

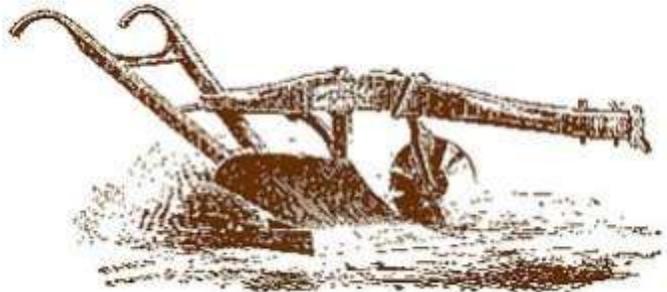


The Bells of Saint Mary

May 2012

Herding

On Thursday, the 19th of April, I went to a meeting of the clergy of our El Norte Deanery One at Clos Pepi Winery close to Lompoc. When the clergy gather, we tend to have a presentation made by one of us about something going on with our ministry that has application for the rest of us. I presented about the Red Shirt Project a couple of months ago, and others have presented about the Abundant Farm project or Campus Ministry, that sort of thing. This time the meeting, (which was organized by The Rev. Randal Day, the Rector at St. Mark's in Los Olivos) was all about shepherding and wine making. It promised to be a very interesting event. And it was. There was a demonstration by the Shepherdess who is resident at the Winery on sheep and herding. It was an amazing thing to witness.



The Clos Pepi Winery uses only natural materials in the making of their wine. And to the extent possible, is a sustainable concern, even down to the kind of corks they use for their bottles. Towards that end, they use their sheep to control grass and weed growth in the fields, (but NOT around the vines) and use the manure they produce as fertilizer for their crops of grapes and olives. The flock is tended by their Shepherdess, and two dogs. One, a mastiff, lives with the sheep and cares for them by protecting them and caring for them in their corral. The other, an amazing sheep dog, is the herder. We attended a demonstration of what a well-trained sheep dog can do.

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Bagpiper Ted Jackson leads the Palm Sunday procession. Photo by Rick Kendall.

First and foremost, he is completely focused on his job. He rarely takes his eyes off the Shepherd, and when he does, it is only to keep his gaze on the sheep. He responds to hand signals and to the movement of her Shepherd's Crook, and has complete control of where the sheep go, and how they get there. The bond between the two was a beautiful thing to watch...and reminded me so much of the Good Shepherd lessons of this past Sunday. Both use love as a verb. Both are completely concerned with the well-being of those in their care. Both enlist support to ensure the safety of the flock. Both actively seek new members for the flock and provide extra care for newborns...to the flock and to the faith.

I imagine a community that is like that. Devoted to one another and caring for young and old alike. Concerned about the other before thinking of themselves. Seeking support and comfort from other members of the community so that no ministry is about any one individual or any one cause. Always on the look-out for new members and careful to keep an eye on strays. I began to understand the lessons of the Good Shepherd in ways that I never had been able to see them before. I want our church to be like the community that Jesus is talking about in the Gospel message of last Sunday.



Gathering in Fitch Hall for the Palm Sunday procession. Photo by Don Lown

I want our church to be a place where we are always willing to move over on the bench and make room for more. I want our church to be full of folks who come here for renewal and wonder, dreams and hard work. I want you to be concerned with what is going on here and ask yourself “how can I help make that happen?” I want the church to be there for you...and I want you to be there for the church.

We do so many things well here. Our Lay Eucharist Visitors are doing a wonderful ministry of calling and presence with those among us who can't get to church on Sundays due to health reasons. Our Altar Guild is working all the time and our Outreach Ministry Development Team meets once a month to try and address the great needs of our world in and outside of Lompoc. And the list is long and getting longer all the time. And our need for your input and your involvement has never been greater. As we grow, it is critical that new voices in our congregation get heard and listened to. Please join in the work of the church! One of the ways to best get involved is to know who to talk to.

Here at St. Mary's the best way to do that is through the Vestry Liaisons. We used to put their names and assignments in the bulletin every week, but space is limited these days so I give them to you now. They are working hard to represent the trust you placed in them by electing them to serve you. They attend meetings of various Ministry Development Teams and report back your good ideas and suggestions that you have made in the various groups that you volunteer with.

Please feel free to cut this out and put it on your frig. It will not change for the remainder of the year:

John Sipos is the liaison to Outreach.

Alice Drus for Formation and Christian Education.

Julie Sherman for Community Life and Fund-Raising.

Roger McConnell for Finance.

Mary Sharp is our Treasurer.

Rob Glasgow is keeping an eye on Buildings and Grounds.

Jeanne Macomber is working with Administration.

Jeanne Johnston with Pastoral Care.

Bob Lingl with Stewardship.

Louise Larson is with the Communications group.

Howard Gould is our Senior Warden and remains active with the Worship team.

Rick Kendall is our Junior Warden and remains active with communications as well.

If you have ideas that you want to share with any one of the Shepherds, please let them know.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+



Ray Gould is 95! Photo by Rick Kendall.

Red Shirt Project

One of the wonderful things about being in church is how time passes. One of the ways I have measured time since 2001 is by the Red Shirt Project. RSP 12 is coming up! Our annual mission trip to Red Shirt Village on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is scheduled for July 15-August 1 of this summer. I have applied for a grant once again from the Bishop Stevens Foundation, and am hoping to receive as much as \$5000 towards the \$25,000 I need to raise for this year's trip. The price of gasoline has got us a little worried, but not doubtful...never doubtful.

Won't you please help us send our group back on this life-changing mission trip? Go to stmaryslompoc.org, and check out the testimonies from so many of our St. Mary's young people and others who have made the trip over the years. Read what God is doing in their lives, and will continue to do with the young people we will take this year. If you can help, in any amount, please make your check out to St. Mary's Church and write RSP or Red Shirt on the memo line. I will keep you updated on how we are doing and who is going with us this year.

Thank you for your continuing love, prayer and support for the Red Shirt Project.

Fr. Michael+



Reading the Passion at the closing of the Palm Sunday service. Photo by Rick Kendall.

Updated Information (and Pictures) for the Next Church Directory

By the time you read this, we will have started taking photographs of families and individual members for the upcoming Saint Mary's directory. **We will continue to take pictures on Sundays in May, ending May 20th.**

On the day your name is called, please start by going to the library to update your phone numbers, e-mail and postal addresses, and other information. The staff there will have you fill out a form, and then send you over to the Annex to have your picture taken.

Don Lown and I will be the photographers. Don will take most of the eight o'clockers, and I will take most of the ten o'clockers' pictures. We'll write a few notes on your form (so that the staff knows for sure which picture belongs to which family), and then you can take the form back to the library.

John Beeler

Christian Formation News: Confirmation

On July 15 St. Mary's will be blessed by a visit from the Right Reverend Mary Glasspool. That means it is time to turn our attention to the sacrament of confirmation. The Book of Common Prayer defines a sacrament as an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace. Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Over the years the church has had varied views of the necessity, purpose and proper age for confirmation. Some parents view it as a spiritual inoculation or booster shot for a teen's waning faith. Sadly some young people view their confirmation as a graduation, a completion of their Sunday School obligations and therefore an exit ritual. Some say it should not occur until the later teen years. Others think it is a great rite of passage into adolescence, much like a Bar Mitz-



Preparing to burn the mortgage at the Great Vigil of Easter. Photo by John Beeler.



The burning mortgage is used to light the first candle for the Great Vigil of Easter. Photo by John Beeler.

vah. In the end of course it is a very individual and personal decision. My own thoughts have evolved over the years. Consider the amount of things clamoring for our young people's time, attention and loyalty in the teen years. If by the time they are in junior high and we still have their attention, I think it is a worthwhile investment on our part to impart the deeper foundations of our faith. Every year with them, every class, should be as if we were preparing them for confirmation. Each time the bishop comes, they should be free to decide if they are ready and desirous of this sacrament. For me the op-

erative words are *express a mature commitment*. This has to come from the young person, not his parents or his teachers or his priest. The youth has to be able to articulate his faith. This means he can tell his friends what he believes in, what he stands for. He is not required to be a theologian. He can continue to question, search and refine his beliefs. The mature commitment is saying, *this where I am placing my hope and I am willing to stand with all of you in the faith, in my desire to grow into it*. Also with everything going on in schools today, having the spiritual reinforcement of the Holy Spirit inside couldn't hurt.

For adults new to the faith or the denomination confirmation classes are a wonderful foundation on which to build your faith journey. For those of you who sort of inherited your religion without much questioning these classes are good opportunities to respark your quest. And for the rest of us, who really can't remember what we learned as children, a refresher course is always a good idea. In case I have not yet made my case here are some thoughts from the Catechism of the Church of England that you might find interesting.

What is Confirmation?

Many of us were baptized when we were babies, and it was then that our parents and godparents gave us our Christian names, our first names. On that occasion we were symbolically included in God's special family. Of course, all this was done in expectation that we would one day turn to Christ, and seek forgiveness ourselves, and so become one of Jesus' friends, a child of God sharing eternity with him. Our parents and godparents, at that time, simply pointed us in a particular direction. Confirmation is where we confirm that direction for ourselves.

Confirmation is an Ordinance (or rule) of the Anglican Church. Turn to the Baptismal Service and at the end you will find instructions to godparents. They are instructed to see to it that their godchild knows the Creed, Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments, is instructed in the church Catechism and then is confirmed. Of course, these days it is more the parents' responsibility, as the role of godparents is often ceremonial.

Confirmation is the means by which a person becomes a full member of the church. What happens is this. The candidate prayerfully studies the Bible truths contained in the Catechism and accepts them to the degree they are able. They then attend the Confirmation service where they publicly confirm the promises made on their behalf at their Baptism. The Bishop then confirms their confirming of the promises by laying hands on the candidate and praying for their strengthening in the Christian faith. The congregation then joins in prayer for all the candidates.

The laying-on of hands may seem a little strange, but it is an ancient symbol of prayer. In the Bible we find that the action of laying-on of hands was used on special occasions: e.g. with prayer for God's blessing, by the leaders of God's people in Old Testament times, by Jesus himself, and also by his disciples. Prove this by looking up the following Bible references: Genesis 48:9-14; Deuteronomy 34:9; St. Mark 10:16, 16:18; Acts 6:6, 9:12, 19:1-6, 28:8; 2 Timothy 1:6.

So, Confirmation in our church is the rite, or ceremony, whereby the candidate confirms their baptismal promises and is confirmed by the Bishop in the prayerful laying-on of hands for strengthening in the Christian life.



Processing into the church for the Great Vigil of Easter. Photo by John Beeler.



Processing into the darkened church for the Great Vigil of Easter. Photo by John Beeler

Why should I be confirmed?

Our parents and godparents spoke on our behalf and answered questions that could only be answered by someone who has decided to follow Jesus for themselves. In a sense, it was an expression of their hope that one day we could say these things for ourselves. Confirmation gives us the opportunity to consider the Christian faith for ourselves and confirm our own trust in Jesus. We study what it means to be a Christian, confirm the promises made on our behalf and seek the strengthening of God's Holy Spirit for our walk with Jesus.

Remember, it is only a first step filled with doubts and questions. Each will have to make their own journey toward trusting Jesus. Some will inevitably decide there is nothing in it all. Some will decide that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and that life eternal is found in him only.

So Confirmation serves the following ends:

- i) It is an opportunity to accept responsibility for the vows made for me at Baptism.
- ii) It challenges me to consider further the person of Jesus and what it means to put my trust in him.
- iii) It offers me the privilege of full church membership and therefore the right to take part in the Holy Communion.
- iv) It serves as a time when I can seek God's blessing in the strengthening of His Spirit.

If you are interested in being confirmed this July, or even just participating in the classes please speak to Fr. Michael or me so that we can arrange classes at the most convenient time for all. **If you are a young person, you must speak to us directly. Your parents can not sign you up for Confirmation Classes.**

More Christian Formation News

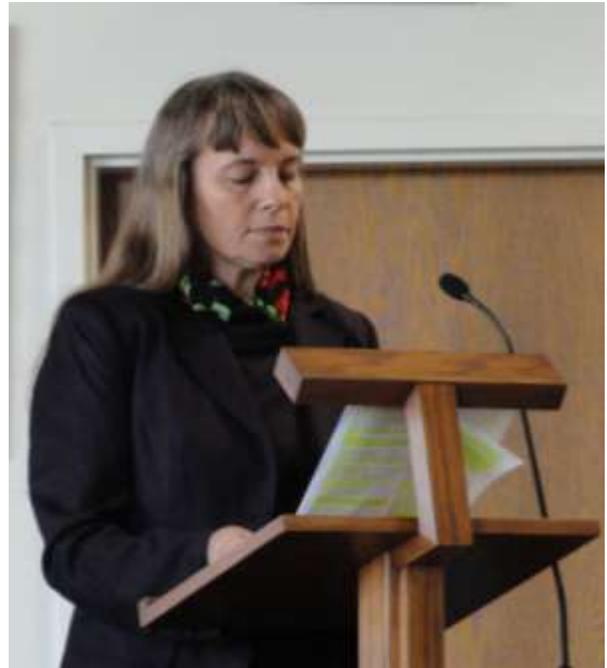
Our monthly **Family Fun Events** have been a lot of fun for all. Our last event of this school year will take place on Sunday May 20. It will be:

A Picnic at the Mission.

This will take place immediately after the 10:00am service. Dee Lonnon will be our very own docent, showing the children some of the similarities between every day mission life and life in biblical times. Families will bring their own picnic lunch, along with some shared treats for all.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will take place June 18-22. The theme is **“Jesus the Miracle Man”** which will continue our exploration of life in bible times. Cost is \$30 per child with scholarships available. We will be needing lots of help setting up our market place with tents and a well. Contact Trudy if you have a tent or tenting material we can borrow. We will also need adults to be story, drama, folk dance and market place leaders. Come play with us. Keep posted for an email blast of other things we will need.



Courtney Tan narrator of the Passion for the 8 o'clock service Photo by Don Lown

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School runs from June 24 to August 26. Trudy will be sharing the gospel with the children along with some singing every Sunday under the Story-telling Tree.

Help shape next year's Sunday School program by voting this June for your **Top Ten Best Bible Stories for Children**. You can refresh your memory by looking at our display of children's bibles. I know it sounds wrong to say this in an election year, but I will happily buy your votes in exchange for an ice cream treat. Stay tuned for details.

Trudy Ardizzone,
Missioner for Christian Formation

Outreach: Nets For Life

I first heard about this project after our three convention delegates came back from convention in December 2011. Howard, Nancy, and Patricia were very excited about the project.

Time went on and no one picked up the ball and ran with it. I was given a piece of literature about the project just before my March outreach meeting. I thought that the Nets for Life project was a wonderful way to reach out to those in need. The outreach committee never took a vote, so I decided to take this worthy project on as my Lenten discipline.

I discussed it with Father Michael who gave me his 100% support and the go ahead to do it in March.

One hundred and fifty nets later, I am so humbled and touched by the response from St. Mary's, my parish family. Thank you all for your outpouring of support for this worthy cause in such financially stressful times. Your support can save up to 450 lives.

Bishop Jon Bruno came to our aid when he gave us permission to sell our rectory in pursuit of paying off our mortgage. I feel that our support of the Nets for Life project that our Diocese has embraced is a wonderful way to say "thank you, Jon, for your help."

God bless you all!

In Christ's name,
Peggie Gould



Dem Bones! Photo by John Beeler.

Dear friends,

This is a copy of what our Senior Warden wrote to Lompoc Foursquare. I thought you should read what Howard wrote.

Fr. Michael+

April 10, 2012

Dear Pastor Bernie Federmann, The Lompoc Foursquare Church Council, and Congregation

When Fr. Michael read your recent letter to St. Mary's congregation I was extremely proud to be a part of the accomplishment of paying off our mortgage. Not because I am a member of St. Mary's or that I am the Senior Warden but because I am a Christian. Jesus tells us "to love one another as I have loved you". Lompoc Foursquare followed that command to the ultimate end. In a day when who you are, the color of your skin, your nationality, mean more than how you live or treat others, Lompoc Foursquare congregation cast all that aside to follow Jesus and give of what God has given you to acknowledge a tremendous undertaking by fellow Christians.

The St. Mary's congregation was awestruck by what you did and many applauded your actions openly during the announcement. In this church season when Christ gave the greatest gift one can give to another, it is so gratifying to know there are Christians in our lives that give of themselves to others.

On behalf of the Rector, Wardens, and congregation of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, thank you for following His command.

Howard Gould

Financial Report

As of 03/31/2012

Undesignated checking & savings	\$55,431
Designated checking *	\$14,686
Parish mortgage	\$0

	Actual Jan - Mar '12	Budget Jan - Mar '12
Income*	\$86,932	\$84,775
Expenses*	\$90,545	\$84,494
Net income/(loss)	(\$3,612)	\$281

* Includes BTM income, and expenses over and above the sale of the Rigel property, to pay off the Mortgage Balance and Interest.



May Birthdays		
Melanie Mackey	05/01	
Patricia Baker	05/08	
Patti Balcena	05/08	
Jazz Kazianka	05/08	
Raymond Down Sr.	05/09	
Karla Kazianka	05/09	
Stephanie Bastian	05/10	
Allie Kazianka	05/10	
Rob Holdsambeck	05/13	
William Montgomery	05/13	
William Cady	05/18	
Louise Hodges	05/18	
Judy Lin	05/20	
Ann Glasgow	05/21	
Aubrey (Bud) Owen	05/21	
Michele Pittenger	05/22	
Samuel Ricci	05/24	
Maxine Smith	05/24	
Dan Hayes	05/25	
Jeanette Daley	05/27	
June Ryan	05/28	

Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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Wardens and Clerk:
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Bells Editor:
john.beeler@verizon.net

Many Hands Make Light Work

Please join us for a Work Party on Saturday, May 12th at 8:30 AM. You can help with the gardening, vacuuming the sanctuary, changing lightbulbs, or many other things that help keep the church going!



Alice Drus reads from Ezekiel 37 at the Great Vigil of Easter.

Bede the Bat

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

Wasn't Easter wonderful? I think they just get better and better. I always loved Easter when I was a young Bat, and there's something about this Season that always takes me back to childhood. Just like Christmas, Easter always seems to be for children. Watching children is such a satisfying thing to do.



I love watching children play. It's fun to watch them play games and ride bikes and run and laugh and do all the things that make childhood such a wonderful time. I always feel a real connection with all children. They might not be really mine, but in many ways, they are. They belong to all of us. And they especially belong to the Church. For many of these children, they are brought to the Church and they are Baptized and, perhaps, confirmed. Later, they might be married in the Church and bring their own children to be blessed by God. It's wonderful to think that they will have enjoyed the same things that we have loved and honored with our service and devotion.

One reason I have been thinking about this is that the other day I once again heard a phrase that was always familiar to me, but one that I had not thought of in a long time. Have you ever heard the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child"? The reason it came up was that someone had sort of scoffed at that idea and had said that it really only took "a mother and a father". It was, I think, meant to say that all a child really needs is parents and that the thought of others being important was not true. I really have to differ. From the time we are born and the doctor and nurses greet us, we are surrounded by "the village". Mothers, fathers, perhaps brothers and sisters, and later on teachers and friends and extended family and the people at the supermarket and the post office and the neighbors and so many more influence the person we will become. It is vital that we have all these relationships. They are important. We should know that there are others who will teach us and help us and befriend us and whose lives we will influence just as they influence ours.

For me, in growing into the Bat I am now, the Church was one of the defining places in the part that "the village" played in forming me. Outside of my parents and my teachers and friends, it



*The Alleluia returns at the Great Vigil of Easter.
Photo by John Beeler.*



*Putting the furnishings back on the altar at the Great Vigil of Easter.
Photo by John Beeler*

was the most important part of that "village". And this is why the parents and all others at St. Mary's should pay great attention and do all in their power to help with Sunday School and Christian Formation. Certainly the parents begin the true education of a child, but then "the village" comes into play. All of us have a stake in what these children become. It is a trite saying, (it seems that all sayings that are true are finally called 'trite'), but they are our future and the future of the Church depends on them.

As a part of "the village", I hope that you will do your part as fellow "villagers". Are you supporting your children in their spiritual growth? If you are a parent, do you drop off your children at Church and then go on your way to do something else? As one of the most important persons in "the village", it would be a good thing to follow them through the door and see for yourself what the Church "villagers" are teaching your children. There's a place for you to help. I am only a Bat in "the village", but I love my part. My part is to watch your children and love them and pray for them and pray that they are made to feel that they, too, are a part of "the village". No matter what the person meant when he left the rest of us out, I know and you know that it truly takes "a village" to raise a child and the Church is a huge part of that "village".

Best from me, Bede, the Bat in the St. Mary's Village.



*Almost done restoring the altar.
Photo by John Beeler.*

Critter creations

Kathy and Joe Gonzalez brought this sample of their daughter's woodwork. The unique wood-crafted and hand painted animal mailboxes provide your home or ranch with a great first impression. Each mailbox is \$75.00 with many animals available. She also creates animal planters for your yard or garden, price \$25.00.

It is a great way to display your personality and love of your favorite critter. Call and ask about yours today!

Ask for Anna 736-4629 or email: howa937@aol.com



*This cat 'drags in' the mail.
Photo by Judy Lin*

Dodger Night is June 15:



Dodgers vs. White Sox

Bishop Glasspool may get to throw the first pitch -- but that depends ...

It's time for Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium, set this year for Friday, June 15, with the Dodgers playing against the Chicago White Sox. If enough tickets are sold, Bishop Mary Glasspool will be on the mound for the first pitch (arrive before 6:30 p.m. to see the bishop introduced). Tickets are \$15 each (discounted from \$22), and must be purchased by May 18 through Dodger Night coordinators at individual congregations. Any child age four and over must have a ticket; younger children may sit in a lap. Tickets will be sent to each congregation by June 1. For information contact Howard Gould, 291-0888.

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, Sheila Holley,
Almedia Hutchinson, Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon, Linda Smith,
Kitty Wenk, Rachel Williams, Keith Wright,
MaryJo Wright, and Jeanne Yeiser.**

And those serving in the armed forces remembered by our parishioners:

Stefan LeRoy, Robert, Patrick, Jason D, Kevin and David Barrett.

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