



The Bells of Saint Mary

January, 2011

With My Hand on the Plow: Epiphany

With this edition, I welcome you to the now **On-Line Only version of the Bells of St. Mary's**. I am hoping that this new way of reading the Bells will make for more contributors, more involvement in the calendar and programs of our church, and a more informed congregation in the busy day-to-day **happenings of St. Mary's**. There are still a few of us who will want the Bells in hard copy, and you will just need to let Elizabeth know so that we can provide that to you. The big advantage to all of us is that you will be able to see the Bells in **C-O-L-O-R!** Towards that end, we will try to have more pictures of our common life for you to look at. Some changes that are in the works for this coming year include:

1) Elizabeth Hatcher is no longer working as **our Treasurer... this has become a volunteer position** that our parishioner Mary Sharp has agreed to do for us. That means that **Elizabeth's work schedule will be reduced by one day, and that day will be Friday**. Our church offices will be open Monday through Thursday from 9-4... **and will be closed on Fridays**. If someone would like to volunteer to come in on Friday mornings and answer phones, that would **be great... but we will no longer have paid staff** doing that.

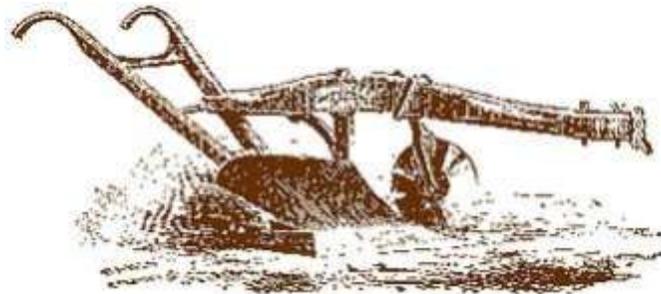
2) Your Vestry has decided to re-focus our efforts on the *Burn the Mortgage* campaign and

will be speaking to you, in church, once a month to encourage you to give sacrificially towards our goal of becoming a debt-free church by October of 2011. I am sure we can do this if we all give towards the common goal. Remember that we began the campaign because we believe that God wants us to be more active in our outreach and ministry work, and the freeing up of the money we are spending on our mortgage will allow that to happen. Towards that end, I would like you to read the email that I have copied here from Bob Hayes. Bob was one of the primary movers and shakers here at St.

Mary's, along with Bob Coe and Marno Goetsch, who shepherded the acquisition, construction and move-in process that got us into our church. He is also the man who the library here at St.

Mary's is named for. His email is a wonderful reminder of who our founders are...and their great love and sacrifice for St. Mary's. It will follow my article.

3) Our Annual meeting will take place on the last Sunday of the month, January 30th. We will join together for one service at 10 in the morning, and have our meeting immediately after the service in Fitch Hall. We will have a busy agenda, including our need to elect four new Vestry members, (and permission from you to appoint a fifth, to fill an unexpired term), discussion of our budget for 2011, which your Ves-



try has been working very hard on with the challenges of how to live into dramatic cuts in our budget to reflect our New Consecration Sunday pledge amounts (currently, close to **\$70,000 has been cut from last year's budget**) and redefine ministry imperatives that reflect this new reality; and hear reports from our various ministry groups.

4) We will be reducing the amount of cash we contribute as a church to our various outreach ministries. Instead, we are asking you to volunteer to help with the various ministries that our Outreach group decides to support in the coming year. We will be limited to a contribution of no more than \$1000 per quarter in 2011, but our volunteer hours to assist those ministries are unlimited. We would like to be able to commit to 200 hours a month. Which means if 50 of us give four hours each month towards feeding the homeless, or helping out at the Boys and Girls Club, or whatever else helps our community that we can do, then we will have increased the amount of outreach we do as a church, and more than make up for the less cash we will be

donating. Also, I am very excited about joining in an ecumenical effort this coming August to supply 1000 backpacks to kids in our community next fall, prior to school beginning in mid-August. Tentatively scheduled for early August, we would be part of a day at Thompson Park, throwing in our lot with 10 to 15 other churches to supply school supplies and backpacks for kids in our community. This year, we did about 75 **backpacks here in our church...next year; we will be part of a Lompoc valley church-wide effort to do a thousand!**

5) Coming in Lent this year, about half-way through, we will, in partnership with St. Peter's in Santa Maria, bring the Rev. Eric Law up to the North County to do a two day workshop called Emerging Grace. Eric is the founder and author of the Kaleidoscope Project, a workshop dedicated to overcoming racism in the church and in our world. He is also a good friend of mine and someone I have done a lot of work with over the years. Emerging Grace is a branching out for Eric, and I am delighted that we get to be part of the pilot work on this new workshop.



Christmas Pageant photo by Nancy Straight.

Emerging Grace will help us to identify and work at new ways of taking our ministry out of **these church walls and into the community...** with the intent of increasing our attendance on Sunday mornings, and increasing our visibility in our community. I will be asking eight St. **Marian's to participate in the workshop, who** will, in turn, be our trainers for our church. We can also begin to lend our efforts towards helping other churches in our Deanery, and help to grow the Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting workshop happening in late March.

I think the big Epiphany for me was New Consecration Sunday this year. In the time since that day, 101 Estimate of Giving cards have come in...which is **17 more than we have ever received...and they total significantly less than we have ever had pledged before.** Clearly the call is to **do ministry in a new way...and to do that, it will take all of you helping out your church. We cannot be a Sunday only, "I am only here for one hour" group of people...we have to be more involved in the on-going ministry of our church.** As we seek to grow our church in the New Year, my prayer is that you will all re-dedicate yourselves to the ministry of this wonderful church of ours.

I am looking forward to this new year of 2011. There are so many positive signs of growth and health in our community. We have many new members pledging and participating in our church; our music program is growing steadily and our choir has so many new folks singing with us that our seating area for the choir seems almost full every week. We will begin our Friday night worship series next month, and our ongoing Tuesday night and Sunday morning Learning Circles continue with double the attendance they used to have. Our Sunday school classes are re-focusing on Bible stories and learning more about the Episcopal Church, and there are always opportunities for you to help

by being a teacher on Sunday mornings. Why not try that for a six week period of time? Let Trudy know if you would like to be part of the formation for our children and young people.

Epiphany is all about discovering the Light. Seeing, being surprised, and living in the Light of **Christ. Let's dedicate ourselves to doing that in all of 2011.** I have always loved the slogan of one of the national motel chains that goes: **"We'll leave the light on for you."**

Let's do that. **St. Mary's...we'll leave the light on for you.**

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+

Letters From an Old Friend

Early December, 2010

Dear Father Michael,

I thank you very much for your e-mail, and I apologize for my tardy response. I am glad somebody sent me a hard copy of the December Bells so I could establish contact with you. I wanted to get my reply to you *before* Christmas, so I just barely made it. Believe or not, this facility (State Street Assisted Living) tries to fill our time with activities, and right now as I write this note, they have a group of elementary school children singing carols for us. Ignore my request to put my name on your mailing list for the "Bells." I can download the **Bells** from your website. But somehow it is in black-and-white. How do I get it in color? After Christmas I will download all 2010 issues, putting them in a binder. It will be my virtual visit to St. Mary's.

During construction of your present building, I was the vestry representative, coordinating daily with the building contractor, and weekly visits with the architect, at the site. The on-site superintendent of construction was a native of Denmark (I believe

his nickname was "Pike"). When the frame of the church was completed (a mere skeleton) near Christmas, Pike put a Christmas tree on the highest point over the Nave. This was an "old world tradition." We held our first service on the following Sunday. My part in the building of St. Mary's church was the most fulfilling retirement project a person could have, and I loved every minute of it. I find it interesting Marno is still guiding the Church as Senior Warden. He was also Senior Warden during all phases of planning, site selection, construction, and the first three years of occupancy. Is Bob Coe still there?

Back in the 1970-80's while I was still working, I made a business trip to Princeton, NJ. As was my practice, I attended an Episcopal Church on Sunday while on-the-road. I discovered a new supplemental hymnal to the Official 1940 book in use at that time. The Church in Princeton was using the new supplement. I was very impressed by the new hymnal, so I contacted the publisher to make a quantity purchase for St. Mary's. (There was no Amazon at that time.) I bought enough copies for both choir (large size) and congregation (smaller size). I am sure Glen and Mary Newcomb will remember them. They were bound in bright red plastic loose-leaf binders. When I read about the new supplement *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, I decided it was time to act again. I will send you a check by snail mail to cover 150 copies. If the book purchase has already been funded by someone else, use the money at your discretion.

Sincerely,
Bob Hayes

Thursday, December 30, 2010

Dear Father Michael+,

Our son, James, who works at a local Starbucks, spent Christmas afternoon with us,

but left at suppertime to return to his home. He had the opening shift (7:00 AM on Sunday, December 26) at the store. Our family from New Jersey was planning to drive down for a big evening dinner (eight people at a local restaurant in Dover.) The "Christmas Blizzard" made the roads (150 miles) unsafe, blocked by snow, ice, and accidents. It wasn't worth the risk. Tried again on Monday. Same story. Changed the reservations to Saturday, New Year's Day. Thus, Christmas will be late for us this year. Such is life. Incidentally, James' zip code is 19938 (*Clayton, Delaware — just north of Dover — the ed.*).

I promised you a Christmas gift, funding a quantity purchase of *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, an official Episcopal supplement to the 1982 hymnal. I explained this was the second gift to your music library, and I am sure you will enjoy it. When you get your quantity purchase, please send us a copy of the "choir edition with music". We have not seen this publication. If the books have already been funded, use the money at your discretion, but we would still like a copy of the "choir edition."

Now, a little bit of history: What appears to be the original cornerstone of Saint Mary's Church, is a piece of white marble saved by a parish member when the building was located on the south-east corner of "H" street and Walnut Avenue. At a later date, this building was moved across the street to the north-east corner. The marble was actually a counter top in the Sacristy. The only stained glass from that first church building is the small "Christus Rex" in the south of the Nave. In the first building it was located over the altar. Of course the four stained glass panels in the south end of the Nave are from the "church in the walnut grove" at 209 East Central Avenue. They were gifts from the Adam family, publishers of the *Lompoc Record*. All stained glass on the west wall are unique to your current building.

Back to Christmas. Our principal Christmas gift from James was a Casio electronic keyboard (61 keys) that simulates a small piano. It has a beautiful tone, and Harriet loves it. She can still create music right here in our apartment. A wonderful choice. Even though she is blind, and is losing her mind, she can still make music. We are indeed blessed.

Sincerely,
Bob and Harriet Hayes

The Vestry Speaks

Your vestry began the December meeting listening to Romans 8:18-39, a long passage that speaks to God's love for us and his willingness to lift us up when we are down, in short, the "foot prints in the sand" story.

We needed to hear this encouraging scripture as we spent most of a late night working on the budget, one that was being established to have expenses and income match and yet have the faith in God that would permit us to do what He wants us to do, a tough task indeed.

In this joyous time of year it is very hard to discuss money with an eye on cutting services or programs, but that is exactly what your vestry did. The budget will have cuts in it that you the congregation will question and perhaps not like, but we had to do what was necessary to come close to income expectations. There is faith built in as the expenses are higher than the income, but that is what we are about, and in these times we definitely need one set of foot-prints.

Praying that you all had a safe and joyous Christmas and a safe and happy New Year,

Your Vestry

A-Caroling We Will Go!

My family and I (all six of us) had the pleasure of going caroling to our Parish Shut-ins on the rainy afternoon/evening of Sunday, December 19th. Along with Fr. Michael and Deacon Judy, we were a small but happy group of eight people. Armed with the plates of cookies that various parishioners had brought to the church, we headed out in two cars to see and sing to ten members of our parish family.

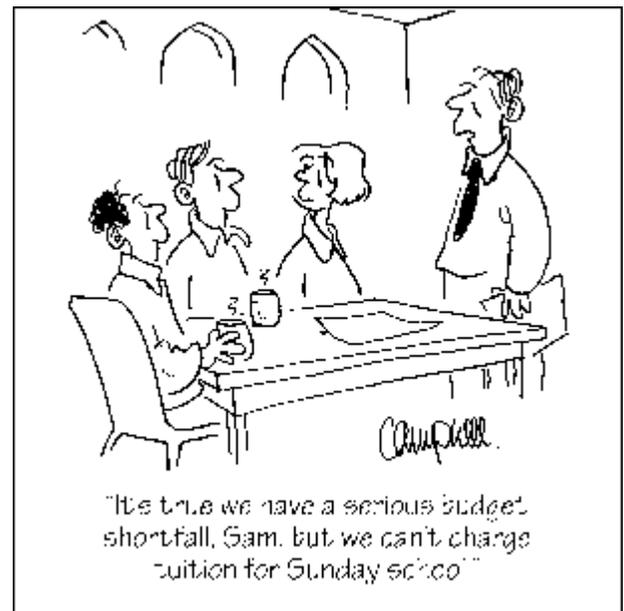
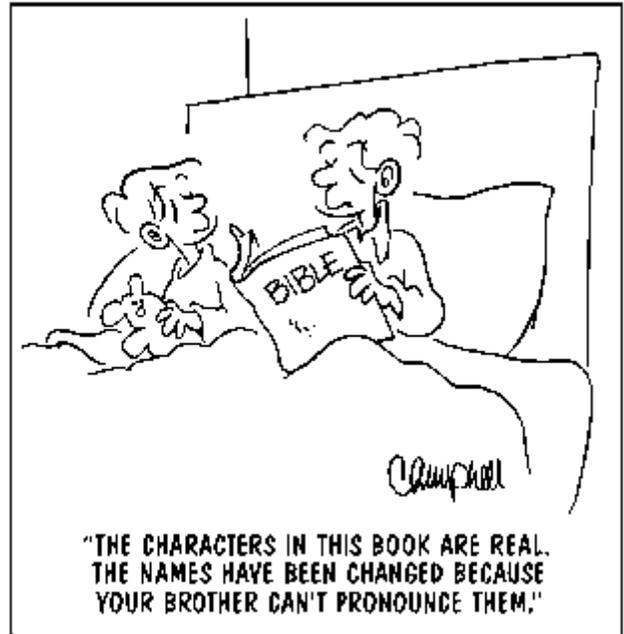


Photo taken by Linda Everly.

Continued on Page 8

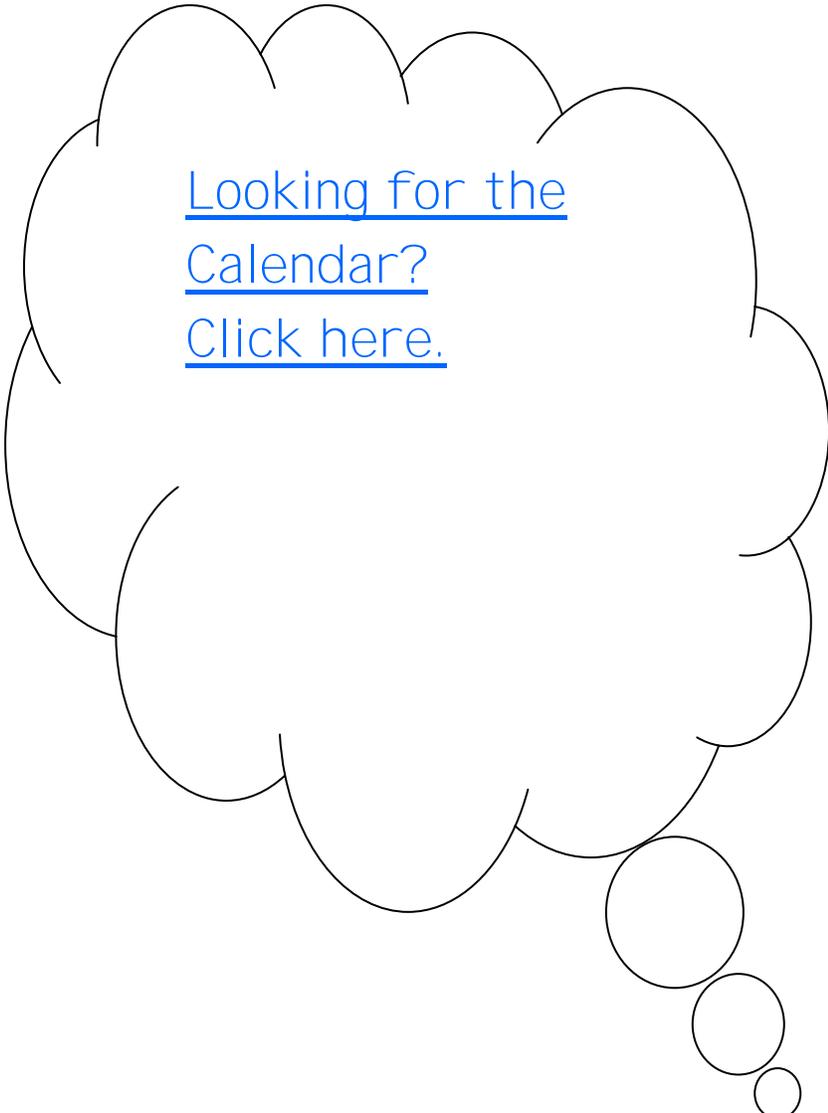
Happy Birthday

Frankie Aranguren	01/01
James Aranguren	01/01
Kaje Schultz	01/01
Jonatha Linn	01/05
Tiffany Brownell	01/06
Denise Laufer	01/06
Jenna Daley	01/10
Audrey Bowman	01/11
Dede Dunn	01/16
Barbara Holt	01/16
Gregory Holt	01/17
Anita McManigal	01/20
Barbara Wilson	01/20



January Work Party

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

A large, irregular thought bubble shape with a scalloped border. Inside the bubble, there is text in blue, underlined font. Three smaller circles of decreasing size trail from the bottom right of the main bubble.

[Looking for the
Calendar?
Click here.](#)

FOR THE LATEST UPDATE OF EVENTS, PLEASE GO TO www.stmaryslompoc.org

Financial Statement (As of November 31st, 2010)

Undesignated checking/savings	\$54,845
Designated checking *	\$53,043
Designated fund obligations *	\$53,043
Parish mortgage	\$367,432

	Actual Nov '10	Actual Jan - Nov '10	Budget Jan - Nov '10
Income §	\$31,457	\$311,144	\$327,578
Expenses	\$31,457	\$339,850	\$345,837
Net income/(loss)	\$0	(\$28,706)	(\$18,259)

BURN the MORTGAGE fund:	\$38,122
§ Transfer to General Fund	\$15,000
* BURN the MORTGAGE Designated Acct.	\$23,122

Continued from Page 5

What fun we had braving the wind and rain to sing to our friends. As Michael said several times: “There is just something special about singing Christmas Carols to people. It lets them know that there is someone who really cares about them.” Even our friend Ray Down, who has difficulty walking and breathing, sang right along with us.

The thing that tickled this old retired Choir Director’s heart was that we found that two of our “regular” carols actually had references to wind and rain in some of their verses. Did you know that the third verse of “Deck The Halls” has the line: “Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa, la, la, la,” Or that the fourth verse of “God Rest You Merry” has the line: “Shepherds...left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:” ?

Fr. Michael actually belly laughed when we found that...and insisted that we sing those two songs AT EVERY STOP! We also found that the caroling book we were using had some rather un-Episcopal verses added to the ones we know.

In short it was great fun, even in the rain. I hope that another year the weather will not be so nasty and more of the parish can join us in this important and joyful ministry to our fellow parish members.

Glen Newcomb

An Honest Mistake...

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup in

the process.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally...I assumed you had stolen the car."

Actions count!

Submitted by Stephanie Newcomb



Creches displayed by Mary and Glen Newcomb (left), Frank and Jane Longley (bottom left) and Ruth Hicks (below). (John Beeler photos)



Bede the Bat



Hello from me, Bede.

Question. Did you ever get a song stuck in your head and you just couldn't get rid of it? I have had one that started in Hanukkah and has stayed and stayed. I think I told you that my family used to live close to a Cantor in the neighborhood Synagogue, and they had many beautiful traditions during this time of year. Funnily enough, the song I kept humming was "Tradition" from the wonderful musical "Fiddler On the Roof". It speaks of the duties of each family member, and the music is charming and, as I said, stays and stays. It made me revisit all the traditions of this Season of our Church and family traditions handed down year after year. Some have been around so long that sometimes we can't remember where they began or why.

One that I recalled is one I hadn't thought of for years. It's a tradition that you might begin yourself and perhaps you've never heard of it. I thought I would do it again this year and maybe you might think it would be interesting for you to do also. It's done during Epiphany and we called it "chalking the house" or "chalking the doorway." Its origin, I believe, is European and it comes during our Season of Epiphany. Some traditions call it the Feast of the Three Kings. Traditional colors are gold and white and some bake King's Cakes to celebrate. Traditional symbols are three crowns or a single crown.

Then, around January 6, the symbol **+C+B+M+** with two numbers before and two numbers after are often seen chalked above the doors of Christian homes. For example, this year of 2011 would look like this: **20+C+B+M+11**. I'm sure you have already guessed that the C is for Caspar, the B for Balthasar and the M for Melchior, the traditional names of the Three Kings or Wisemen or Magi. The 2011 is for the current year and the crosses represent Christ. The letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat", meaning "May Christ bless the house." As with many of our traditions, this one started out with overtones of magic, but rapidly became one used by Christians. The symbols are used throughout the world to represent a traditional Epiphany prayer and blessing. There is a beautiful Service for the blessing of the doorways that ends with this blessing:

O God, Lord of all that exists, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill each of us with the Light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Our Church believes that this is a time of brotherhood among all peoples and nations and bids that divisions cease. That's a great tradition for all year and all time. Traditions such as "chalking the doorways" might be good to observe all year as a reminder that we are one in Christ and for that reason He sent His Son. Happy Epiphany and keep looking for the Light. It has shone throughout countless ages and will for all time to come.

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

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:

**Sally Goetsch, (N.) Joyce Crenshaw, Catherine Gibson, Ron Davis,
Almedia Hutchinson, Stan Sheldon, Sheila Holley, Isla Hill and Patty Townsend.**

**...and the members of our Armed Forces, including:
Mathew Schmieser, Sean Diggs, Brandon Howell, Carl Free,
Robert Smith, Tom Pittenger, Bob Ramos, and Jeff Bastian**

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

Stephen Ministry

Every now and then life deals us blows that can really set us reeling. The loss of a loved one... loss of employment... divorce... retirement... empty nest... each of us responds differently to life challenges. Stephen Ministers are there to provide completely confidential support during these times.

Are you a man or a woman who is a good listener? Do you care deeply for your church family and want to help when someone is hurting? Perhaps you want to be part of a ministry at St. Mary's that doesn't take a lot of your time, yet offers you a chance to give of yourself. Then Stephen Ministry could be right for you.

Training will begin soon. Please contact Nancy Straight at 805-315-5791, Kay Rowland at 733-3383, or me at 757-2573, if you are interested or would like to hear more about Stephen Ministry.

God Bless,
Linda Everly

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

January, 2011

Next Issue:



Preparing for Lent

Inside this issue:

Fr. Michael:	1
Letters From an Old Friend:	3
Vestry Speaks:	5
Glen Newcomb:	5
January Birthdays:	6
January Work Party:	6
Calendar:	7
Financial Statement:	8
An Honest Mistake:	8
Creche Photos:	9
Bede the Bat:	10
Prayers of the People:	11
Stephen Ministry:	11



“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