if you look at it in one light, I cleaned out a lot of mental and spiritual clutter during Lent, so I guess the decluttering of my belfry is the final part of a general spring cleaning. Maybe that's what Mom had in mind. Maybe I didn't understand the process. O. K., so I was wrong and I'm an ungrateful wretch, but did she really have to throw out my darned library card? And just think -- she and Dad will come back for Father's Day! Better start cleaning now!

Blessings from the cleanest Bat in Lompoc, Bede

PS Just heard from Mom. She and Dad love Lompoc! They're thinking of moving here!

Income vs Expense: January-April Compared

	2008	2009
Income		
UN-DESIGNATED	94,580.72	109,771.58
Total Income	94,580.72	109,771.58
Expense		
ADMINISTRATION	60,052.41	79,129.37
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	21,022.74	26,360.60
CHRISTIAN FORMATION	260.18	1,026.48
COMMUNICATIONS	965.66	2,110.55
MISSION SHARE FUND	9,757.50	7,694.68
OUTREACH	2,070.22	3,550.00
PASTORAL CARE	32.50	0.00
RADICAL HOSPITALITY	511.89	575.21
WORSHIP	4,443.40	1,747.43
Total Expense	99,116.50	122,194.32
Net Income	-4,535.78	-12,422.74



Both pictures this page by Charlotte Hayes.



June Work Party

If you are a member of Team Luke, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on June 13th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Bob Lingl (team leader), Regina Lingl (lunches), Jonatha Linn, Dana Manchester, Anita McManigal, Roger and Virginia McConnell, Ruth Groulx, Glen Newcomb, Stephanie Bastian, and Denny and Jo Anderson.

June Birthdays

Annja MacPherson	06/02
Roberta Brownell	06/03
Charlotte Hayes	06/03
Heather Kleinhammer	06/06
Jeanne Kendall	06/07
Ron Fairbanks	06/09
Ann McCarty	06/16
Joe Chandler	06/18
Stan Sheldon	06/19
Sheryl Murray	06/22
Patricia Gibson	06/23
Richard [Zeek] Brownell, Jr.	06/27
Donald Rowland	06/29

The Bells of Saint Mary's

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2800 Harris Grade Road
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Non-Profit Organization
Permit #25
Lompoc CA
93436

June, 2009

Next Issue:



Red Shirt Project

"Mrs Charlie Thunder Bull holds a cradle" (reprocessed) (Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1938, via nara.gov)

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Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:30AM
Christian Formation
Each Sunday at 9:15 AM

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Mon - Fri 10 AM - 4 PM

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