

The Bells of Saint Mary

October, 2010

With My Hand on the Plow: Autumn Leaves

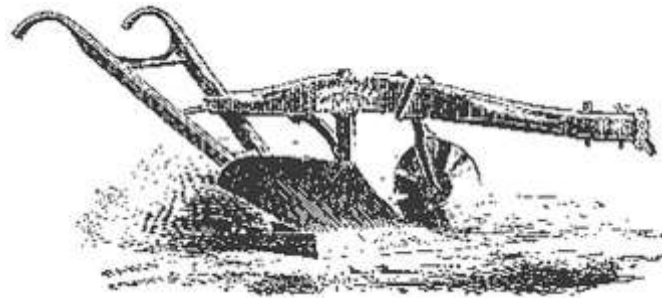
I have only lived one place where I recall the **Autumn Leaves changing...and that was when** Deborah and I lived in New York City from 1988-1991. At the General Theological Seminary in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, there were large wonderful trees on the grounds of the Seminary that would change about this time of year, and glorious colors, orange, gold, and yellows would emerge and cover the sidewalks on the Close. I remember it so well, because Simon was little and had a race car that he loved to ride, and especially I remember him riding amongst the leaves of Autumn. We seemed to need to get a lot of riding in then, because we knew winter and the snow was coming. Otherwise, it has been all Texas and California...and rarely have I had winter, spring, summer and fall in my life.

But in the church, there is a rhythm of life that is seasonal, and I live in those seasons. Autumn, and the changing of the leaves, means a coming to the end of the long Pentecost season...**a change in liturgical colors is coming... from green to the Marian blue of Advent...then to the white of Christmas and Epiphany. Change is the constant in our lives...both at home and here at church.**

This fall, in the month of October, you will experience a change in our liturgy at church that I am very excited about. On the second Sunday

of the month I will spend the first part of the **service at the 10 o'clock worship gathered with** our children in Fitch Hall. We will have the opportunity to talk about what they are learning and doing in Sunday School, and have time to pray together in a way that I believe will be really good for me, and hopefully, for them as well. I got to know many of our kids this summer during Vacation Bible School, and now that there are so many new youngsters who have joined our church and our Sunday School, I look forward to getting to know them and to being their priest as well. I have asked Howard Gould to lead the first part of the worship service in my place. I will come in at the Gospel, preach, and continue as the Celebrant.

Then, on the last Sunday of October, (and the last Sunday of every month) we will have a service at ten **o'clock that will be all about our kids. They will** be the lectors, the ushers, the acolytes, the greeters, they will assist me at the altar, everything that is possible for one of our youngsters or young adults to do, they will do. This first Sunday is also Halloween so I suspect that your ushers may also look like witches and wizards and who knows what else that day! There will be a sermon offered that day, I suspect by me at first, but I hope to get some of our Young Adults to join in the offering as well as time goes on.



I believe that being part of a community that **values children as our Lord did, "bring the little children to me" is what Jesus would have us do.** I believe our children can teach us many things about our faith that we need to learn. I look forward to the opportunity to provide space and time for that to happen.

I am excited about our new Director of Music, Chris Bowman. Part of what Chris wants to do is to bring our kids together to sing during Advent and Christmas. I love this idea and hope that you will be supportive of it and encourage you kids to participate. Hopefully, we can schedule rehearsal time for the Christmas Eve pageant and singing together so that both can be accomplished at the same time. As you know, in order for our children to participate, they need your commitment as parents and parishioners to get to rehearsals.

Also this fall, we will begin the third year of our Stewardship program, New Consecration Sunday. During the month of November, there will be a focus on the teachings and offerings of this important part of our life as a parish community. New Consecration Sunday will be November 21, with one big service at 10 am, followed by a lunch in Fitch Hall. Please mark your calendars now.

There are so many other things going on in our busy parish life that I want to remind you that going to www.stmaryslompoc.org is the best way to get current weekly information...as the weekly events calendar is updated regularly for the week coming. Also, check your email! Our communications Ministry Development Team is really working hard with email blasts to get information out as quickly as we can...mostly as reminders of events in our parish life.

Finally, Autumn Leaves is a poignant reminder that we live in a cycle of life...we know all too well that the deaths of Lee Hill and Jesus Gasca, Lee at 78 and Jesus at 61, that our time in this

life is precious. It has been a hard week for us and for our parish family. Take comfort in knowing that the message of the Bible does not change: **"For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+

Prayer Shawls

Would you like a Prayer Shawl? What is a Prayer Shawl? Who makes a Prayer Shawl?

A Prayer Shawl is a knit or crochet shawl, lap robe or baby blanket made by St. Mary's Parish members. The shawl is blessed during worship and delivered by a contact person to someone who is in need of a tangible reminder of God's encircling Love, whether ill, in sorrow...or Celebrating!

The maker uses new, donated yarn, praying intentionally with every stitch. A prayer tag is tied to the wrap with an additional prayer. Is there a charge? No!

To request a Prayer Shawl, you may use the request forms in the Narthex by the Prayer Request Box, or ask Mary Newcomb (733-3811), Bits Bowles, Cynthia LeRoy, Pat Middleton, or Charlotte Compton, or leave a contact number with the church office (733-4400).

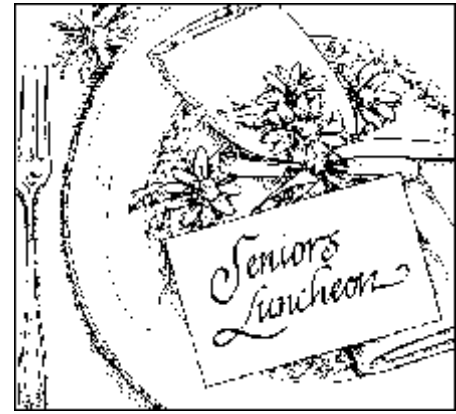
Who can make a Prayer Shawl? You can; if you knit or crochet, pick up yarn from the choir room and begin! Any design is fine, and finished pieces are usually 60" by 30". I am happy to teach a very simple pattern to anyone with a crochet hook!

Mary Newcomb

Lay Eucharistic Minister/ Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training

An LEM/LEV training session will be held at Church on Saturday, October 2nd, from 9:30 AM—11 AM. A meeting for Ministry Development Team leaders will follow at 11:00.

Mary Newcomb



Outreach Committee: A Successful Backpack Project

Thanks to everyone who helped us fill 76 backpacks with school supplies in July and August...I know that the young people who received them were very excited to be able to start the school year with a new backpack with everything they will need for the school year. The Outreach Committee wishes to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Authors Wanted!

During the summer, perhaps we all had moments to stop and contemplate what creative gifts we have been given, and what we might share. Do you have a short uplifting written piece, poem or drawing that you would like to contribute to this fall's issue of *Planting*? We plan to publish submissions from the congregations of St. Mark's, St. Mary's and St. Peter's. Please send your work by October 17 to: Gary Roberts, editor, at **GRoberts@channeltech.com**. Please do not submit material previously published, and be aware space is limited. Thank you!

John Beeler

Senior Saints Luncheon

On Wednesday the 27th of October, we will be hosting the seniors in our community in Fitch Hall. This is the 14th year that St. Mary's has invited residents of local senior care facilities, as well as local shut-ins to join us for lunch.. The Outreach Committee plans the event but we count on you to join us as hosts. This makes a tremendous difference to people who do not often have the chance for one on one conversation. We ask you to assist those at the table who are not able to serve themselves and then fill your own plate and enjoy.

If you would like to help, please sign-up in the Narthex. We would like to have our volunteers here by 10:30am if possible as our guests will start arriving then. Some of them must be transported by van or bus from local facilities and this necessitates

several trips. There will be musical entertainment and a greeting followed by lunch at 12 noon We usually are through between 1:00 and 1:30pm.

Thank you for considering this wonderful outreach to our community.

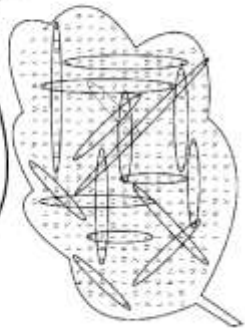
Norma Radford

Word Find

In the northern hemisphere it is fall. Here are some words that are about fall. Can you find them?

- APPLES
- AUTUMN
- BOUNTY
- CHILLY WEATHER
- CIDER
- CORNUCOPIA
- END OF SUMMER
- FALL COLORS
- FIREPLACE
- FROST
- HARVEST
- PUMPKINS
- RAKING LEAVES
- SCHOOL
- SMOKE
- SWEATERS
- THANKSGIVING

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Acorns and Oaks

Research shows that the more adults that know a child's name and acknowledges that child at church, the better that child perceives his church experience to be. The following adults have taken an apple from our back to school tree and by doing so have agreed to pray for a specific child during the year. Some apples were taken without the adult recording his name on the sign up sheet. Please let me know if your name does not appear here. You are encouraged to interact with your acorn and to send cards and notes of support. You are welcome to sit with your child and his family for our Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest on October 31 at 11:15.

Oak

Ruth Hicks
Ron Pace
Michael Cunningham
Nancy Straight
Patricia LoCicero
Julie Sherman
Amanda Sherman
Jeanette Daley
Judy Linn
Marno Goetsch
Sally Goetsch
Glen Newcomb
Kathy Gonzales
Anita McManigal
Elizabeth Hatcher
Dee Lonnon
?
?
?
?
?
?
?
?
Howard & Peggie Gould

Acorn

Ethan List
Scot Larson
Ryan Daley
Stephen Bastian
Samuel Ricci
Becky Larson
James Aranguren
Nic Hay
Mackenzie Olsson
Christian Kazianka
Kira Munson
Frankie Aranguren
Juliette Richardson
Madisyn Schultz
Anthony Hamilton
Riley Wallace
Dre Munson
Alexis Mackey
Jared Richardson
Kiara Ricci
Annja MacPherson
Lilly MacPherson
Kaje Schultz
Mathew Wong
Owyn List

Financial Statement

(As of August 31st, 2010)

Undesignated checking/savings	\$53,576
Designated checking *	\$54,713
Designated fund obligations *	\$54,713
Parish mortgage	\$367,432

	Actual August 10	Actual Jan - Aug 10	Budget Jan - Aug 10
Income	\$25,178	\$217,303	\$238,800
Expenses	\$28,262	\$246,904	\$247,670
Net income/(loss)	(\$3,084)	(\$29,601)	(\$8,870)

* Includes BURN the MORTGAGE fund: \$25,230

October Birthdays

Daniele Gusland	10/03
Curtis Baker	10/04
Ronald Davis	10/13
Joe Gonzales	10/14
Peggy Fields	10/15
Catherine Gibson	10/15
Sonia Culmer	10/16
Leah Olsson	10/18
Stephen Straight	10/18
Stuart Twells	10/18
Jean Horton	10/21
Robin Smith	10/22
Frank Longley	10/29
Mark Esola	10/31

October Work Party

If you are a member of Team Luke, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on October 9th at 8:30 AM.

Members are: Regina Lingl (lunches), Bob Lingl, Anita McManigal, Roger & Virginia McConnell, Dana Manchester, and Glen Newcomb .

The Vestry Speaks

Your vestry started an hour earlier to hear a gift planning ministry presentation from Mr. Ben Harrington. Gift planning is ministry that helps a parishioner bequeath a gift to their church when the Lord calls them home. The presentation was interesting and educational. The next step in the process is for the vestry to decide if, and then how and when to develop this ministry.

We went right from the presentation into regular business. Unfortunately our finances are not good and in order to maintain cash reserves we had to transfer \$10,000.00 from Burn the Mortgage fund to the general fund. Remember that the first \$36,000.00 we raise is designated for debt reduction.

Speaking of the Burn the Mortgage campaign, we are behind in the amount that was anticipated to have been raised by this time so if you can, please give to this vital fund.

Radical Hospitality Ministry Team needs a number of chairs as this ministry covers many areas of our church and does some wonderful work; so please consider taking on the chair of one of the working groups of the Team. Contact any vestry member.

Nominations for vestry candidates have begun. The new vestry members elected in January 2011 will serve until 2013. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact any vestry member.

That is all to report,
Your Vestry

Please consider giving to our “Burn the Mortgage” campaign.
If we all give, we give ourselves a debt-free church.

Stay clear of pious talk that is only talk. Words are not mere words, you know. If they're not backed by a godly life, they accumulate as poison in the soul.

- 2 Timothy 2:16, The Message

Bede the Bat

Hi! It's me again -- Bede the Bat in the St. Mary's Belfry.

I'm really energized! This is my favorite time of the year! I love Fall, or if you want to refer to it another way, Autumn!

Sometimes it's hard for me to tell when the seasons change in California. In many other parts of the country, there are definite ways to tell when Fall is here. There will be a lovely nip in the air and, in some beautiful areas, the leaves change from green to shades of yellow and orange and red. I have Bat friends in Vermont and Massachusetts and every year they invite me to come and visit to see all the beauty of the turning of the leaves and the changing of the seasons. I would love to do that, but it's a very long way for a Bat to travel just to look at leaves no matter how beautiful they are. I actually do have a way of knowing that the seasons are changing and I don't have to look very far.



First of all, St. Mary's takes on a different feel. School has started and that means that people are back from vacations and Sunday School becomes an important part of Sunday life at church. There are so many things going on that you can really get energized. If you haven't checked out all the great things that are happening at your church, you're missing out on some really amazing opportunities.

Of course, there's always football! Now for those of you who know me, you know that I am a huge sports fan. However, I live in a state of constant confusion because, the way things are structured these days, all sports overlap. When I was a younger Bat, football began in September and ended in January when the Bowl games were played. Then it was time for basketball. That ended when track and tennis and swimming seasons began. That lasted during the summer months and then in September, it was time to begin again. However, like the gorgeous weather we all enjoy in Lompoc, sports go on forever with no blurring of seasons. Now, I'm not in favor of snow or lots of rain or any other nasty weather. Bats get cold and damp and get sick just like everybody else. What I'm saying is that it's hard to tell with the seasons here and with sports everywhere. But I have a great way of keeping things straight for you.

Go to church. The Seasons in the Episcopal Church are always there -- never changing, always steady, always beautiful. Pentecost, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and all the beautiful colors that represent these and other great Seasons of our Church, and all the wonderful things that happen during these times, represent a very special way to watch the Seasons change. They have been with us since the birth of the Church and will remain with us forever. I challenge you to read about these Seasons and how they change and what they mean. I might not be able to see the beautiful leaves or keep up with the sports seasons, but I know what the Seasons of my Episcopal Church are and that's good enough for this Bat.

Blessings from Bede the Bat

Christian Formation

The year has gotten off to a great start. We have many new registrations. The children enjoyed Francis the Clown on Kick Off Sunday. The Sunday School rooms are full and busy with learning and happy activity. Michelle Pittenger and Jonatha Linn have made them into lively and interesting learning centers. Thanks to Lara Schmeiser we were able to start a Preschool- Kindergarten Class this year. We are all looking forward to **Fr. Michael's time with the children on second Sundays**. October 31 inaugurates **monthly children's worship, which will take place on the last Sunday of every month**. Children are welcome to come in their costumes. After the service there will be a chili cook off and a pumpkin carving contest.

The Annex is also a buzz with our Sunday Morning and Tuesday Evening Learning Circles. The tables have been full. Everyone seems to be enjoying the lessons about the Bible from the Thoughtful Christian.com. Ron Pace and Tom Gerald are doing a great **job as the leaders. It's never too late to join one of the Learning Circles.**

Trudy Ardizzone, missioner for Christian Formation

Community comes from the word communion, to share a common task together. And it's in the sharing of that task that people do bigger things than they knew they were capable of. Then there's really something to celebrate.

- Matthew Fox

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:

Please add list here.

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

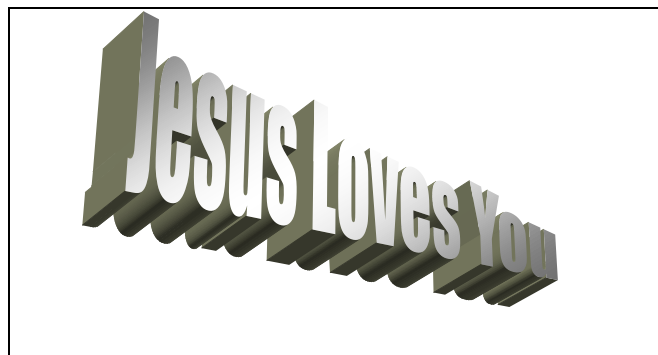
The biggest disease today is not diabetes or cancer. It's the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted - of being deserted and alone. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, and an indifference toward one's neighbor who may be a victim of poverty or disease, or exploited and at the end of their life, left by the roadside.

- Mother Teresa

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The Bells of Saint Mary's

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October, 2010

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Detail from The Annunciation by Henry Osawa Tanner, 1898

Advent

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“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

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