



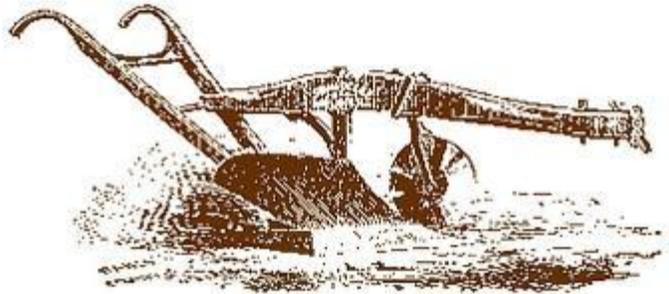
The Bells of Saint Mary

June 2012

Summer

“Summertime...and the livin’ is easy...fish are jumping and the cotton is high” so goes the old blues song and so we enter into the summer of 2012. I don’t think the cotton is high...since we don’t grow that in the Lompoc Valley...but with the best weather in the country...the livin’ is a heck of a lot easier here than anyplace else I have ever lived...and fish are jumping...at least we hope they will when we have our Vacation Bible School this summer.

Just coming up: On the 12th I will fly to Atlanta, rent a car, drive to Columbus, Georgia and attend my son’s graduation from Basic Combat Training at Ft. Benning. Simon actually graduates on the 14th, but the 13th is Family Day and will be the first time I have gotten to see him since he joined the Army. I will be back on the 15th, and will see all of you in church on Sunday the 17th.



The 18th begins our Vacation Bible School, and Trudy and all her helpers (I would list names, but I am sure I would leave somebody out...and I don’t want to do that) have put together a wonderful five day school that is exciting, educational, and fun. We finish the week going fishing down at River Park. And while I don’t anticipate hauling in a big catch of fish...I am sure that we will have a great time, since “the worst day fishin’ is better than the best day workin’” as the bumper sticker says.

All summer long, we want to invite you to join in the summer choir. No vestments, no commitments. But if you want to sit over with Chris and sing together,

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please do. Who knows? You might just love it...and want to continue. (that is what we are hoping, for sure!) The summer choir will rehearse that days hymns at 0915 on Sunday mornings.

Also this summer, we will take a break from Movie Nights...I hate to do it...but I won't be back from driving home from the airport in Los Angeles until long after the movie would be over on the 15th of June...in July, I will be at Red Shirt on movie night, and in August, it is the night before Kristina and Josh's wedding, and we would have long since set up the parish hall for the next day's reception. We will bring back the movies in September!

July brings us the Fourth of July and our annual "welcome our neighbors" to our parking lot and fervent prayer that the fog will not appear so we can all catch the fireworks. (assuming the City of Lompoc has fireworks). Eleven days after that will be our visit from Bishop Mary Glasspool and confirmation. We will have ONE SERVICE THAT DAY AT 10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING. Yes...that is right...one service. Please mark your calendars and plan on being there for the big Festival Eucharist and Confirmation. Also, stick around after the service as the Bishop will be sending us off on the Red Shirt Project from our parking lot. At last count, there were about 12-14 of us to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church on that day, and we have friends coming down from St. Peter's to also join in the service of confirmation. It will be a big day. Bishop Hughes will take services while I am gone on the Red Shirt Project. God Bless +Gethin. What would we ever do without him?



August brings us the backpack giveaway on the 18th and St. Mary's day on the 19th. There will be an opportunity for you to participate in both the city giveaway... scheduled for the 18th in the morning at the Methodist Church, and in our own outreach committee's work providing backpacks for Senior High School aged young people. More will be forthcoming from our Outreach Committee on that in July. We will celebrate St. Mary's day on the 19th and the 120th birthday of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lompoc. Not bad, eh?

Last, but not least, the fifth anniversary of the happiest time of my life is coming on July 1st. Five years of my being here at St. Mary's and having the distinct pleasure of being your priest. It is so easy to look back right now and see all the wonderful things we have done together and dream about what God has in mind for us in the next five years. Come join in a celebration of our mutual ministry over these past five wonderful years.

That's all for now. It is looking like a heck of a wonderful summer for us all. Remember that if you are going to be away, let us know so we won't worry after you. And while we are at it...remember to keep your pledge current this summer while you are away.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+



About the Trip to Pine Ridge:

Dear friends,

I thought I would run this in the Bells...so you had a glimpse of what all of those kids you are supporting have to deal with as they begin to prepare for the trip. We are six weeks away from this year's trip...and we have 16 young people going... which is our limit and thanks to you and the help of many others, we will make it. Thanks to all of you have contributed so far...and thanks to all of you who will give before we leave. God Bless You all for your help and love.

Fr. Michael+

JOURNEY TO PINE RIDGE: WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO BRING

- *Personal toiletries (shaving gear, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)
 - *Your own towel and washcloth
 - * Sunscreen... with the highest SPF you can find... 45 is good
 - *A hat
 - *Good cotton socks
 - * Sturdy shoes (no flip-flops... but good tennis shoes are okay)
 - *A daypack
 - ***You are limited to one suitcase/bag and one daypack.** The daypack should be big enough to pack what you need for two and a half days on the road. You will not be able to access your suitcase until we get to Red Shirt.
(Note: clothes that are light colored will be cooler than darker ones. If you have to choose between a black tee shirt and a light one, choose light. It can be VERY hot in South Dakota)
 - *Some pocket money (I would suggest no more than \$100.00)
 - *A book to read
 - * A journal... it is important to be able to reflect on your experiences while on this journey...
writing them down is a very good way to become more reflective upon what you are doing and how the Spirit is speaking to you while you are on this trip.
 - * Sunglasses
 - *If you want to bring a portable CD player that is okay but only at our base camp.
They are NOT to be brought into the village.
- There is NO WAY to re-charge I-pods, cell phones, portable anything players
- *Leave your personal jewelry at home... travel light and modestly is the rule
 - *Batteries
 - *A flashlight
 - *Mosquito repellent with the highest DEET number you can purchase. At REI in Arcadia,

you can get DEET with 100%; We have also found it at Target for cheaper.

*A couple of long sleeved tee shirts...

*A modest swim suit

*Bandanas

*Work gloves

* A wind-breaker or light jacket... it can be cool in the evenings.

*Band Aids (we will have first aid kits with us... these are for blisters)

*Pre-Stamped envelopes/cards that are already addressed (your parents want to hear from you!)

* **You may NOT bring a cell phone, they work against forming community.**

I will have mine... and the number is 805-757-0726—We will be happy to let you call home, and can receive messages from your parents/guardians.

*Disposable cameras are a good idea. Really good cameras are not.

****Any medications you take on a daily basis you need to inform me of, and you will need an ample supply of them with you.***

****Any allergies you have, to anything, I need to be informed of. This is critical information.***

*A tent

*A small pillow

*A sleeping bag

*A fanny pack

*A positive attitude

*A Disciple's Prayer Book (provided.. .but don't forget to bring it)

* A bible



CANCER

VALERIE K. WARD, Seminarian

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First published in St. Peter's newsletter, The Keys

Cancer...it's a bad word. It has the power to be a bad thing and it has the power to be a good thing. I went to the Physician's Assistant (PA) at my regular doctor's office because I wasn't feeling exactly right. The PA discovered the tumor in my lung on an x-ray. Once I slightly recovered from the shock and depression of the cancer diagnosis, I decided that cancer would be one of the best things to happen to me. That also seems to be the attitude that I see in other friends who have faced cancer and other challenges. Friends (not named here, but named in my prayers) have driven me to appointments and taken notes while doctors talked to me. I've had CT scans, CAT scans, PET scans, MRI's, a needle biopsy, removal of some lymph nodes, and surgery to put in a port-a-cath. I'm having chemo therapy and radiation treatments. I've been sick and I've been tired. My hair started falling out early in February and I decided to shave it – I didn't have the energy to vacuum up my hair as well as the dog's hair! My tumor is now shrinking from the inside out...like a cheerio. One friend said that cancer changes people from the inside out! I recently had another x-ray...the tumor is no longer visible on the x-ray...it is still visible on the daily scans.

I am not asking for sympathy. As a matter of fact, pity does not strengthen me. My cancer is not unique. Unfortunately, everyone seems to have "something" in their lives. I look around and everyone is struggling. People are dealing with or have dealt with every sort of health issue imaginable. I know many people who have or have had cancer. People are living with financial difficulties. I have family and friends who are looking for jobs. People are taking care of loved ones. I have close friends who have recently buried a child or a spouse or a parent or a sibling or another loved one. Some people have family challenges. People have (please fill in the blank with the struggles that you face). Everyone has "something". The difficulties that each person faces have, at that moment, the potential to be the worst, most awful thing. These difficulties or challenges also have the potential to be the best thing!

I chose to give up a few things so that I could focus on school, church, health, and home. I find that, in giving up the other things, I have the strength and the time to spend on those four areas. I can read and study for school or even nap while I'm receiving chemo therapy. As far as school is concerned, I made an A on my Hebrew Bible midterm and I have almost finished my research for one of my final papers. Fortunately, another friend has been driving me to school this semester! I'm practicing Centering Prayer when I'm having the radiation treatments. I love church and I find such strength in attending...that is when I'm revitalized to face the next week! Unfortunately, I did not have the energy to attend church on Palm Sunday, during Holy Week, or on Easter Sunday. Those were

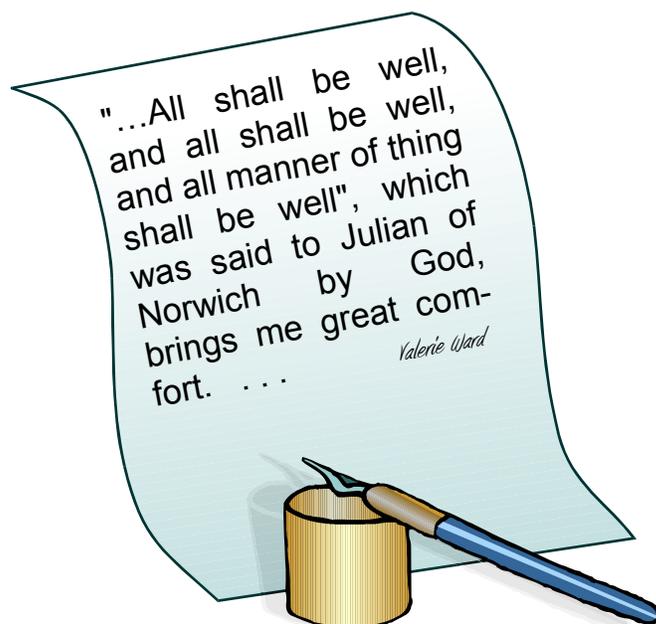
a rough couple of weeks. I'm walking the dog (and my neighbor Glenna Baker has helped me with my dog), drinking eight glasses of water a day, eating, and resting. The house has definitely been the last thing on my list and I'm ok with that.

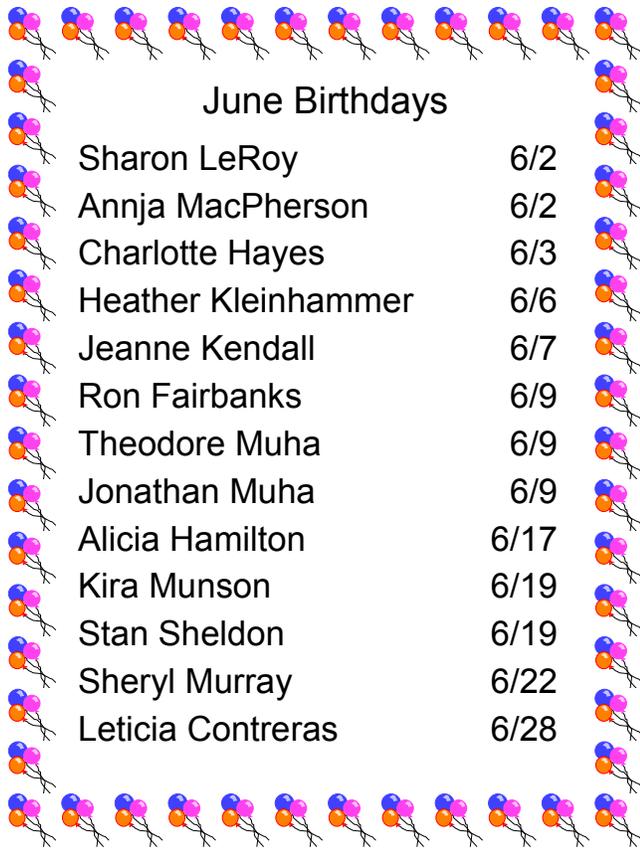
As I said, cancer will be one of the highlights of my life. I am so grateful to those friends who have offered support and prayers, cards and emails, love and so much more! I am privileged to hear the stories of friends about the challenges they have faced...their strength gives me strength. People have been very kind and very supportive. I have been fortunate to become better acquainted with people whom I only knew casually. I am thrilled to know the medical professionals in our communities! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I was recently asked how I was getting along with God. I am happy to report that God is walking this path with me and I'm sure you all feel that as you walk your paths. We don't always have the power to change what we're facing, but we do have the power to choose how we face it.

When my Hebrew Bible professor, Dr. Sanders, speaks to us about monotheizing, he says that the God of life and the God of death are exactly the same. He teaches us that God is with us in the good things as well as in the bad things. God is in charge.

People often ask what they can do for me. I find it very difficult to ask for help. The help with driving and with my dog have been wonderful gifts. I think it would be great if we could all do at least one act of kindness for someone else.





June Birthdays

Sharon LeRoy	6/2
Annja MacPherson	6/2
Charlotte Hayes	6/3
Heather Kleinhammer	6/6
Jeanne Kendall	6/7
Ron Fairbanks	6/9
Theodore Muha	6/9
Jonathan Muha	6/9
Alicia Hamilton	6/17
Kira Munson	6/19
Stan Sheldon	6/19
Sheryl Murray	6/22
Leticia Contreras	6/28

Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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Bells Editor:
john.beeler@verizon.net

Many Hands Make Light Work

Please join us for a Work Party on Saturday, June 9th 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!

If you can't make the June 9th party, please try to put the July 14th one on your calendar.

Financial Report

	As of 04/30/2012
Undesignated checking & savings	\$63,091
Designated checking *	\$20,276

	Actual Apr '12	Actual Jan - Apr '12	Budget Jan - Apr '12
Income*	\$32,889	\$119,821	\$105,832
Expenses*	\$25,229	\$115,773	\$105,518
Net income/(loss)	\$7,660	\$4,048	\$313

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

Prayers answered

"David Barrett is transferred permanently from Afghanistan via Fort Drum, NY to Fort Rucker, AL. He is with his family now on leave and will sign in with his new unit in about two weeks. This is the news for which we have been hoping for so long, and it has finally happened.

We can't thank you enough for your thoughts and prayers and keeping David's name on The Bells' list at St. Mary's until he was safely reunited with his family. Please extend our heartfelt thanks to St. Mary's and its members for the great support."

David Barrett is my Great Nephew, and the above is an email from his father, Bob Barrett, to me.

Sincerely,
June Barrett Ryan

Bede the Bat

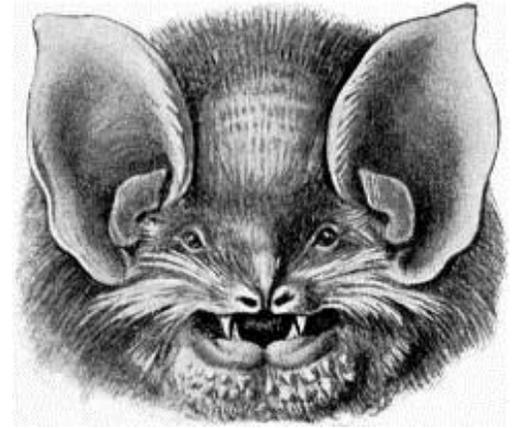
Hello to all my friends at St. Mary's. It's me again, Bede the Bat and I have a confession to make.

This might surprise some of you because I feel that you view me as a very friendly, outgoing Bat and, for the most part, I am. However, I have something that really drives me crazy and you'll never guess what it is, so I'll just come clean. I don't much like drop in visitors. For one thing, my Belfry is not always neat. I tend to leave books lying around. (I read several at a time and move from one to the other as the notion strikes me.) I am always reading and don't like being disturbed when I'm deep into a good book. And then I don't always have enough fruit or vegetables on hand to feed anyone other than myself. If I knew that someone was coming to visit, I would, of course, lay in a stock of fresh produce, but surprise visitors can really upset things.

And so, guess what happened last Thursday. I have a brand new Kindle and I am really enjoying it! I can, with just the touch of a claw, order a new book and it just magically appears. It's a wonderful invention and I had ordered several new books. I had just settled down to enjoy the first one when I heard a voice saying, "Hey, buddy! Can I come in?" I looked around and was surprised to see another Bat. He sort of looked familiar, but I couldn't be sure until he said, "It's me! Barney!" Well, you could have knocked me over with a fig! I finally recognized a friend that I hadn't seen in years. It was, indeed, Barney Bat -- much heavier than I remembered and not as much fuzz on top of his head, but I DID recognize him. Barney and I were childhood friends, went to school together and hadn't seen each other for years.

As we caught up with what each of us had been doing for the past years, I realized Barney hadn't really changed all that much. When I mentioned that he would love St. Mary's and that we would go to church on Sunday, he said he really didn't care to do that. When I told him that I sing with the choir and that he might like that, he declined. When I told him about some of the activities of the church, the only thing he seemed interested in was the garden the children of the church have planted. Now, I'll be honest. I didn't like the sound of that and had visions of Barney swooping in and doing untold damage to anything that might appeal to him.

Thus far, this has not been a very pleasant visit. Barney's idea of a visit is to eat every piece of fruit in sight (did I mention that, like me, he's a Fruit Bat?). He throws the peels on the floor, snores, doesn't want to go to church and, worst of all, doesn't like to read! I don't know how long he plans to stay



and I will be honest with you, I am at my wit's end! What am I going to do? All I know is that I have to do something and soon. I am not a violent Bat, but that could change at any time. Barney needs a purpose in life. Barney needs a job. But mostly, Barney needs to be out of here and out of my life! Any and all prayers will be welcome and if I am still alive, I will write about what happens next. Meanwhile, if you see a Bat hanging upside down and dropping fruit peels on people, it's not me! IT'S BARNEY BAT!! HELP!!

I'll let you know what happens! Blessings from Me, Bede the Discouraged 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, 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, Lou Hodges,
Sheila Holley, Almedia Hutchinson, Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon,
Linda Smith, Kitty Wenk, Rachel Williams, Keith Wright, and MaryJo Wright.**

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

Simon, Stefan, Robert, Jason D, Kevin and Patrick.

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