



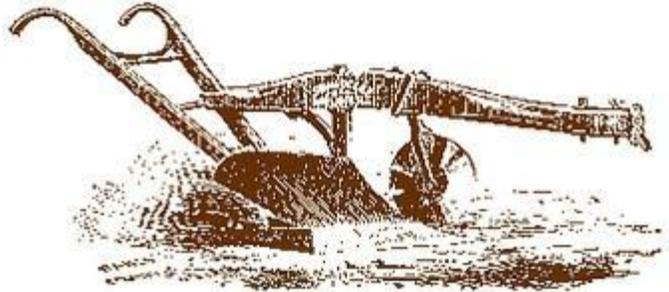
The Bells of Saint Mary

February 2012

With My Hand on the Plow:
Let Justice Roll Down Like Water

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Amos 5:24

Barbara Manchester brought me an article from the *Dimensions of Dental Hygiene*, the Journal of Professional Excellence which she reads in her work as a Dental Hygienist. The article, entitled *American Indians Experience High Rate of Dental Caries and Limited Access to Care*, documents the horrific rates of dental disease among inhabitants of the Pine Ridge Reservation, where we go in our mission work every summer. The article reports that



among a survey group of 292 residents, 84% of children and 97% of adults have cavities, and that 68% of adults have periodontal disease. There is a quote from one of the study surveyors, a member of the Oglala/Lakota tribe, Maxine Brings Him Back-Janis, that I found particularly challenging: “These four days on my reservation form a threaded story of the health disparities that exist here, the social exclusions of indigenous people, and the invisibility of marginalized communities. How can these voiceless, weeping faces of my people be heard? How can the invisible become visible?” It reminds me again that our God is a God of justice...and that the work we do in mission is the work of justice and righteousness. Imagine if 97% of the people in our church had constant cavities in their teeth and no den-

Inside this issue:

[Work Party](#)

[Finance Statement](#)

[Bede the Bat](#)

tists and no money to do anything about it. Imagine our church if 8 out of every ten children were in the same boat.

I am writing this on the 17th of January, the day after Martin Luther King Day. In Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, arguably the most significant speech of the last fifty years in our country, he said: "We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash the check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice." That sounds like it was ripped out of the headlines of today's newspapers. With the vast majority of the personal wealth of our nation held in the hands of a very few people, less than 1% of our total population, and our cities growing in people out of work and living below the poverty level, Dr. King's words are prophetic now forty plus years after they were first spoken on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in our nations capital.

Our scriptures and our faith teach us that we must be concerned with all of God's people. That Jesus came to redeem all of us, not some of us. That God's reign can be recognized by mercy and justice...and that we are agents of change. So much of what we do on the Red Shirt Project is about opening doors and encouraging our young people to walk through them. That in doing so, they will see new visions of what the Gospel is calling us to do, how we are to live, and what work for



Julie Sherman took all of the pictures of the January 14th parish tea in this issue, including this candid shot of the Marthas getting the food ready. Thanks Julie!

the coming of the Reign of God feels like.

But this is not limited to work on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Not at all. The whole reason we do Outreach ministry and try hard to help in our own community of Lompoc is that not all of us are called to go to Red Shirt. Not all of us want to spend two weeks sleeping on the ground and working in the heat of South Dakota in the summer. But all of us are called to help others who do not have what we have. That is why our Outreach Team is so busy. That is why Outreach defines who a church community is. What we do for others is how we measure ourselves according to the scriptures that we seek to learn and understand. How we welcome the stranger among us is how we pay attention to the voice of God among us. How we help feed homeless people is how we see the heart of God beating in another. When we think of others before we think of ourselves...we begin to live our lives the way Jesus did.

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream is not some cry from the political process or grabbed from the headlines of the newspaper...it is the words of the prophet Amos...and they are intended for our instruction and incorporation into our lives. When we live the way Jesus teaches us to live...we celebrate the coming of justice and righteousness because it means that we are living the faithful life. It means that we are not concerned if people “approve” of us...but we are concerned that God be pleased with us.



Glen Newcomb and Howard Gould at the January 14th tea.

As we approach Ash Wednesday this month, and enter into a holy and observant Lent, let me encourage you to examine carefully what you hear in the media and in your own life. Try to use the filter of scripture and the call to be a Gospel Based Disciple as the way you assess the messages you get from outside sources...and turn them into your prayer life and your heart to determine for yourself what is truth, and what is filled with justice and righteousness, and what feels like living the Kingdom Life to you.

With my hand on the plow,

Fr. Michael+

Christian Formation 2011 Annual Report-

Trudy Ardizzone, Missioner for Christian Formation

I have been doing this ministry a very long time. Thank God I've finally learned a few things. The fresh breath of the Spirit is always whispering in my ear, "Forget how you've always done it. Times are changing." I finally realized that when a plan I've gotten attached to falls apart it is because God has a better one in store. That was the good news of this year's Sunday School program. At the last minute my usual team was no longer avail-

able. A change needed to be made. Stephen Bastien informed me that the children all really enjoyed the hands on model of VBS and that he was very interested in learning about life in Bible times. I offered up Palestine 30 AD: You Are There. It offered a series of workshops on every day life in Je-



Saying "cheese" at the January 14th tea.

sus' time. I asked for help in church and within the hour I had a line up of some of the most gifted,experienced teachers signed up for one month each. Thank you Mary and Glen Newcomb, Virginia McConnell, Nancy Straight, Natalie Ricci, Howard Gould and Cynthia Leroy for volunteering.

Adult Formation yielded many lively and meaningful discussions on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings around a variety of topics. These included:

The Theology of Harry Potter, The Episcopal Church in the United States Sabbath as Resistance, Lenten Study on Models of Discipleship, Israel, Palestine and the Middle East, A Book Discussion Series on The Lemon Tree, An Advent Study of A Christmas Carol.

We also enjoyed three outings. We had an Epiphany Star Party at the S.B. Planetarium. In the summer we attended My Fairytale under the stars in Solvang, with dinner catered by Michelle. The PCPA production of A Christmas Carol enriched the season for fifty six of us.

2011 was a Seuss Summer where we focused on peacemaking with Jesus and Dr. Seuss. Our gifted VBS helpers included Peggy Gould, Alice Drus, Michelle Pittenger, Nancy Straight, Francesca Ardizzone, Glenna Baker, Natalie Ricci and two teens.

Glen and Mary Newcomb shared Dr. Seuss stories in the local parks. A July Family Movie Night and August Family Game Night continued our peace themes. St. Mary 's Day was celebrated by inviting the community to our Peace Village. Summer Sunday School focused on the Gospel message.

In the fall we continued Family Fun Events, but on Sunday afternoons to better accommodate the families ' schedules. We shared games, crafts, food and worship at Spooks and Saints, Grateful Hearts, and Christmas Posada. Families were provided with seasonal resources to use at home. On the last Sunday of every month the children lead the 10:00 worship service. With Chris Bowman and my sister June 's help, every child was provided with their own personal hymnal and a CD of the children 's music. Once again we ended the year on a joyous note with our intergenerational Christmas Pageant. Mary Newcomb helped with the costumes. June provided sound effects and Joe programmed flying angels on the projector, [just to keep things interesting.]

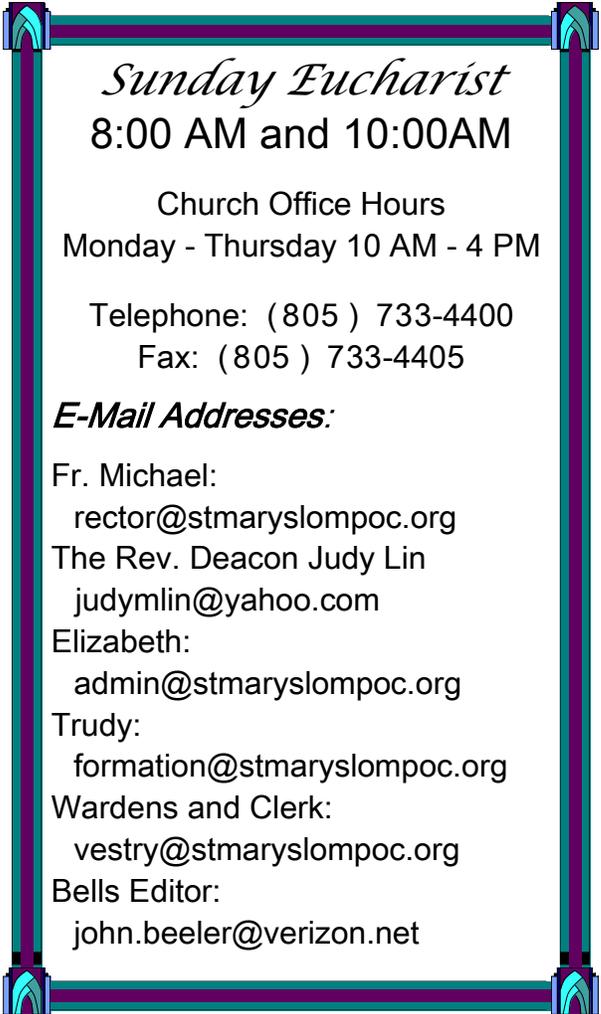
A special shout out to my pal Neiko Pagaling who "had my back " all year at VBS, Sunday School and the pageant. Neiko taught me that what our teens really want and need is to be in relationship to the adults at church, to have their gifts and talents recognized, and to be invited to contribute and participate in the life of the church.

Thank you to all the kind, generous and supportive people of St. Mary 's who always step forward when I need something. Stay tuned for Jesus the Miracle Man this summer, more Family Fun Events and an emerging high school group.



February Birthdays

Marie Pope	02/01
Sarah Cunningham	02/02
Michael Contreras	02/03
Heidi Jansson	02/03
Robert [Bob] Coe	02/05
Paul Hamilton	02/09
Linda Everly	02/10
Barbara Manchester	02/16
Cynthia LeRoy	02/18
Richard Kendall	02/19
John Sipos	02/21
Howard Gould	02/23
Gloria Griffith-Montague	02/23
Alec Smith	02/23
Patricia LoCicero	02/27
Patricia Day	02/29



Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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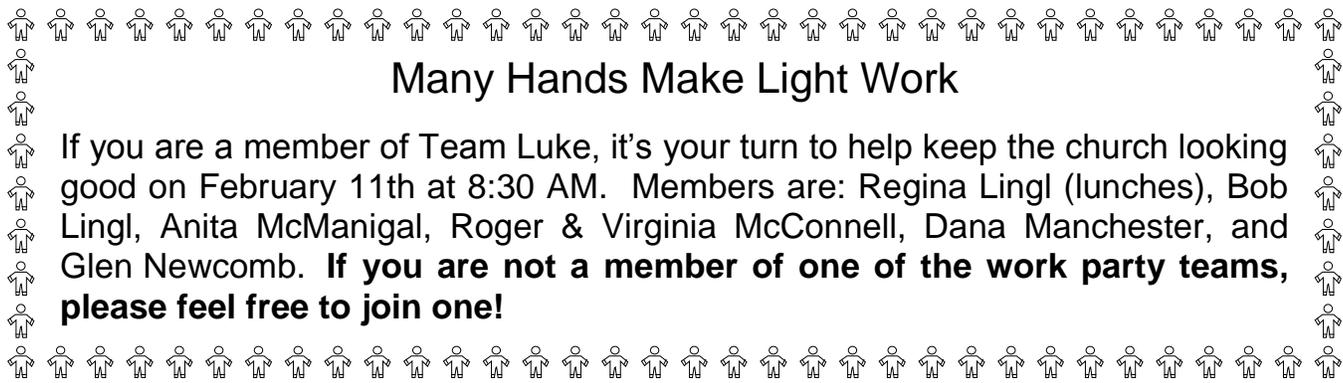
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Trudy:
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vestry@stmaryslompoc.org

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Many Hands Make Light Work

If you are a member of Team Luke, it's your turn to help keep the church looking good on February 11th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Regina Lingl (lunches), Bob Lingl, Anita McManigal, Roger & Virginia McConnell, Dana Manchester, and Glen Newcomb. **If you are not a member of one of the work party teams, please feel free to join one!**

St. Mary's Epsicopal Church
2012 Cash Budget and 2011 Cash Budget & Actual Results

Description	2012 Budget		2011 Actual		2011 Budget		2010 Actual	
Total Income			398,425				358,215	
Less Operations or Burn The Mortgage Income			84,530	4			36,000	3
Income	339,097	1	313,895	2	320,461		322,215	
Less Expenses:								
Adminstration	232,860		233,753		230,521		230,798	
Buildings & grounds (includes Rigel exp)	37,810		24,613		23,360		43,640	
Christian formation	1,000		176		0		2,343	
Communications	980		270		380		2,103	
Mission share fund	15,000		12,887		12,800		29,305	
Mortgage (includes principal + interest)	43,467		131,810		47,280		47,280	
Outreach	4,000		3,946		4,000		9,419	
Pastorial care	200		0		0		2,130	
Radical hospitality	750		160		0		1,273	
Stewardship & renewal	500		0		0		3,439	
Worship	2,530		1,882		2,120		1,546	
Total Expenses	339,097		409,497		320,461		373,276	
Net loss			(11,072)		0		(15,061)	

1) 8% increase over 2011 Actual 2) Income was 2.58% less than 2010 Actual
3) Offset expenses 4) Mortgage reduction

Undesignated Funds Analysis

	2011 Actual
Undesignated funds at the start of the year	74,378
Undesignated funds at the end of the year	64,507

2011 Designated Funds Analysis

	Beginning Bal.	Donations	Distributions	Ending Bal.
Burn The Mortgage fund	6,803	79,757	84,530	2,030
Administrative support	448	2,255	2,150	553
Christian formation fund	1,634	390	1,808	216
Concert fund	5,064	0	0	5,064
Flowers fund	1,099	3,220	3,989	330
Honorarium fund	207	0	0	207
Outreach fund	269	48,165	43,219	5,215
Radical hospitality fund	2,990	8,659	2,784	8,865
Repair and replacement fund	15,244	7,789	22,746	287
Worship fund	594	24	94	524
Pastoral Care	0	883	808	75
Balance	34,352	151,142	162,128	23,366

Mortgage Debt Analysis

	2011 Actual
Beginning of year mortgage balance (1)	349,338
Interest payments (2)	23,474
Principal payments (3)	108,336
Subtotal payments (2) + (3)	131,810
End of year mortgage balance (1) - (3)	241,002

Bede the Bat

Hi to all my friends at St. Mary's!! It's me again, Bede the Bat in the St. Mary's Belfry!

I'm sure you've heard the saying, "All work and no play makes Bede a dull Bat!" No? Well, now you have and I will explain why I'm quoting that. (As my Father always says, "That's an old saying that I just made up!" That's a little Bat humor!)



I'm sorry to be so silly today, but I'm really happy about something that has just happened and I want to share it with you. First, I must tell you that I seldom fly anywhere that isn't relatively nearby. It is hard for Bats to travel very far unless they are certain that there will be a good place to stop and rest. We, for the most part, prefer to stay overnight in church belfries and sometimes they are few and far between. That is why the trip to Pine Ridge was so wonderful. I was able to ride in a car, look out the window and enjoy the scenery at Bat eye level instead of from above. It might seem great to be able to fly high above everyone and everything, but you miss a lot. Now, I have a chance to do it again, only this time it isn't to Pine Ridge. That's not for another six or seven months. This is what happened and it's very exciting!

I received a letter from my friend, Maude Mouse, who is Head Church Mouse at St. Peter's, Santa Maria. Maude and I are old friends and her daughter, Millicent, is great fun. Millicent is in the third grade and says very funny things. She is also a huge figure skating fan. Her favorite skater, even though she's not competing now, is Michelle Kwan. Maude has a staff at St. Peter's. Actually, I'm not sure you could exactly call them 'a staff'. Maude calls them 'the Gang of Four' and they are a rowdy bunch. One of their number, Cuthbert, is really the Church Cat there, but the others, Freddie Fleas, Big Al and Rotten Ralph are cats from the neighborhood and prone to get into trouble. Maude has taken them under her wing and is trying to teach them manners. (Actually, she is trying to teach them not to turn over the neighborhood trash cans before the animal control people catch up with them. But I digress.) Maude has written me to invite me to go with this group to the Figure Skating National Championships in San Jose! I am so excited! She has a seat in the ceiling of the arena that she has secured for me and we have nice hotel rooms at a place she calls 'the Duck Hotel'. I don't know if that means that Ducks run it or whether that's where they stay or what but, if Maude chose it, it is sure to be nice. (I only hope that the Gang of Four won't chase the Ducks if there are any at this place. I don't want to have to bail out a bunch of Cats from the animal control jail! I hope Maude knows what she's doing inviting them along. This is the same group who were told not to go into the Badlands at Pine Ridge, disobeyed and I had to go out and guide them back to the camp. It was nice being called 'a hero', but still But, again, I digress.)

Maude has also invited Agnes Claire and Hangtag Boyd, the resident Church Cats at St. Stephen's, Beaumont. The plan is to get Agnes Claire and Hangtag Boyd a ride from Beaumont to Lompoc, where they will pick me up and then we will all go to Santa

Maria and on to San Jose. Father Michael has said that, since I work very hard here at St. Mary's, I can take some time off for some fun! This is going to be a real adventure because, not only will we see all the skaters compete, but we will see Michelle Kwan (Millicent's idol!) inducted into the Figure Skating Hall of Fame! What a trip this will be!

We're going to take lots of pictures and write of our adventures and I am going to make a sign that says, "HELLO TO MY FRIENDS AT ST. MARY'S!! IT'S ME, BEDE!!" So, if you watch the skating on TV, you can look up and there I'll be! I promise to wave to you!! I can hardly wait! So take care of things for me while I'm gone and when I get back, I'll be Bede, the Figure Skating authority and anything but dull! 'Til then,

Love and blessings from Me, Bede the Bat!!

Prayers of the People

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

Lord, open our hearts to Your perfect will, that we may faithfully intercede on behalf of those we bring to You now in prayer:

Lee Bowles, Pat Day, Ray Down, Sr., Isla Hill, Sue Villereal, Valerie Ward, Lou Hodges, Kirk Worden, Sheila Holley, Almedia Hutchinson, Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon, Linda Smith, Tom Welch, Kitty Wenk, Rachel Williams, Keith Wright, MaryJo Wright, and Jeanne Yeiser.

And those serving in the armed forces remembered by our parishioners:
Carl Free, David Barrett, Jason D, Kevin S, and Nevin Taylor

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 Prayer Request slip or Pew card, submit via our website www.stmaryslompoc.org call any of our Prayer Ring 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