



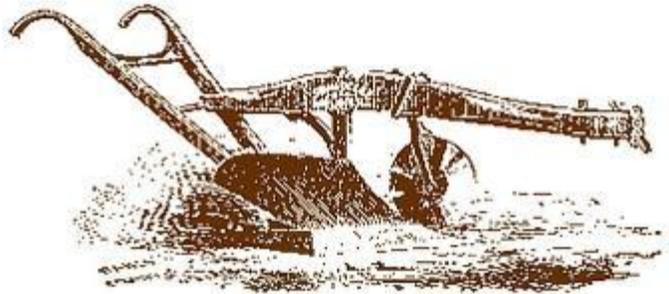
The Bells of Saint Mary

July 2012

Going on a Mission

The whole idea of mission sounds like some big journey in search of Jesus, and the meaning of life, and sorting things out and suffering, and the mind just races. It also brings to mind images of spectacular sights and far away places. And like all things... the truth is somewhere in the middle.

I first went to Red Shirt in 2001. I was a parishioner at St. Thomas' in Hacienda Heights, where Deborah was the Vicar and I had a group of kids who were in my youth group and confirmation class. We drove to Red Shirt...just the nine or ten of us. There was a woman named Amy Pringle, now a priest and Rector of St. George's in La Canada, who was my friend who went with me and the group. And my dear friends Roger and



Janis Magnuson. We really had a tough time finding Red Shirt because we pulled in really late at night, and one of the first things I learned about being on the Pine Ridge Reservation was that this was not a city, and there were no street lights anywhere! It is funny what you remember when you think back to what you have done, eh? But I surely felt like I was on a mission. It was amazingly beautiful; (the Bad Lands are a remarkable place to see) and it was deeply spiritual to be in such epic beauty all the time. There were lots of projects to work on and things to do. There was such a different culture to engage and learn about. I had been to Alaska the summer before and certainly had a good idea of what mission work was all about, having traveled along the Yukon River for a week, preaching and teaching in five different churches and feeling very capable of surviving. But Red Shirt made me

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confront my own sense of call, my own sense of privilege, and my own feelings of entitlement. Red Shirt changed me forever.

I think that is what mission is all about, really. Change.

Going on a mission means not knowing everything. Going on a mission means being small and needing help. Going on a mission caused me to rely on the Gospel of Jesus Christ for answers, and to be my guide in what to do, how to do, and where to look for help. Going on a mission made me dependent on Jesus. And dependence on Jesus has made me whole.



*John Sipos, Howard Gould and Nemesio Balcena . . . making pancakes.
Father's Day at St. Mary's . Photo by Don Lown.*

When I first came to St. Mary's, five years ago next Sunday (I am writing this on June 20th), I preached my first sermon to you and told you all that I was sure we would get to know one another and come to love each other, and that I hoped you wouldn't be upset with me too much, but I was going to leave you three weeks after arriving, because I was going on the Red Shirt Project. I'm sure a number of you must have thought "oh my, what have we gotten ourselves into with this guy!?" but now it is five years later, everybody knows something about the Red Shirt Project, and it has become a big part of who we are here at our church. But the essential piece of it remains the same...I am taking kids on a mission.

They are on a mission to find out about themselves, their God, their morals and values. They are seeking a better understanding of who they are in God, as sons

and daughters, as friends and students, as people made in the image of God yet totally unique in the entire world.

Each day begins with breakfast and clean-up. Then worship, which we call the Circle. Fr. Robert Two Bulls, Sr. teaches Lakota language every morning to the group so that they learn a new way of showing respect to their elders. They learn about respecting their elders! After we close the Circle, the kids move into various work assignments. One group may be cutting grass and pulling weeds in the graveyard, another may be building fence or other construction projects. Some will be scraping old paint and prepping outdoor surfaces for a fresh coat of paint that they will also put on a week from now. They work my goodness how they work. There are trips to Rapid City, 47 miles away, every day for food and supplies. Building materials and ice, fresh meat and produce. We have almost no refrigeration and very little electricity. We run our power tools with portable generators...and so a constant supply of gasoline (bought at a truck stop 23 miles away) is necessary. There are no flush toilets and no hot water. We have one source of water, which is a



I saw this sign as I was leaving the parking lot at Bethany Lutheran Church, where I voted on June 5th.

Photo by John Beeler

pump in the ground near the church. So, showers are “garden hose” showers in a shower stall we have constructed so that a person can actually take a shower... in c-o-l-d water. (This is where the suffering part of going on a Mission comes in!)

The evenings tend to be workshops presented by folks from the Village on Native ways and arts and crafts. Very informative, and very hands-on. Last year, we had a drum circle with kids dancing and drumming and singing. All run by Kelly Looking-Horse, a friend of ours who lives down near Wounded Knee. If it is not too windy, we will have a campfire at the fire pit a previous Red Shirt Project built, sitting on benches built by yet another Red Shirt Project.

We take everybody to Wounded Knee every year. It is an important part of the trip and is such a significant part of the history and the ethos of the land we are visitors to. We also take everybody up to the Crazy Horse Monument...a place of hope and possibilities that is sort of the opposite of going to Wounded Knee. In

between trips, there is lots of time for fun, worship, work, and sometimes, even some swimming. Mostly, the Red Shirt Project is about building relationships; between those on the journey...between the participants and people who live in the village...and between those on the project and God. Everybody who goes finds themselves changed. Changed by their encounter with poverty...their own and the people of the village; changed by the beauty of the land and the wildness of it; and changed by their encounter with the Living Word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, lived as fully and authentically as we can for the time we are together.

Bless you, each and every one of you for your prayers, your support, and your constant faith and belief in this work as missionaries for Christ and the Church. I love you for it, and trust you know that it is helping shape all of us into the people that Jesus intends for us to be: complete and whole in love with each other and with the God who made us.

I say it all the time but here it is again:

God loves. God gave. We believe. We live.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+



Seder display from Vacation Bible School. Photo by John Beeler.

Back To School Outreach Backpack Opportunity

As most of you already know St. Mary's Outreach Committee has been involved for many years in providing backpacks to the needy children in our community. Last year, as a Lenten project, St. Mary's joined with the Lompoc Ministerial Association to provide backpacks for elementary and middle school children in the Lompoc area by donating \$2300, enough for over 100 backpacks.

We did not realize at the time that no high school students were included in this project. Fortunately the Outreach budget and generous donations were available to fund backpacks for junior high and high school students as well. We knew this was important through our years of work with local organizations, who advised that no other agency helps at that grade level. We also learned it is difficult to identify the need as the students go from class to class rather than being with one teacher throughout the day.

Earlier this year the St. Mary's vestry voted to allocate \$750. to the Ministerial Association Backpack Project for the younger children headed by Lead Pastor Chuck Musselwhite of Valley Chapel. The Outreach Committee fully supports this cooperative effort. We also plan to continue our parish outreach to the teenagers. The committee has allocated funds within the outreach budget of 2012 and is hoping to purchase 50 backpacks for junior high and high school age students. We invite you to help us fill these backpacks.



Children's garden in Bina's Place.

Photo by John Beeler.

As in the past we ask you to look for the sales that will start in July at Walgreens, Wal-mart, CVS and even the grocery stores. The 99¢ and Dollar Stores are also good places to look for these supplies at a low cost. **Please note:** the items to be purchased are a little different from in the past so please read the list carefully and purchase **only** what is suggested. **(Example: NO Crayons or One Inch Loose Leaf Notebooks)** We want all the packs to be suited to the high school age group. If you prefer to have us shop for you we will be happy to do that. Please make your checks out to St. Mary's and designate in the memo area "Outreach Backpacks."

We will start collecting on Sunday July 8th. Please drop off your donations in the box that will be in the Narthex during the week and just outside the entry to the church on Sundays. We will be presenting the backpacks for blessings on the altar on Sunday, August 19th. School starts August 22nd.

Please join us in thanking our vestry for ensuring St. Mary's participation in the community wide effort for elementary and middle school children, and consider assisting with the Outreach Committee's plan to make sure our junior high and high school students start the school year with a fully stocked backpack

Thank You,
St. Mary's Outreach Committee



One of Glen and Mary Newcomb's many winning entries in the Alpha Club Flower Show. Photo by John Beeler.



June 18, 2012

The Reverend Michael Cunningham
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
2800 Harris Grade Road
Lompoc, CA 93436-2211

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Thank you for St. Mary's Episcopal Church's generous contribution of \$1,945.00 to Episcopal Relief & Development. Your gift was designated for the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund, a special campaign within The Episcopal Church to help fight malaria.

Launched in 2010, the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund is a grassroots effort to educate, engage, and unite Episcopalians to support the fight against malaria. The goal is to build awareness about the disease, how it can be prevented, and raise \$5 million by December 2012. In these difficult and uncertain economic times, your support means a great deal to all of us at Episcopal Relief & Development and those we seek to serve.

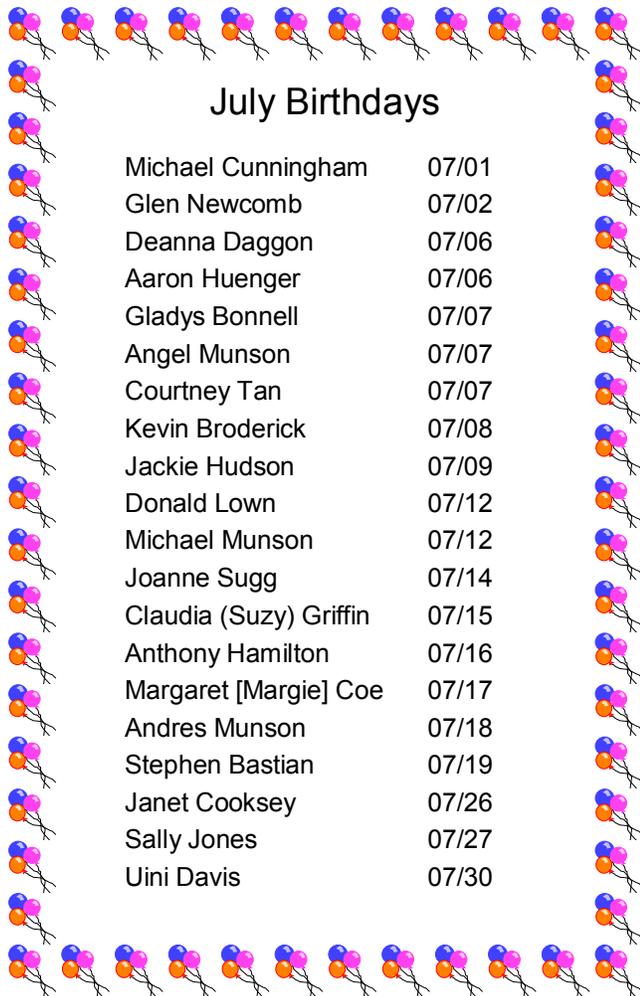
Currently our NetsforLife® program partnership is working in 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa to prevent malaria by training community agents to deliver life-saving nets, educate community members about proper net use and maintenance, and provide ongoing monitoring and evaluation of net use. The success of the program is a result of the NetsforLife® partnerships and a network of faith-based organizations working on the ground in Africa, particularly the Anglican Church. In collaboration with active and trusted members of local communities, the program has distributed over 8.5 million nets and trained nearly 74,000 malaria control agents.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity. Please visit www.er-d.org or www.netsforlifeafrica.org to learn more about our programs.

Faithfully,



Robert W. Radtke
President



July Birthdays

Michael Cunningham	07/01
Glen Newcomb	07/02
Deanna Daggon	07/06
Aaron Huenger	07/06
Gladys Bonnell	07/07
Angel Munson	07/07
Courtney Tan	07/07
Kevin Broderick	07/08
Jackie Hudson	07/09
Donald Lown	07/12
Michael Munson	07/12
Joanne Sugg	07/14
Claudia (Suzy) Griffin	07/15
Anthony Hamilton	07/16
Margaret [Margie] Coe	07/17
Andres Munson	07/18
Stephen Bastian	07/19
Janet Cooksey	07/26
Sally Jones	07/27
Uini Davis	07/30



Sunday Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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Many Hands Make Light Work

Help us make ready for the Bishop! She comes the next day! Please join us for a Work Party on Saturday, July 14th 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 July 14th party, please try to put the August 11th one on your calendar.



2012 VBS, Vacation Bible School, participants celebrate Seder Supper
 Photo by Jean Macomber

Financial Report

As of 05/31/2012

Undesignated checking & savings \$56,471
 Designated checking * \$22,332

	Actual May '12	Actual Jan - May '12	Budget Jan - May '12
Income*	\$19,347	\$139,168	\$141,291
Expenses*	\$25,967	\$141,740	\$140,110
Net income/(loss)	(\$6,620)	(\$2,572)	\$1,181

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

Bede the Bat

Greetings to my church family at St. Mary's from me, Bede.

Well, not much has changed since the last time I wrote to you. Barney, my old school friend, is still here and I'm still cleaning up fruit peels on the floor of the belfry and he's still awfully interested in the things that the children of the church have planted. This worries me a lot. However, I won't have to worry about it for at least two weeks because it's that time again. I am off to Red Shirt. Unfortunately, Barney is coming with me.



Last year was wonderful and I was quite the hero. When the Cats from St. Peter's, who were told not to venture into the Badlands did so anyway, I flew out and guided them home. That was such a proud moment for me and I really looked forward to going back. In fact, I had planned for it all year. Now, I'm not so sure that it's a good thing.

For one thing, Maude and Millicent, the Church Mice from Santa Maria, won't be going and Maude is always such a calming influence. They have been invited by their cousins in London to come and use their flat and attend some of the Olympics. The cousins are working at the Olympic Village and have secured tickets for Maude and her family. I know that envy is a sin, but I would love to see some of the Olympics. Maybe someday. I also know that Agnes Claire and Hangtag Boyd, the Church Cats at St. Stephen's in Beaumont, are not going. It seems they're hiding some baby Kitten from the priest over there (oops! I think I wasn't supposed to tell that. Oh, well, too late now!)

Anyway, I have spoken with Fr. Michael about Barney coming on the trip and he seemed to think it was a great idea. (He's such a trusting soul! Wait 'til he sees all the fruit peels and the sleeping 'til noon and the general laziness that is Barney's chief personality trait. I tried to warn him, but he said that I really should give Barney a chance. He might turn out to be a really fine character. He's a character all right!)

Anyway, we have our backpacks all ready to go. Barney's is full of fruit. As usual, mine is full of books. Maybe I can get him to actually read one of them while we're at Pine Ridge. And by the way, if you haven't made your contribution to the Red Shirt Project, now's the time! The next time I write to you, I'll let you know how many times I have to pick up fruit peels and how many times I have to wake Barney up (he even sleeps when he's flying!) and who I'll have to save from the Badlands.

Until then, blessings from me, Bede, and Barney says, "hey"!

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,
MaryJo Wright, and Jeanne Yeiser.**

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

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

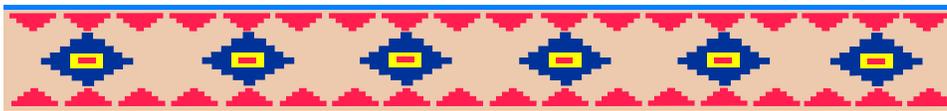
AMEN.

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



Reminder - The Bells is on holiday in august. The next issue will be September, 2012.

Have a great summer!