

The Bells of Saint Mary

May, 2010

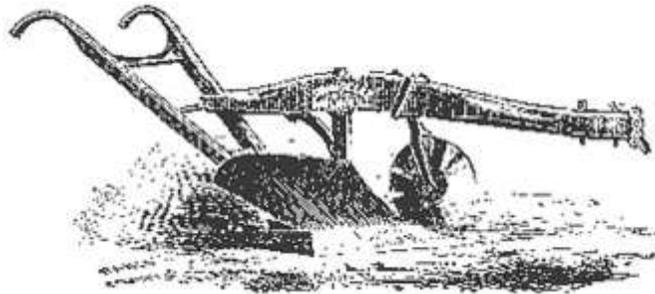
With My Hand on the Plow: Reaching Out

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”

Matthew 6:3

So often, when we consider the concept of “outreach” we relate it to monies that we donate to others who are in need...and from our abundance, we give to those who have less...and we do that here at St. Mary’s...to be sure...but outreach is also reaching out, and I think that is what I want to talk about this month. Now some of that is about money to be sure, but some of reaching out is harder to see, and that also defines us...because ultimately, how we give defines us as a church.

We reach out with funerals. For whatever reason that God alone knows, I have now presided at 45 funeral services since I arrived here on July 1, 2007. And each one of those occasions have been dramatic examples of St. Mary’s reaching out. On April 9th, our community united for a final farewell to Fr. Stu Fitch, the Rector Emeritus of our parish. It was an extraordinary service, with Stu’s widow Nan with us, and Nan’s sister, and members of our parish and many former members of our parish all present for the occasion. There was a great healing that took place that day, as former members who left this congregation for whatever reason re-united with current members who did not leave and all exchanged



the Peace together. There was a meal afterwards that the St. Martha’s Guild organized and many, many of the congregation of the day sat down and ate together, (after sharing the Lord’s Supper together in church) and lingered, and enjoyed one another, and renewed relationships that had been strained and in some cases, broken by events of many years ago. The primary call of the Gospel, that we be reconciled one to another and that we love as Jesus loves us, was the single motivating factor of the Spirit in the church and in Fitch Hall. This is profound

evidence of reaching out to the community we serve, and what happens when we do.

Nan Fitch sent me a lovely note after the service and I want to share a part of it with you: *“I’m sitting here*

feasting on memories of my wonderful weekend at St. Mary’s. I’m so grateful that we had that memorial service for Stu. It just seemed so right to be there. And now part of him is buried there, which is also perfect. That committal service is etched in my mind...Glenn holding the Cross so straight and tall, Howard with the little box of ashes beautifully covered with the Veil, you in your full vestments on the hill, putting the ashes into the ground with those wonderful prayers and blessing. ‘Thank you’ does not begin to convey my gratitude for all you have done, and all that you are. I want to add a note that you too are very valuable to your flock, the people love you

and value what you are doing.”

You see, it wasn't enough to say how complete she felt by all that St. Mary's had done for her in her grief...she also, in turn, reached out to me so as to give back a measure of what had been given her.

So, how do we weigh and decide who to help? In the case of our church, we elect members to serve as members of our Vestry, who represent us in the governance of our church, and those leaders seek out members of our congregation to serve on Ministry Development Teams that represent interests of our members. From Buildings and Grounds to Outreach, our MDT's are where we make those decisions.

Our Outreach MDT met Tuesday the 20th of April, and decided to reach out to the Police Activities League, Community Partners in Caring, Senior Nutrition Center and Catholic Charities in this current quarter. They are giving \$500.00 to each of these agencies in the current quarter...but this does not represent the many more who are in need, or who asked for help. So, outreach is not an easy thing, because with every one of your pledge dollars they gave to help others, they had to struggle with who they were not giving to with their grants. **And we are not a wealthy church...** we do not have endless amounts of money to give to those who need help, but our Outreach MDT is committed, as are we as a church, to do what we can to help those in need. So, pray for

those who serve on our Outreach MDT...it is not easy work, and requires prayer, both on their part and on ours to support them in the struggle. **And remember, like all MDT's in our church, there is no list of members that does not change. YOU can join in the ministry of any Ministry Development Team in our church. There is no requirement for membership and you don't have to know the "right people"...just pray, try to discern what the Spirit is calling you to do, and join in the ministry.**



Four children were baptized at the 10 AM service on April 11th.

(photo by John Beeler)

Many groups and agencies will always be seeking help from the Church. St. Michael's University Chaplaincy at U.C.S.B. is just one of them. Trying to bring the Christian message of hope and reconciliation to the college aged students is the mission of this Episcopal Ministry located on Picasso Road on campus. We are trying our best, (and Howard Gould is working tirelessly on their behalf) to get the message out there to

support this ministry that is so important to the growth and health of the Episcopal Church. There are currently flyers in our church about a **concert coming up in support of St. Mike's...**and if you are interested in hearing a wonderful singer, Kate Wallace, someone I know well and have heard sing on a number of occasions, talk to **Howard about reaching out to St. Mike's.**

The Red Shirt Project is coming up, and we will write more about that next month, but for now, let me encourage you to go to our website, www.stmaryslompoc.org and click on the Red Shirt Project Cross, located at the lower left hand corner of our home page, and go to the website for the Project, and read the incredible testimonials that are there, written by participants over the years to gain some "heart knowledge" of how the project that you so lovingly support has changed lives and caused so many

to reach out to others since they became part of and were changed by the Red Shirt Project.

I guess in the end what I am saying to you this month is that "don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" is not a reference to money...it is a reference to giving from your abundance...your abundance of spirit, and love, and gratitude for all that God has given to you. We are a richly blessed church. We have a beautiful church and there is room for all. We invite everyone to be part of us...as our mission statement says: *To serve God and all people, wherever they are in their journey of faith,* and we extend ourselves by reaching out, always reaching out so that others may see and experience the love of God that so calls us to be agents of change, believers in the Gospel, and convicted of love.

Fr. Michael+



(photo by John Beeler)

I Need Your Opinion

The Communications MDT is looking into purchasing a Phone Tree Calling system. You may recall we had one some time ago, but it no longer works. If St. Mary's purchases a new system, we would be able to call a variety of groups, from the entire parish, a specific ministry team, or other small groups. I need your opinion on receiving phone calls from St. Mary's. Do you want to receive information this way? Are you opposed to the idea? Some time prior to May 15th, please send me an email (rick.kendall@verizon.net), or phone call (733-2995), or just let me know when you see me. Thanks - Rick Kendall and your Communications Ministry Development Team.

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:

Nan Fitch and Family, The Warrick Family, Helen Benhart's Family, Our Inquirers Class being Confirmed and Received on May 2nd, Our Bishops being Consecrated on May 15th, Delores Two Bulls, Irene & Don 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 Vestry Speaks

The vestry reflected on Acts 8:26-39, the story of the Ethiopian Eunuchs' baptism. Discussions revolved around how he (like us) had difficulty understanding Isaiah, amazement over his joyfully going on his way after being baptized and his question to Phillip; Why shouldn't I be baptized?

We went from the reflection to a presentation by Gladys Bonnell on Albertson's Scrip program. Following a length question and answer period it was approved to move forward with the program. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

We then discussed at length the deficit and what can be done to reduce it to the level we told you at our annual meeting in January. Presently the deficit is projected to be about \$38,000.00, or \$14,000.00 more than projected. Although many suggestions were made, the most significant one was to have a congregational meeting scheduled for Pentecost Sunday after the 8 A. M. service. We will present to you what can possibly be done and for you to

give us your thoughts. This is perhaps the most important meeting since we decided to sell the Walnut Grove property, so please put it on your calendar.

The Rt. Rev. John Bruno, Diocesan Bishop will be coming to confirm or receive 15 St. Marian's on May 2nd with a potluck luncheon to follow. Please join in this festive occasion.

Your vestry approved the addition of advertising in the *Bells*. Direction was given to the Communication MDT to forward to the vestry suggestions on who can advertise, size of advertisements, and cost.

That's all for now,
Your Vestry



We regret to inform Bede's fans that he is taking a month off from his column...writer's cramp or block, or maybe just a well-deserved vacation.

Financial Statement (As of March 31st, 2010)

Undesignated checking/savings	\$73,057
Designated checking	\$21,538
Designated fund obligations	\$21,538
Parish mortgage	\$367,547

	Actual Mar 10	Actual Jan - Mar 10	Budget Jan - Mar 10
Income	\$30,678	\$82,713	\$88,783
Expenses	\$31,104	\$92,804	\$94,907
Net income/(loss)	(\$427)	(\$10,091)	(\$6,124)

Ordination and Consecration of New Bishops

Everyone in the Diocese of Los Angeles is invited to attend the ordination and consecration of two new bishops suffragan, Diane Jardine Bruce and Mary Douglas Glasspool, on Saturday, May 15, at the Long Beach Arena. No tickets are required, and 6,700 seats will be available. Friends and family of all ages are welcome. A gathering celebration featuring music from around the Diocese will begin at 12:30 p.m., and the liturgy will start at 1:30 p.m. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will be chief consecrator, and Diocesan Bishop Jon Bruno will preach the homily. A diocese-wide choir will share in the liturgy, and the offering is designated for the discretionary funds of the new bishops. Seating will include reserved areas for anyone with hearing or other physical impairments. Translation into Spanish will be provided via headsets. Ample parking, priced at \$10 per car, is available at the Arena, located at 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. A fact sheet offering further details is available on the diocesan web site, <http://www.ladiocese.org>, or by phone at 213.482.2040.

St Mary's and St Peter's are trying to organize a bus for the Consecration. Cost will be \$30-\$45 depending on number of registrants. Call Jeanne Johnston 688-3192 or jeannejohnston@mac.com.

Parish Voices: An Outreach Story

The Episcopal Church is a hierarchical organization. So when the Bishop's office called two years ago and said "Reach Out", that's what we did. In this case we were told that two families of immigrants from Iraq would be arriving in Lompoc. The rest of the story—what would happen to these people—was going to be up to the parish.

What happened next was nothing short of amazing. The word went out about what these folks needed and within a few days, we had managed to find housing for these families and fully stocked the new dwellings with furniture, food and clothing. This was the easy part because we in America have been blessed with great material prosperity.

And there was another dimension to St. Mary's outreach to these families that touched me personally. Because I had lived in the Middle East and had some command of the language, I took on the role of befriending these people. It was a richly rewarding experience for a parishioner who, for the most part, is content to sit on the sidelines of parish life. It stands for the idea that sometimes "Outreach" works both ways. We reach out to others, and in the process, they reach out to us and enrich our lives.

A few weeks ago we held a memorial service for the late Rev. Stuart Fitch. There were some unfamiliar faces in the crowd. Two decades ago St. Mary's took under wing a family from Southeast Asia and these folks showed up to honor our Rector Emeritus. And how they have prospered. So when we reached out to the Al Darwish and Al Musawi families two years ago we continued something going back decades. Outreach is part of what we are.

Stewart Johnston



Trudy Ardizzone's Confirmation class includes a lesson on church history. This is part of the timeline we created. (photo by John Beeler)

Thank You

"...Truly I tell you...just as you did it to the least of these...you did it to me..." Matthew 25:40

Thank you to all at St. Mary's who contributed to providing meals for the Martha's Meals program. Martha's Meals provides over 600 meals per week. The meals are distributed at the Church (Mon.-Fri.); by parishioners as they drive around Santa Maria and Lompoc; and at Marian Hospital Clinics in Santa Maria and Guadalupe.

God's Peace,
Joe Ardizzone, MSW
Outreach Coordinator
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

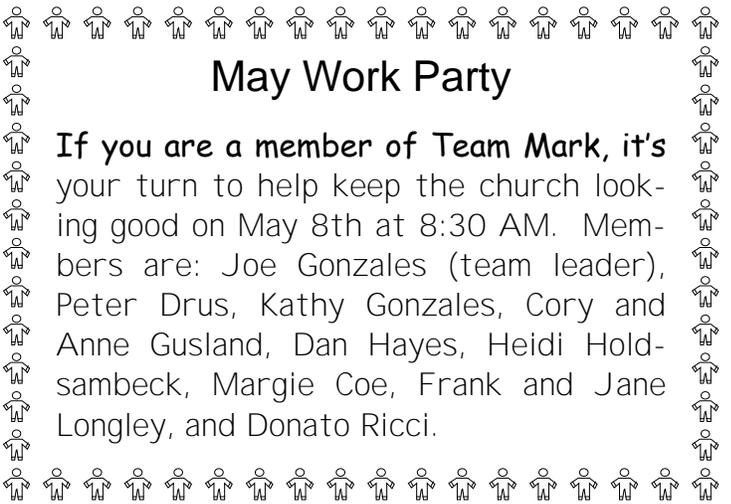


May Birthdays

Patricia Baker	5/08
Patricia Balcena	5/08
Jazz Kazianka	5/08
Raymond Down	5/09
Stephanie Bastian	5/10
Allie Kazianka	5/10
Rob Holdsambeck	5/13
William Montgomery	5/13
William Cady	5/18
Louise Hodges	5/18
Judy Linn	5/20
Ann Glasgow	5/21
Aubrey (Bud) Owen	5/21
Laurie Olsson	5/22
Michele Pittenger	5/22
Samuel Ricci	5/24
Maxine Smith	5/24
Dan Hayes	5/25
Jeanette Daley	5/27
June Ryan	5/28
Kimberly Smith	5/31

Someone said **"they realize there will be a mistake** or two in the bulletins and Bells, I am sure you will find them, from time to time, as other than our Lord Jesus, the only other person without flaws, the **mother Mary, is not typing your bulletins."** The following are some bloopers from other Church Bulletins:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.



May Work Party

If you are a member of Team Mark, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on May 8th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Joe Gonzales (team leader), Peter Drus, Kathy Gonzales, Cory and Anne Gusland, Dan Hayes, Heidi Holdsambeck, Margie Coe, Frank and Jane Longley, and Donato Ricci.

The Outreach Committee

Mission Statement: We love and serve God and one another by showing compassion and love through outreach to those in need in our community.

The Outreach Committee was formed in 1978 under the guidance of then Rector Stu Fitch's wife Nan. Leah Olson, one of the original committee members, says that the group began as a way to help both parishioners and people in the broader community who were in need. In-reach developed as a separate ministry over time, and Outreach has continued as vital part of St. Mary's mission.

Outreach is a "hands on" ministry that researches and identifies needs in the local community and directs funds and projects to meet those needs. With this year's budget allocation of \$10,000, the Committee will contribute funds quarterly to agencies that have proven their sustainability and community impact. A brief description of agencies that have received financial donations in the past year follows:

Boys & Girls Club: Delivers club programs that build a sense of community and self esteem and promote education for future success. The professional staff and trained community volunteers lead youth ages 2-18 in core program areas: Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; the Arts; and Sports, Fitness and Recreation. The agency is strategically located in a lower income housing area and currently serves over 1,500 youth.

Bridge House: Provides emergency and transitional shelter for homeless people in the Lompoc Valley. It is the only local agency that provides this service to men. Women and children are also served. The maximum stay is 60 days.

Catholic Charities: Provides a comprehensive range of services to those most in need in our community. Along with its administration of the Food Pantry, this agency offers rental and utility assistance to local residents in need. Referrals to other agencies and services have also been provided through Catholic Charities in Lompoc for 25 years.

Community Partners in Caring: Provides seniors with volunteer services which allow them to continue living independently while maintaining their quality of life. Free assistance is offered for shopping, transportation, respite care, telephone reassurance, light housekeeping, minor home repairs, chores and yard work to any Lompoc resident in need who is age 62 or over.

Domestic Violence Solutions: Offers a place of shelter for up to 45 days for those subject to domestic violence. The agency also offers case management. Last year this agency provided emergency shelter to 311 women and children, answered 2,081 crisis calls, responded with law enforcement to 910 domestic violence 911 calls, and educated more than 1,500 teens about healthy relationships county-wide.

Food Bank: Provides nourishment to those in need in Santa Barbara County by acquiring and distributing safe, nutritious food via local agencies. It also provides education to solve hunger and nutrition problems. During 2008, the Food Bank of Santa Barbara County distributed nearly eight million pounds of food from two warehouse locations in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria. In 2009, over 135,000 people in Santa Barbara County were served by Food Bank member agencies. St. Mary's donated to the Food Bank's local backpack project, which provides six meals each weekend to children in transitional living situations.

Outreach



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Choral Holy Eucharist	26 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Alanon meetings	27	28	29 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	1 9:00 AM ALL PARISH CLEAN-UP 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Safe Church Training 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Ring
2	BISHOP'S VISIT - Confirmation 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Choral Holy Eucharist - Pot Luck Brunch	3	4 5:00 PM Communications	5 6:00 PM EFM	6 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM Feed the Homeless 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	7 7:30 PM Lompoc Master Chorale Concert at Methodist Church	8 8:30 AM Team Mark - Work Party
Clergy Conference - Fr. Michael is out							
9	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Choral Holy Eucharist	10	11 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Stephen Ministers Mtg	12 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Finance MDT Meeting 6:00 PM EFM	13 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Worship MDT Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	14	15 1:30 PM Ordination of Bishops in Long Beach
16	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Summer Resources for parents 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Choral	17 6:00 PM Vestry	18	19 6:00 PM EFM	20 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	21	22 Family Bar-B-Q Contact Mike Munson
23	PENTECOST - WEAR RED 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM ALL PARISH MEETING Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Ice Cream Social -	24	25 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM Outreach Committee	26 6:00 PM EFM	27 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 Men's Cursillo Weekend	29 Men's Cursillo Weekend 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Farewell to Bp's Talton & Caranza Cathedral Center
30	Men's Cursillo Weekend 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Choral Holy Eucharist	31 MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	1 5:00 PM Communications	2	3 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM Feed the Homeless 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	4 Women's Cursillo Weekend	5 Women's Cursillo Weekend 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Ring meeting

Food Pantry: Administered by Catholic Charities, provides low income families and individuals with supplemental nutritious food. This agency has served the needy in Lompoc since 1984.

Good Samaritan: Provides a residential treatment program for perinatal women and their children 0-5 years. It is designed to provide a path to recovery from drug/alcohol addiction. The agency provides outpatient services through the Turning Point program and inpatient services through Hope House and Recovery Way Home. Hope House and Recovery Way Home have a minimum requirement of a 6-month stay, and a maximum requirement of 18 months. Hope House can house up to 6 women and their children at one time. Recover Way Home can house up to 16 women and their children. Most residents are low-income and are required to pay a fee (based on a sliding scale). St. Mary's furnished the kitchen of the Good Sam facility for the Recovery Way Home program when it opened in 2008.

Lompoc Valley Community Youth Center: Provides recreational, educational training programs and other activities designed to create positive identities and a sense of belonging among youth, providing an alternative to gang membership. Programs offered enable them to develop into responsible, law abiding, contributing members of their community.

Marks House: Provides shelter to homeless families and an environment that fosters a return to permanent housing and financial stability. The stay in this facility is limited to 90 days.

Police Activities League (PAL): Lompoc Valley P.A.L. is a youth crime prevention program that relies on educational, athletic, and other recreational activities to cement a bond between law enforcement officers and the youth. Officers from the Vandenberg Air Force Base, United States Penitentiary, Federal Correctional Institution, California Highway Patrol and the



(photo by John Beeler)

Holy Week— I was so touched as the people of Kenya brought the Stations of the Cross into their daily life.

Lompoc Police Department work side-by-side with young people who need their guidance. Lompoc Valley P.A.L. started in 1998 and has reached thousands of youth in the Lompoc Valley.

Community Action Commission (CAC) Senior Nutrition: Serves a hot, nutritious lunch-time meal to low income seniors. Last year 1,082 seniors were served 49,647 hot lunches throughout Santa Barbara County at serving centers.

Special Projects

Along with the contributions to local agencies, the Outreach Committee provides “hands on” opportunities to all members of the parish through special projects throughout the year.

Spring: Lenten projects just completed included an ingathering of individual size toiletry items for the Bridge House, small sizes of peanut butter and jelly for the Food Pantry, and donated food items in collaboration with a nutrition project at St. Peters in Santa Maria.

Summer: In mid-July school supplies will be donated to meet needs identified by teachers within the parish. Pencils, crayons, sharpeners, scissors, paper, calculators and other items will be organized and loaded into backpacks for needy students from elementary through high school grades.

Fall: October is the traditional month for the Senior Saints Luncheon. Shut-ins living in the Convalescent Care Center, the Lodge, and in homes are invited for a gourmet lunch with entertainment. Parishioners will volunteer to serve the meal and sit at tables throughout Fitch Hall to welcome our guests.

Winter: The Angel Tree project closes the year with an opportunity to select a child or teen and shop from a wish list of several wanted/needed items for distribution by Domestic Violence Solutions and Bridge/Marks House.

Every month: Another “hands on” opportunity is St. Mary’s feeding of the homeless on the first Thursday of each month. Parish volunteers led by Leah Olsson provide and serve milk, juice, salad, entrée, and dessert at the First Baptist Church on West Cypress.

Other projects: Special needs identified are also considered by the committee. For example, earlier this year 20 binders and pencil pouches were provided to needy students at Vandenberg Middle School.

Outreach Committee membership

The Outreach Committee is chaired by Peggy Gould. The Vestry Liaison is Bits Bowles. Members are: Norma Anderson, Giselle Boyd-Snee, Charlotte Compton, Molly Gerald, Charlotte Hayes, Ruth Hicks, Barbara Holt, Heather Kleinhammer, Jonatha Linn, Leah Olsson, and Ron Pace.

New members and new ideas for service through the Outreach Committee are welcomed.

St. Martha's Guild
Spring Tea



*We're proud
to be
Pinned to the Lord*

“Thank you so much for the wonderful blessing the tea was. It was all perfect! The food, the quilts, the tea and the service.

Thank you for your wonderful hearts to bless *others.*”

photos by Louise Larson.



Members of the Confirmation class performed the dramatic reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday. L-R: Gabriel Belizario, John Beeler, and Jeff Bastian.

(photo by Rick Kendall)



Holy Week—*"The Vigil—I could feel the transition from the darkness to the light.*

LOMPOC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA
(805) 734-4391

VANDENBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL
VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE
93437-1199



9 March, 2010

Outreach Committee
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

On behalf of the students and staff at Vandenberg Middle School, we would like to thank the Outreach Committee for their generous donation of student binders with pencil pouches.

Even this late in the school year, we have students who are unable to come to school with even the basic supplies. Their faces light-up when we can give them supplies, so they can be as prepared as their fellow students. Such supplies do help students improve their learning.

Thank you again.
Sincerely,

Peggy Faulk
Counselor

Debra Taylor
Teacher/Supplies
Coordinator

Ron Pace
Teacher

The Celebration Of Pentecost

Pentecost was originally an Old Testament festival. It is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter. In the Old Testament it was originally an agricultural festival celebrating and giving thanks for the “first fruits” of the early spring harvest. The word “pentecost” means “fiftieth day.” In most Christian traditions, Pentecost Sunday occurs 50 days following Easter Sunday (counting Easter Sunday since it is the first day of the week). Those 50 days span seven Sundays after Easter, so Pentecost is the seventh Sunday after Easter. Since Easter is a “movable feast,” meaning that it occurs on different days in different years, Pentecost is also moveable. It can occur as early as May 10 and as late as June 13.

Pentecost is mostly associated with Acts 2 and the familiar scene of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those in the upper room. The emphasis is on the empowerment of the people of God through the Holy Spirit to enable them to spread the word about Jesus the Christ. Pentecost represents God’s gracious, enabling presence actively at work among people, calling and enabling them to live out in dynamic ways the witness of being people of God.

The color for Pentecost Sunday is red. The red symbolizes both, the fire of Pentecost, as well as the apostles and early followers of Jesus who were gathered in the Upper Room for the empowerment from God to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world. For Christians, Pentecost Sunday celebrates God through the Holy Spirit which is at work among the people and the recognition that God’s work is done through the people.

The Traditional Symbols

Breath, wind, soul, power, change, life, helper, comforter—these vigorous descriptions and attributes of the Holy Spirit suggest that a celebration of the coming of the Spirit of God at Pentecost should allow for active involvement by worshippers. The Dove is the traditional symbol of the Holy Spirit as described in Matthew 3:16-17, at the baptism of Christ. Fire and Wind are also traditional symbols of Pentecost as they are used to describe the Holy Spirit in the Pentecost reading, Acts 2:1-4.

*From the Office of Christian Formation,
Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut*



Christian Formation News

Sunday School

The children ran a successful “Pennies for Peace” campaign. The money will be sent to build schools in Afghanistan. This Pentecost, May 23, the children will celebrate the fresh wind of

the Holy Spirit by flying kites and creating “Bubble Prayers”. The children and their teachers will celebrate the end of the Sunday School year on Pentecost with the whole congregation at an ice cream social. Both events will take place during after the 10 o’clock service during fellowship time. I am hoping parents are reading the wonderful “Notes to Parents” on the back of the Sunday Paper we hand out each week. I want to thank Michelle Pittenger and Jonatha Linn for their faithful teaching ministry, despite the ups and downs in attendance.

Adult Learning Circles

On May 2nd, Bishop Jon Bruno will be here to confirm and receive one of our largest groups of parishioners yet. It was a pleasure to teach the mixed group of adults and teens. I think everyone found our supporting text *Your Faith, Your Life* very informative.

June 13 is **Fall Preview Day**. Parishioners will be able to look at resources from *The Thoughtful Christian.com* and help select the next set of topics we will be studying. There will also be a selection of new books that are appropriate for small study groups. These lesson plans and books all come with easy to follow Leader’s Guides. Please consider taking a turn being a group leader. Most classes last from two to four weeks.

Parents

On May 16 I will host a **Summer Resource** session. Materials will be available for you to use with your children. Please RSVP by May 9 so I can know how much material to have ready.

Vacation Bible School

VBS will take place the week of June 28 through July 2 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The cost of the week is \$30 with scholarships available. We will be studying Native American culture and spirituality with a special focus on the Chumash and Lakota peoples. There is a possibility of a field trip to Lake Cachuma to meet with a docent familiar with Chumash history. The children are welcome to invite their friends. I need at least twelve sign ups by May 9 to make this a viable project. Adult helpers are needed for crafts, music, food and games.

Summer Schedule

The summer is a time to shift gears and relax a bit more. We don’t need a vacation from God, but we do need some relief from tight schedules and always rushing. There will be no Sunday School or Learning Circles during June, July and August, instead, we will be offering “Summer Nights at St. Mary’s”. These will take place Tuesday’s from 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 starting June 29. We will try four and then evaluate the response. We will continue with our Native American theme. The evening will begin with a simple dinner, then an activity and will end with stories, music and prayer around a campfire. These evenings will be designed to be family oriented and intergenerational. A sign up sheet will begin in May to determine the level of interest and participation. Advance registration will be necessary. Any questions please contact me. I am usually here on Tuesday and Wednesday and would be happy to meet with you concerning formation or parenting issues.

Trudy Ardizzone, Missioner for Christian Formation

The Bells of Saint Mary's

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
2800 Harris Grade Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
www.stmaryslompoc.org

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Permit #25
Lompoc CA
93436

May, 2010

Next Issue:



Mission

Holy Week—I felt a profound sense of loss and sadness when the altar was stripped for Good Friday.

Inside this issue:

Fr. Michael:	1
Phone Tree, Anyone?	4
Prayers of the People:	4
The Vestry Speaks:	4
Financial Statement:	5
New Bishops Ordination:	5
Parish Voices:	6
Thank You for Martha's Meals:	7
May Birthdays:	7
May Work Party:	7
Outreach Committee:	8
Calendar:	9
Palm Sunday Photos:	12
Thank You for Supplies:	13
Christian Formation:	14



“To serve God and all people, wherever they are in their journey of faith.”

Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Mon - Fri 10 AM - 4 PM

Telephone: (805) 733-4400
Fax: (805) 733-4405

E-Mail Addresses:

Fr. Michael:
rector@stmaryslompoc.org
Deacon Judy Lin:
deacon@stmaryslompoc.org
Elizabeth:
admin@stmaryslompoc.org
Trudy:
formation@stmaryslompoc.org
Wardens and Clerk:
vestry@stmaryslompoc.org
Bells Editor:
john.beeler@verizon.net