

The Bells of Saint Mary

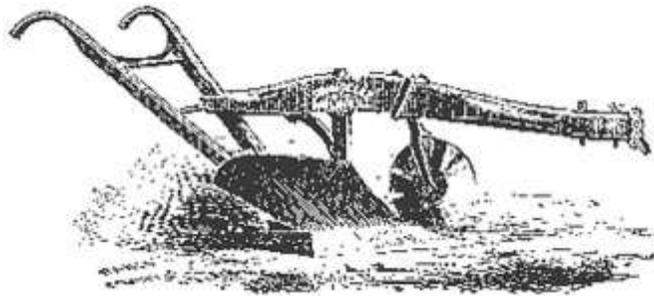
November, 2010

With My Hand on the Plow: Waiting and Watching

As this edition of the Bells arrives in your mailbox and online at our website, stmarys-lompoc.org, we will have just completed our **first Children's Service on October 31st**, and with it, the first of our series of speakers for our Stewardship month leading up to New Consecration Sunday on November 21. On October 31st and November 7th & 14th, you will hear from six different members of our parish speaking about why they choose to be members of our parish and why they choose to give in support of the work of this church. Our friend and companion, the retired bishop of San Diego, Gethin Hughes, has agreed to lead our stewardship team and be our preacher on November 21st. We are blessed to have Bishop Hughes once again help us as we go forward in the ministry that God has called us to do in this place. We eagerly await the wisdom shared by all of our speakers as we move **to the creation of next year's budget and discern** together where God is calling us to go in 2011.

As we approach the season of Advent, and the coming birth of our Savior, we are reminded of our need to be mindful of our prayer life and the time we need to be setting aside in preparation for this glorious event. I want to encourage you to set aside time each day, at the same time each day, to focus on your personal relationship with God. I ask you to calm down and

step back from the hurry and craziness of the **secular world's shopping season and pray** about things that matter. Include in your prayers the mission and ministry of our church, our work in stewardship, our diocese, our bishops and clergy, and all of the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Pray for our shut-ins and those who are alone. Pray for the staff of our church and for the staff of Valley Haven. Pray for our own Ministry Development Teams **as we seek to discern God's will for the work we are to do**. Pray that we may all be patient and be successful in our waiting and listening for the Lord.



As I write this, our efforts to gather the funds necessary to help pay off the mortgage on our church are **growing...ever so** slowly, but surely, none the less. If you

can manage to help in the Burn the Mortgage campaign, please tuck an extra gift to the church in a blue envelope, and invest again in the future of our church.

We have completed the changes to our Articles of Incorporation, (not changed since 1969!) and brought them into the 21st century so that much of the paper work necessary to seek approval for the sale of the old rectory is completed. We will now pass them along to the Secretary of State, and the Standing Committee of our Diocese, thus ending a process begun

two years ago to bring both our Bylaws and our Articles into compliance. The next step will be to seek approval from the Corporation of the Diocese and the Standing Committee so that we may in turn, put the old rectory up for sale. Sometimes, waiting is a very active thing!

Advent will also be a time of preparation for our Christmas Pageant, which will be offered at our **5 o'clock family service**. **All of our participants** in the Pageant will be rehearsing on the four Sundays of Advent, and there is room for all to be in the service. Our pageant is open to all ages, and there are plenty of things to help with. Last year, we had over 150 folks at the early service on Christmas Eve, and that is not counting everybody that was in the pageant! Please let Trudy know if you would like to be part of our Christmas Eve pageant.

On November 27th, the day before the First Sunday of Advent, we will have set out tables at the north and south end of the church so that you can once again bring in crèches from your homes to display in our church for Advent. Please bring a note card with your name on it, so that all can see and know a little more about you and your family traditions when they look at the crèche you have brought in to share. Many of you commented how much you liked having so many different styles of these wonderful Nativity Scenes gathered through the years. I also think they are a wonderful reminder for us to keep focused on just what it is we are waiting for.

You will see in this edition an article entitled **“employment opportunity”** that our Music Director, Chris Bowman has submitted. I hope you will read and enjoy it and hopefully, join the choir. That way, your Advent season will have another layer of preparation to it! As they say, when you sing, you pray twice.

I think this article may give you at least a bit of a hint about how Advent goes. Like all things in the church, there is a lot of preparation in-



More Blessings Rick Kendall with “Lady”

involved with anything that goes on. There are countless hours spent preparing bulletins, rehearsing the choir, writing sermons, managing our books and administrative tasks, helping our kids, supporting our teachers, preparing lessons for our Learning Circles on Sunday morning and Tuesday evenings and doing any one of the **million or so things that come up everyday...so** when I say take time to step back and be focused in prayer I mean it. It is as much a matter of self-preservation as anything else. But it is also, without exception, a time when we can listen and be listened to. It is a time that can be **the “sanity break” that every day needs**. It is definitely a great way to re-charge your batteries.

Because Advent is a microcosm of the Church year, and because it is the very beginning of the Church year, there is much we can learn from entering into the rhythm of preparation, waiting, and event. As long as we can manage to keep in balance the work we need to accomplish with the waiting on the Lord that is critical to our whole being, we will arrive at the event ready, open, and able to be changed by the Gospel message of hope, love and mercy that the birth of our Lord is all about.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+

The Serenity Prayer

Many of us know what has come to be known **as the Serenity Prayer...but many of us don't** know the whole prayer. When my mom was so sick this past spring, I sent her the whole prayer and promised her I would pray it every day as she struggled with returning to health. Long after she left the hospital I find that I still pray it **every day...so I want to share it with you.** Here is a little background on the prayer from Wikipedia.

The earliest known version of the prayer, from 1937, has been found in a Christian student newsletter ("The Intercollegian and Far Horizons"), which claimed to reprint the prayer from an earlier edition of the newsletter, and attributes the prayer to Niebuhr in this form:

"Father, give us courage to change what must be altered, serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and the insight to know the one from the other."

The most popular version, whose authorship is unknown, reads:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things

I can change, And wisdom to know the difference."

The longest version has these additional lines:

"Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next. Amen."

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.

Love,
Fr. Michael+



Left: McKenzie Olsson's tortoise Giggles gets blessed at the Blessing of the Animals on October 3rd.

(John Beeler photo)

Employment Opportunity



Positions Available:

Vacancies for lyric sopranos, dramatic sopranos, coloratura sopranos, spinto sopranos, mezzo-sopranos, altos, dra-

matic contraltos, counter-tenors, tenore robustos, lyric tenors, Heldentenors, baritones, basso profundos, basso cantantes, and basso buffos in the Chancel Choir. No others need apply.

Beginning Wages: Guaranteed satisfaction and joy in singing to the glory of God.

Benefits: Social Security. Security of social fellowship with other members of the Chancel Choir is assured.

Experience: Applications will not be accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed or whistled while they worked at some time in their lives. If you can match pitches and blend, you are welcome.

Retirement: As long as the voice is able and the spirit is willing, there is no retirement from service to the Lord.

To Apply: Contact Chris Bowman.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Before the blessing of the animals, Bill Montgomery, June Ryan, and Sonia Culmer welcome Mary Saldino's cat, Buddy.
(John Beeler photos)



As always, Sparky and Angel, the two Corgis that I walk, had to be blessed by proxy — but they did get their treats. (John Beeler photos)

Financial Statement (As of August 31st, 2010)

Undesignated checking/savings	\$55,949
Designated checking *	\$46,474
Designated fund obligations *	\$46,474
Parish mortgage	\$367,432

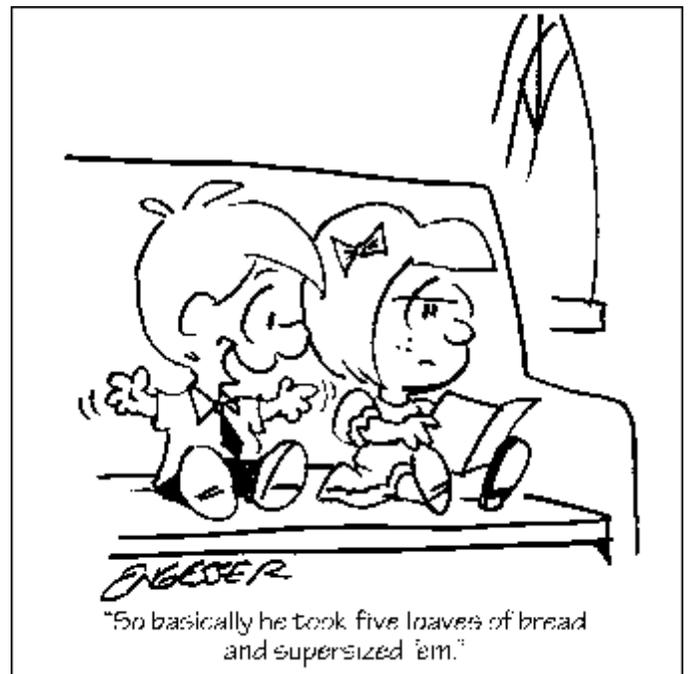
	Actual Sep '10	Actual Jan - Sep '10	Budget Jan - Sep '10
Income [§]	\$35,508	\$252,810	\$266,346
Expenses	\$33,018	\$279,895	\$283,020
Net income/(loss)	\$2,490	(\$27,085)	(\$16,674)
BURN the MORTGAGE fund:	\$30,669		
§ Transfer to General Fund	\$10,000		
* BURN the MORTGAGE Designated Acct.	\$20,669		

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors.
We borrow it from our children.
-Native American proverb*

With thanks to the newsletter of St. Peter's



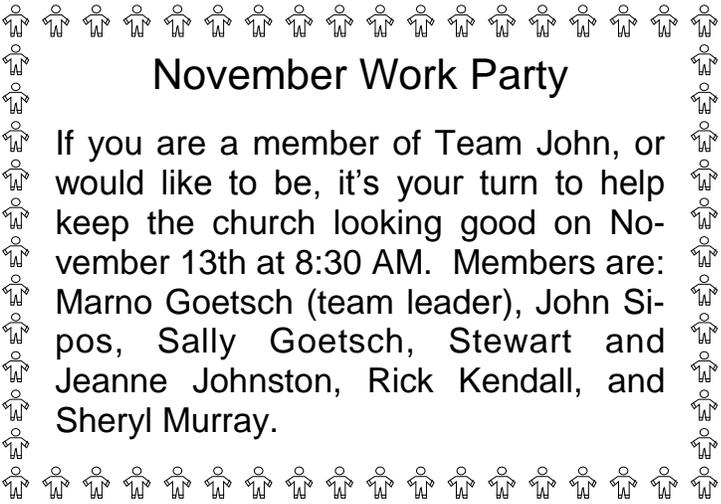
As McKenzie Olsson looks on Glen Newcomb has his dog blessed by Fr. Michael. (John Beeler photo)





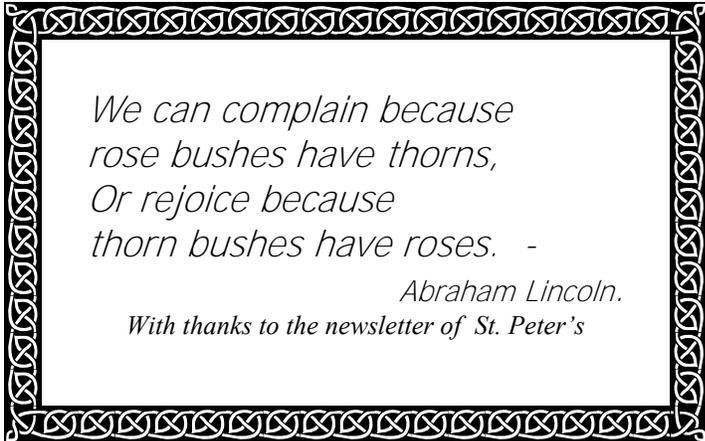
November Birthdays

Alexis Mackey	11/04
Julie Anderson	11/05
Gail Drus	11/05
Kirsten Linn	11/05
Ethan List	11/05
Dana Manchester	11/05
Donna Vordale	11/07
John Daley	11/10
Ryan Daley	11/10
DeLores [Dodie] Ellis	11/10
Sheila Holley	11/10
Eric Prothero	11/10
James Gibson	11/12
Carol Shuemaker	11/12
George Bowman	11/15
Natalie Ricci	11/16
Robert B. Glasgow	11/18
Glenna Baker	11/19
Peter Drus	11/19
Nancy Straight	11/20
Mary Bliss	11/22
Sally Goetsch	11/22
Anne Gusland	11/22
Christopher Woods	11/22
Roberta Woods	11/23
Henry Culmer	11/25
Kathleen Gonzales	11/27
Malcolm Anderson	11/28



November Work Party

If you are a member of Team John, or would like to be, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on November 13th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Marno Goetsch (team leader), John Sipos, Sally Goetsch, Stewart and Jeanne Johnston, Rick Kendall, and Sheryl Murray.



*We can complain because
rose bushes have thorns,
Or rejoice because
thorn bushes have roses. -*

Abraham Lincoln.

With thanks to the newsletter of St. Peter's

WHY AM I A SCCM MEMBER?

When Father Michael proposed the idea of a vestry member accepting a position on the Standing Committee for Campus Ministry at St. Michaels Isla Vista, my mental response was why????

Who in their right mind would want to take 2 or 3 hours out of their day to attend a monthly meeting and then get involved with helping on fundraisers and other projects taking more time out of their life? Why???

What did I know about today's college students, I remember when schools had only one room! What could I give them, I do not understand their music, do not dress like them, have a problem with their language, can not use an I-phone and I am no way politically aligned with them, what could I give? Why???

I live in the northern part of Santa Barbara County, there are 3 Episcopal Churches up here and yet no one is on the SCCM, then why should I? Why???

A lot of questions with no know answers, so what do I do? I call Reverend Nicole Janelle, talk to her about the SCCM and agree to go to a meeting in my work clothes (I am a painter). Why???

That was a year ago and I am still on the committee. Why???

The answer is simple SCCM does not have to know about today's students and their likes/ dislikes. They have to know about God and want to share him with the students on how he can guide them, protect them, give them compassion, love, understanding, and most of all a place that is secure and peaceful.

All the programs that SCCM helps to sponsor are designed to help the students get to know each other and God in a comfortable low key environment. We only want the students to understand that we are here for them and them alone.

I have not been the most active member as most events occur in Isla Vista and at times that conflict with the many activates I am involved in at my church. But I am trying to recruit other members from the north and have activates up here to support the many programs sponsored/ supported by the Standing Committee on Campus Ministry.

WHY AM I A SCCM MEMBER? Why not???

Howard Gould



In this shot it looks like the photographer is distracting Lulu somehow. (John Beeler photo)

Bede the Bat

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

Those of you who know me and have read my letters for the past couple of years know that I am very busy this time of year. What with Halloween and all the parties and festivals, I'm pretty much in demand. I am getting on in years and I'm not as agile as I once was, but I can still scare the pudding out of people and, I must admit, I enjoy that.



I also enjoy this time of year because it ushers in a wonderful time for our Church. Advent is always a memorable time for us. It is suspenseful and almost mysterious and surely a holy time. We look forward this year to November 28, the first Sunday in Advent. And before that exciting date, we look forward to All Saints Day and All Souls Day. In my family, these were very important days. We recalled those who went before. They were very important to us because they loved us and taught us valuable lessons.

As a very young Bat, my family lived in a truly multi-cultural neighborhood. We lived in the Belfry of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Next door to us lived the Cantor in the local Synagogue. It was on the opposite corner from our church. Two blocks away was the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation. (The Greek weddings there were amazing affairs with lots of fruit and dancing and laughter!) Two doors down from us lived the owner of the Italian market (a gruff old gentleman with a loud voice and big heart!) and across from him and his family lived an old gentlemen recently arrived from Germany who owned a candy store. The Chinese family a block away owned a restaurant and a dry cleaning establishment. Several other nationalities were represented and we all lived side by side and celebrated together and prayed for each other and felt pride in our neighborhood and love for our country. Our Churches and Synagogues and Temples sort of merged into a powerful and loving year long series of opportunities to practice our love for our Creator and each other.

Advent was one such time and, when I recall my childhood as a very young Bat, I look back fondly at those wonderful times and those kind and caring friends. We were different and yet so much alike. To prove what I have said, I have only to quote what our friend the Cantor (whose beautiful voice thrilled us all) recited to us from The Talmud. (I know I need not explain what The Talmud is for I am certain that you know.) This is what he told us: "There are people whose remembrance gives light to the world, long after they have passed away." For me, this saying speaks to the light we long for in Advent and it tells all we need to know about why we celebrate the lives of those who are no longer with us.

On All Saints Day and All Souls Day, I know that the lives of those we loved and miss still give light to the world and that they are with the One whose Light will shine brightly at the end of Advent. Meanwhile, we will celebrate our diversity and look for the Light. It always comes again! Thanks Be To God!!

Blessings from the Bede the Bat!

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Stewardship Committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Vestry members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Marno Goetsch
Senior Warden



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:

**Clive Foy, Daisy Merrick, Marcelle Lo Cicero, N. Joyce Crenshaw,
Catherine Gibson, Ron Davis, Almedia Hutchinson, Stan Sheldon,
Sheila Holley, and Isla Hill.**

...and the members of our Armed Forces, including:

**Mathew Schmieser, Sean Diggs, James Root, Christopher Root, Rebecca Root,
Brandon Howell, Bill Free, Carl Free, Robert Smith, and Tom Pittenger**

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

Advertisements

Appearance of advertisements in The Bells of St.

Mary does not imply endorsement of the businesses by St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Questions concerning advertising may be addressed to the editor.

Allied Insurance has new occupational discounts.

If you work in one of these jobs, you could save 12.5% on your **auto insurance**. For more information, call **Mike Munson** at **688-6418**.

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Scientists	Firefighters
Engineers	Dentists
Physicians	Pilots
Pharmacists	Teachers
Paramedics/EMT	Accountants

Hometown Insurance, 1571 Mission Drive, Solvang CA 93463

A 3D graphic with the words "Jesus Loves You" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are white with a dark shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating or standing on a surface.

The Bells of Saint Mary's

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www.stmaryslompoc.org

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November, 2010

Next Issue:



Christmas 2003: Bryce Howard (the editor's step-son) makes a snowman at the Cal Neva resort on Lake Tahoe.

Christmas Memories

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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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