



The Bells of Saint Mary

April, 2010

With My Hand on the Plow: Glory

As you receive this edition of the *Bells of St. Mary*, we will be at the tail end of our Holy Week services and coming up on our three Easter services: The Great Vigil of Easter, which begins at 8 pm on Holy Saturday, the third of April, and our two Easter Sunday services at 8 am and 10 am on the fourth of April. We will be very concerned with some understanding of **this word “glory”**. **Scripture speaks of this word often.** From Genesis and Exodus all the way to Revelation, when John was struck down as if dead when he beheld the Glory of God, glory is a word completely associated with God.

In the prologue to the Gospel of John...we find a well known phrase “and we have beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). In saying this, John does not mean to limit himself **(and us) to only special events during Christ’s ministry** where his glory shone forth like at Transfiguration, where his glory caused him to **be dazzling white...but rather for us to understand this Jesus we serve as coming to us in the likeness of sinful flesh as an outward man...a suffering Servant wholly subjected to the Law of God, just like us...only without sin.** Thus we can understand that we can see Jesus in all his glory **when we serve all those who Jesus sends to us...** the poor, each other, the downtrodden, those down on their luck and those who need a hand up. We can see Jesus in all whom God sends to us, **because Jesus lives in each of us...and his grace and his truth live and shine forth in all.** When we serve others, we are serving Jesus. We are to understand glory as something that

belongs to God...something that God is deserving of, not us.

The world we live in, however, seems to have a much different understanding of glory than we do. Glory is a word thrown around quite regularly when we listen to television talk about sporting events and athletes. Rock and Roll musicians and fashion models on the runway also **are seen in “their glory”**. **There are many references to various individuals who “bring glory”** to whatever event they are lending their names to, like we are somehow to be affected by being close to someone and their celebrity so that **their “glory” will somehow rub off on us.** This is more a reference to ego than it is to glory. Glory, in the case of being a believer in Jesus, is all about servant hood.

In ancient Rome, there was a well known judge named Pliny the Younger. He is the author of many quotations, many of which come from his having been a witness to the eruption of Vesuvius, **among many other things...but my favorite quote of his is about glory: *Glory ought to be the consequence not the motive of our actions.***

Easter is all about the consequence of Jesus’ actions. The promise from the Cross of eternal life for us is what we celebrate. We celebrate **Jesus’ truth being our truth.** **We are to live a life that is not concerned about the celebrity of any one individual...but the sum total of their actions and how those actions benefit others...not themselves.** We live a life as followers of the One who gave himself for us, so that we might have life forever, and so that all might hear that

message and have that hope as well.

Come join us for Easter services as we gather as one flock, with one Shepherd to celebrate together and proclaim in one loud strong voice that He Is Risen Indeed! And when we do, we will get a glimpse of the Glory...the Glory of the only Son...born of grace and truth. See you in church.

Fr. Michael



Why Did Jesus Fold the Napkin?

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? I never noticed this....

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed separate from the grave clothes.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table.

The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done'.

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because.....

The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

He is Coming Back!

E. C. Dunn

Thank you, St. Mary's

Last December 26th, the Larson family was faced with the sudden death of our youngest brother, Mark. He worked for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in West Virginia, and his funeral was held there. Two of his brothers had already booked flights and were planning on leaving that very night to visit him. Snow storms in the east and cancelled flights made it impossible for his other two siblings and all of the extended family to attend his funeral service. He was cremated and his ashes are to remain with his wife and young son until such time as they are able to return to their roots in Lompoc.

Mark grew up in Lompoc and was confirmed and married at Queen of Angels. However, our family really has no current connection to that parish. And, it was important for Mark's family and friends in Lompoc to have some emotional closure and to mourn and celebrate his life. Even though Mark was not an Episcopalian, several members of our family are parishioners at St. Mary's. We asked Fr. Michael if he would conduct a memorial service for Mark, and he never wavered in his willingness to help us out.

A subsequent meeting with Fr. Michael identified a need not only for the memorial service planning, but for pastoral care as well to deal with the grief and emotions of losing someone we were so close to in such a sudden and untimely manner. The need for pastoral care was very perceptive on Fr. Michael's part and it has helped tremendously. Fr. Michael even took time away from his day off to meet with us and talk about Mark's life. There was never any question that St. Mary's would do all they could to help the Larson clan through this unexpected death. Service bulletins were prepared, Martha's Guild went into action, and audio-visual equipment and an operator to manage it was provided in the Parish Hall to show a slide program of Mark's life developed by his peers at the BOP. Fr. Michael's homily was compassionate, and it was obvious he had been listening to what we said about Mark and his life. His words comforted us all at that hard time.



The City of Lompoc honored Norma Anderson (with husband Bob, and City Council member Bob Lingl) by planting a tree in her name at Recognition Grove in Beattie Park, Saturday, March 20th, 2010.

(John Beeler Photos)

Then, just over a month later, on February 21, our father, Richard, died of complications from dementia. He had been struggling with this insidious disease for several years and it took its toll on the family emotionally. Once again, even though dad was baptized and confirmed as a Lutheran and had only attended St. Mary's as a proud grandfather for special occasions such as baptisms and Christmas pageants, our family reached out to Fr. Michael and St. Mary's. When we knew the time was near, Fr. Michael even offered to make the drive to Santa Maria to administer Last Rites, a totally unexpected gesture that was a comfort not only to the family, but to the wonderful caregivers where dad had been living for the last three years. They loved and cared for him as though he was their own "Papa".

During our most recent time of crisis, Fr. Michael was dealing with his own mother's medical emergency. Dad died on Sunday, Fr. Michael left on Monday to visit his mother in Texas. Al-

though he didn't know if she would live the week, he committed to return the next Saturday and perform Dad's funeral (and another) on Monday. We worked with the St. Mary's staff and parishioners to organize things in his absence, including the playing of taps at the graveside military honors and special music at the funeral.

Fr. Michael's homily talked about our father's life, his work, and his devotion to family. In spite of all that had been going on in his own life, one could listen and recognize that Fr. Michael took the extra time and effort to learn about our father, the man, and the contributions he made during his lifetime. It was both solemn and gratifying to listen to. We were pleased that he had captured the essence of the man and his family, and think dad was shown the dignity and respect he deserved.

Our gratitude goes out not only to Fr. Michael, but to all the parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Martha's Guild who helped with the arrangements for the services of both our brother and father. They were patient with our uncertainties and changes; and willing to ensure our family's services were dignified and respectful. Such selfless acts define the term, *Radical Hospitality*, and provided the help and comfort we needed to make it through this time of grief.

Thank you, St. Mary's, for being there for us.

Sincerely,
The Larson Family



Michelle Pittenger and Johnatha Linn with their class at the Seder 'table'. (John Beeler photo.)

Prayers of the People

We ask that you hold these persons in your Daily Prayers.

Lord, open our hearts to Your perfect will and to Your loving prayerful nature; that we can faithfully interceded on behalf of those we bring to You now in prayer:

Lynn Ryan, Delores TwoBulls, Irene Cunningham, Marge Scott, Catherine Gibson, Nancy Lipsius, Ron Davis, Stan Sheldon, Sheila Holley, and Lee and Isla Hill.

AMEN+

Please Note:

Prayers of the People will be updated monthly. If you would like to add or continue a name to the POP, please fill out a Pink Prayer Request slip or Pew card, submit via our website www.stmaryslompoc.org, call any of our Prayer Tree members, or email Stephanie Bastian at jeffnsteph95@msn.com. Thank you!

“Whenever two of you on earth agree in prayer, it will be done by my Father in Heaven.” Matthew 18:19

The Bat in the Belfry

Hi! It's me, Bede the Bat! I've been told that the theme for this month's *Bells* is "glory", and I've been thinking a lot about that. I know that the glory we're thinking of is what Easter is all about. I know that no other glory like that of the Risen Lord can compare with any other kind.



Having said that, I think it's rather fitting that two of the sports I love best are in the spotlight just before Easter. I'm very fond of figure skating and I saw some wonderful skating at the recent Olympics. All of the skaters wanted that moment that comes when they are declared Olympic Champion. They have worked and trained and given up many things for that moment of glory.

It is the same in basketball. I've told you how much I love "March Madness" and how much I enjoy the hours of one of my favorite sports on TV. The crowning moment will come at the Final Four when one of the basketball teams is declared National Champions. Those winners, too, will have trained and worked very hard for this moment, and we who watch are elated for them, just as we are for the Olympians. They have all pleased the judges and honored their parents and they are deserving of all the accolades and "glory".

And what does this have to do with the Glory that is Easter? This: a few months ago, we watched a baby being born. We've followed His journey through childhood into manhood. He has worked hard and learned and done His best to preach and teach and make His Father and His Mother proud. His ultimate test before the judges has sent Him to Glory never seen before. He never aspired to it, he was not certain that He could do it, but sustained by His Father's love, He won, and in winning, He won for all of us.

Each and every Easter, we are witness to the greatest test of strength and endurance ever. We have every reason to cheer the outcome because we share in the Glory of that victory. It's fun and even inspiring to watch the Olympics and the Final Four and applaud and cheer for the victors. And even as we do that, we know that these are puny, earthly prizes. The true prize is ours on Easter morning. That's where the true Glory is. It surrounds us and engulfs us and makes us true winners! His victory was not for Himself alone. It was for us -- for mankind, forever!

Enjoy your Prize! Savor your victory! He won it just for you!

Glory to God and a Glorious Easter!

Blessings from Bede, the Bat in St. Mary's Belfry

Financial Statement, February 2010

Undesignated checking/savings	\$	23,127
Designated checking	\$	19,570
Designated fund obligations	\$	19,684
Parish mortgage	\$	367,546

	Actual Feb-2010	Actual Jan-Feb 2010	Budget Jan-Feb 2010
Income	\$ 25,246	\$ 52,035	\$ 55,090
Expense	\$ 31,745	\$ 62,169	\$ 61,366
Net income/(loss)	\$ (6,499)	\$ (10,134)	\$ (6,276)

St. Martha's Guild Spring Tea

The St. Martha's Guild annual spring tea will be held on Saturday the 17th of April from 1:30pm until 3:30pm in Fitch Hall. Our theme this year is pin cushions and "We Are Proud to be Pinned to the Lord". This is your opportunity to reach out to a friend or neighbor in fellowship by inviting them to join you in experiencing St. Mary's Radical Hospitality. For reservations call Kay Rowland at 733-3383 right away, as seating is limited.

April Birthdays

Bonnie Fairbanks	4/03
Ray Gould	4/04
John Kazianka	4/08
Evelyn Willis	4/08
Jeanne Yeiser	4/10
Lane Homuth	4/11
Abigail Smith	4/11
Gwinnie Howard	4/12
Marno Goetsch	4/21
Margaret Prothero	4/22
Thomas Gerald	4/24
Helen Down	4/25
John Linn	4/28
Christian Michael Kazianka	4/29
Bob Lingl	4/30

April Work Party

If you are a member of Team Matthew, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on April 10th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Howard Gould (team leader), Ruth Hicks (lunches), and Nemisio Balcena, John Beeler, Bill and Kathy Cady, Peggy Gould and Louise Larson.

Glory ABBEY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Palm Sunday 8 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 10 ^{AM} Choral Holy Eucharist	29 6 ^{15PM} Stations of the Cross 7 ^{PM} Holy Eucharist 7 ^{PM} AA & Alanon	30 6 ^{15PM} Stations of the Cross 7 ^{PM} Holy Eucharist	31 6 ^{15PM} Stations of the Cross 7 ^{PM} Holy Eucharist	1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 10 ^{AM} Rehearsal for evening service 4:45 ^{PM} Feed the Homeless 7 ^{PM} Holy Week Service 8 ^{PM} Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Vigil at the Altar of Repose	2 GOOD FRIDAY 11 ^{AM} GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY	3 NOON Rehearsal for tonight's Vigil 8 ^{PM} EASTER VIGIL
4 EASTER 8 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 10:30 ^{AM} Choral Festival Service	5 OFFICE CLOSED 7 ^{PM} AA & Alanon	6 5 ^{PM} Communications MTG	7 1 ^{PM} Stephen Ministers Leaders MTG 6 ^{PM} EFM	8 9 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 5 ^{30PM} Worship MTG 7 ^{PM} Choir Rehearsal	9	10 8:30 ^{AM} Team Matthew - Work Party 1 ^{PM} Contreras Salinas Wedding
11 8 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 10 ^{AM} Choral Holy Eucharist	12 7 ^{PM} AA & Alanon	13 7 ^{PM} Stephen Ministers MGT	14 5 ^{PM} Finance MTG 6 ^{PM} EFM	15 9 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 7 ^{PM} Choir Rehearsal	16	17 1 ^{30PM} Spring Tea
18 8 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 10 ^{AM} Choral Holy Eucharist	19 6 ^{PM} Vestry MTG 7 ^{PM} AA & Alanon	20	21 6 ^{PM} EFM	22 9 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 7 ^{PM} Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 8 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 10 ^{AM} Choral Holy Eucharist	26 7 ^{PM} AA & Alanon	27	28 6 ^{PM} EFM	29 9 ^{AM} Holy Eucharist 7 ^{PM} Choir Rehearsal	30	1 Bishop's visit Tomorrow - one self-vice at 10 ^{AM}

Parish Voices: “My Church”

St Mary's is “my church.” I was born, baptized and raised here. I worshiped here whenever I came home from college or for holidays when I lived away from Lompoc. On moving back, I chose to continue worshiping here through good times and hard. My relationship both with my Lord and you, my church family, has changed over the years.

St Mary's is my church.

More than just the Sunday hour and a half worship in the pews, this place and you all have evolved into something more in my life. Sometimes challenging; more often fulfilling, but Home and Family all the same. Like a family or a home there is often work to be done; chores, commitments and expectations that the family holds one another to. Not a relished thought, I admit.

It involves more than “picking up your room, clothes and toys”, “doing the dishes” or “yard work”. It is offering a shoulder when a family member needs an ear. It's calling to see if someone is ok when you realize you haven't heard from or seen them in awhile. It's taking the time to get to know someone new to the family, or bringing in someone new. Investing in the family with time and talents, and being responsible with its treasure. Doing the work behind the scenes so things run smoothly. It is about listening to another point of view and sometimes agreeing to disagree, but loving each other all the same. Crying together. Celebrating together. It's making special days special, and **every day** extraordinary! And, it is about pitching in when the work needs to get done. So look around you...who needs help folding the laundry?



Nancy Straight, Cynthia LeRoy, and Angel McLarty pack “Martha’s Meals” after the March 21st service. (John Beeler photo)

I invite you to be involved in this Family.

I invite you to St Mary's... **Our** Church.

Stephanie Bastian +

Outreach Committee

Many thanks for all the food & toiletries you've contributed – the bins overfloweth! Collections of toiletries will be an ongoing item.

For the first quarter, we gave \$1000 to the Food Pantry, and \$500 each to Domestic Violence Solutions and the Bridge House. We try to target the most needy with each quarter's donations.

Bits Bowles,
Outreach Liaison

Your Vestry Speaks

Hello everyone, this is your Vestry speaking. Beginning this month, we are going to have an article in the *Bells* to let the congregation know what your Vestry is discussing. We want to remind the congregation that vestry meetings are open to all parish members, and we welcome guests.

During the March meeting we discussed at length the financial statements for both January and February. The need to discuss both months at our March meeting resulted from the finance committee not having time at its February meeting to resolve how to handle the \$24,000.00 that the congregation said we could transfer into the buildings and grounds repair and replacement fund. We tabled the January financial statements until we had the process worked out and the reports were accurate.

An update on the status of the Verizon tower projected was presented. A meeting was held on March 11th with Verizon, St. Mary's representatives, and members of both neighboring homeowners associations in attendance. A number of issues were brought up at the meeting, with Verizon promising to supply answers to a number of them. The tower process is still a very long way from completion, as numerous approvals and an environmental impact statement are still required.

The Ministry Fair was a huge success with a number of Ministry Development teams gaining new members. There was also a lot of discussion during the fair about just what is done by all the ministries, with a number of people that were amazed by the amount of work that is done and how many areas are supported by St. Mary's.

An update on obtaining the title to our rectory from Corp Sole was presented, with a great deal of progress being made and perhaps having the title within a year.

The Buildings and Grounds Chair presented a preliminary report on campus repair projects, including which ones would require contractors and those that we the congregation could do. One of those projects, the crack in Fitch Hall by the south door near the kitchen, was investigated; it was determined that there was no structural damage involved. The repair process has begun.

That's all for now,
Your Vestry

Financial Update

The budget presented at the annual meeting represents the best efforts of your Church's leadership to practice good stewardship. Based on last November's New Consecration Sunday program, the congregation as a whole, stepped up to a 10% increase over 2009, for envelope giving. Estimated income for 2010, from all sources is \$355,123. Initial estimated expenses, eliminating all non-essential spending, resulted in an initial budget of \$354,958. As discussed at the annual meeting, the Vestry and Finance Committee, recognizing a long deferred need to maintain our buildings, added a budget item to transfer \$2,000 per month from General Income to a Designated Account for Repair and Replacement. Adding this \$24,000 brings the estimated annual budget for 2010 to \$378,958.

Year to Date (As of March 1)	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2010 Budget	2010 Difference (Actual minus Budget)
Income	\$51,016	\$52,035	\$55,090	(\$3,055)
Expense	\$61,492	\$62,169	\$61,366	\$803
Net Income (loss)	(\$10,475)	(\$10,134)	(\$6,275)	(\$3,859)
Net Income (loss) %	(17.0)	(16.3)	(10.2)	

The Year-To-Date table above (for January and February), compares our actual income and expense for 2009 and 2010, as well as our budget for 2010. Our expenses remain on track, and match our spending plan (We spent \$803 more than we planned). Our income shows an increase over 2009 of \$1,019, which is roughly a 2% increase, but not the planned 10% increase, and a net loss of \$10,134 for the year to date. This is \$3,859 more than planned.

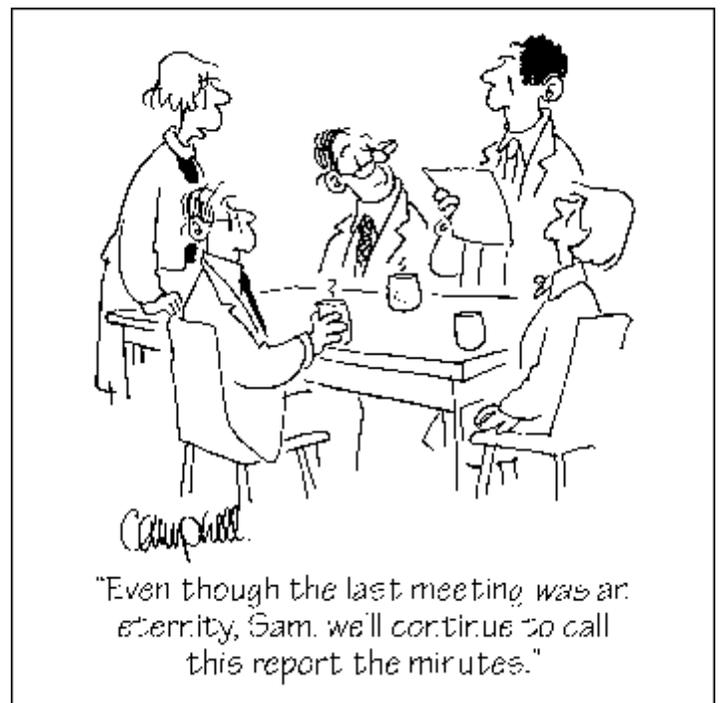
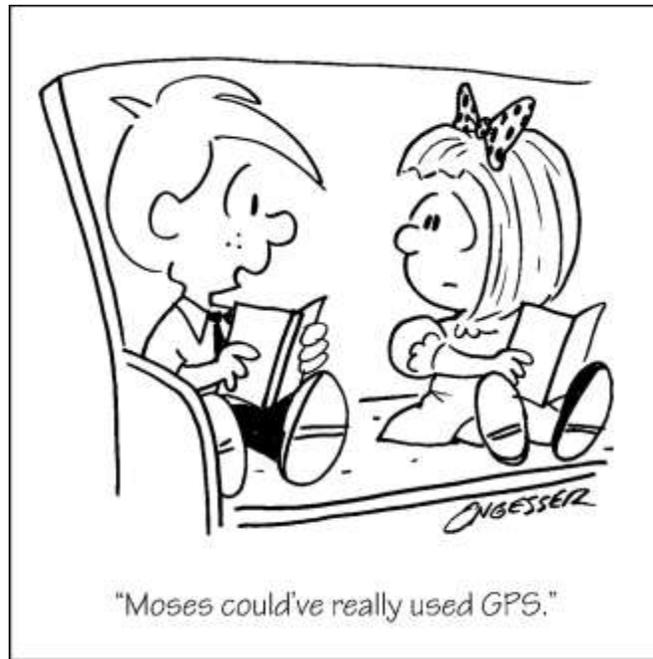
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Mike Munson (left) was hard-pressed to keep up with all of the baggers, even after Rick Kendall joined him in labeling the bags. (John Beeler photo)

Although we are only two months into 2010, this trend is somewhat alarming and needed to be shared with the congregation. These are tough financial times. Over the past three years, we have seen our cash reserves dwindle from \$137,463 at the beginning of 2008, to our current reserves of \$73,127. Be aware that your Church leadership is monitoring expenses and income. If this negative trend continues over the next thirty days, the Finance Committee will be preparing a deficit reduction plan to submit to the Vestry for their consideration and approval.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your Church's financial health, ask Roger McConnell or Mary Sharp (Vestry Liaisons for Finance) or any member of the Vestry or Finance Committee.



The Bells of Saint Mary's

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April, 2010

Next Issue:

"we are His hands"



OUTREACH

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Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Mon - Fri 10 AM - 4 PM

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