



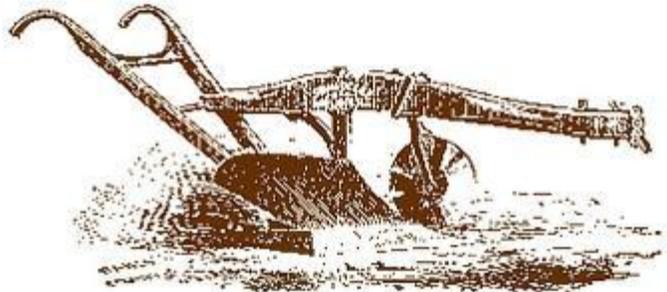
The Bells of Saint Mary

November 2012

Just Another Go Round

Today is the 19th of October...that means it is time to get this article written for the November edition ten days from now. I like the discipline of this deadline as it makes me stop what I am doing, (which in the case of this morning has been opening mail, going to Staples to replace the ink cartridge for my printer, chatting with two of our elders at Valley Haven, and answering the phone here at church) collect my thoughts, and then sit at my computer and write.

Yesterday was the anniversary of the death of my adopted mom, Delores Two Bulls, so that has been very much in the forefront of my heart and thoughts. I think about all the folks here at St. Mary's who have gone before us, and I share the pain and the grief



of loss that never really goes away, but does turn from sharp pain to dull ache over time. My prayers are with each of you this day as you go about the business of living and loving in difficult times.

Our annual observance of All Souls Day is on Friday, November 2nd at 6:00 pm. This deeply meaningful service is the one day of the church year dedicated to remembering those who have gone before us. This year the service will be done in the style of Taize. If you have not ever attended a Taize service, please do consider joining us. Contemplative and quiet are the two words that come to mind. Our choir will be leading us in singing and chanting music and words from the collection of Taize worship, and we will once again read the names of our ancestors and family who have gone to the nearer presence of God.

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Two days after will be the celebration of All Saints' day on Sunday, the 4th of November. At the 10 o'clock service, we will baptize Declan Kazianka and celebrate his joining with all the Saints past, present and future into the fellowship of Jesus Christ and His church. There will also be a service at 8 o'clock celebrating All Saints' Day...but the baptism will be at ten.

Also on All Saints' Sunday will be the ingathering of our pledge cards for 2013. As in past years, you do NOT have to put your name on the card if you do not want to...and regardless of whether you sign your name to it or not...please make sure to put your number on it. We do have

to have some way of charting your giving to the church so that we can send out quarterly updates to you. As in years past...nobody is going to read your pledges or record any amounts to your record. Your quarterly report will not feature anything other than your chart of giving amounts, and is intended to keep you up to date with your own giving and the covenant you have made with God for the work of the church. This year, on the back of the pledge form you will find a chart for proportional giving so that you may have a handy reference to use as you determine, in prayer with God, what portion of your income you want to give to the church in 2013. I know that Bishop Diane Bruce told us that she believes that the Priest should know what everybody gives to the church so that there is an "accountability factor" (to use her words) and so that the priest might know if your giving falls off and how to address that pastorally. But, I just do not feel that way. I don't think I need to know what each of you pledge to the church. I do believe that if your circumstances change, for the good or bad, you should let me know...so that I can be helpful, both in prayer and in witness to what is going on in your life. I think some of you already do that...but I want to remind you that I am available to all of our community...not just in crisis, but in all times.



*Sarah Cunningham sang "Come to Jesus" by Mindy Smith, at the November 14th service.
Photo by John Beeler.*



Another bird who's thankful hunting is not allowed in her neighborhood — this time in Davis, CA.

Photo by John Beeler.

November also brings us that most American of all holidays, Thanksgiving. November 22nd, (it is early this year!) we will have a simple service at 11 in the morning followed by a meal, for all of you who want to join me...celebrating the day. I remember in 1976, when Deborah and I lived in Halcyon, just up the road from here near Arroyo Grande, having a community Thanksgiving meal. We lived in a small artist's colony of about 100 people, and seems like just about everybody gathered in the town hall. There were two lines...one vegetarian and one meat-eaters... and it was quite a feast, one I have never forgotten. I have always seen Thanksgiving as a day to gather family, friends, hungry people

and perfect strangers together to feed, pray, fellowship and celebrate the riches and bounty of our nation and our lives. It has particular meaning for me in the church...but as far back as I can remember, Deborah and I have had Thanksgiving with many...not a few. Now, we have three observances of the day. Deborah has one at St. Peter's; I have one at St. Mary's; and we have one at her mom's house late in the day. It just is my favorite holiday. So please know that I look forward to it, and that you are welcome at any or all of it...the service, the prayers, the meal and the fellowship. If you want to be part of the meal, let me know, so we can have enough turkey for everybody!

I am aware that this seemingly endless election season will finally come dragging to an end in nineteen days on November 6, 2012. Regardless of where you are on the political spectrum, please do vote. My friend Lester Mackenzie, who was the deacon at my ordination and is now a priest of our diocese at St. Matthew's in Pacific Palisades, told me the story of voting in the first democratic elections in his home country of South Africa back when we first became friends on the Hands in Healing tour ten years ago. Lester had grown up at Bishop's House, with his grandfather, who was Desmond Tutu's Suffragan Bishop, and with Archbishop Tutu and how they all waited three days in line to vote for the first time. And how it

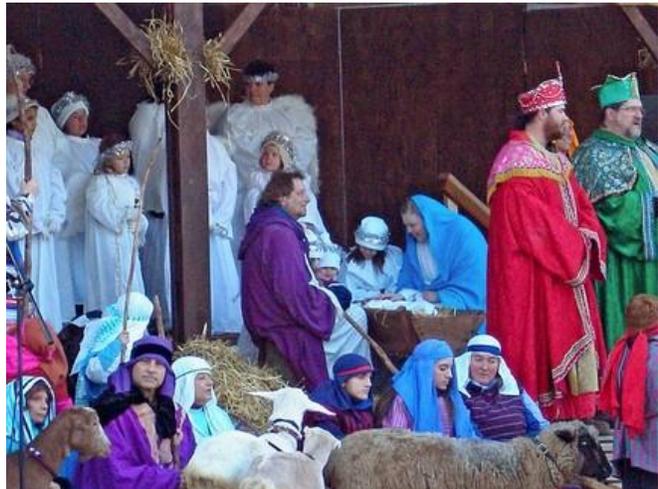
was a three day period of sustained joy and laughter; and what it was like to finally be free...and that freedom meant voting. So...please do vote on November 6. It is what free people do.

Time to let this one go now. There is so much more, but that about does it for November anyway. God's peace and blessings be upon you all...much love,

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+

Be Part of the Scene

Come to the Big Christmas Pageant Photo Shoot at La Purisima Mission on Saturday, November 10th at 10 AM. Wear one of our costumes, or bring your own.



Stewardship Talks

John Sipos, September 23rd: What Happened Yesterday The Visit of Bishop Diane Bruce

First, let me get one thing off my chest. Yes, as part of my vestry responsibilities I originally felt obligated to attend the bishop's visit. So heeding what we have all heard before; I showed up, paid attention, and.... You know the rest, fill it in. Well, let me tell you about some of what happened.

First off, I showed-up just when the bishop wanted a tour of our facilities, and I was the person available to conduct it. With some pride I spoke about what we have here; Fitch hall and for whom it was named; the nursery, the playground, the sitting area around the playground and the parishioners who gave so much, and whom we honor by giving name and memory to places and things. Next, an awkward explanation of why some classrooms were now used more for storage than for Sunday school. Holding back some emotion, when talking about the memorial garden, and even more when showing the Bishop the Saint Francis gar-

den, and telling her why and how they came to be. Then talking about the new entry way, with the work that led to St. Mary's presence at the front of our church; a casual mention how Scott Richardson talked about the peace pole - - come to find out he's at a beautiful church in San Francisco - - another St. Mary's. And all this before people started to arrive. In her silence, between my stopping from talking and her gracious thank you...it happened.

So what else happened yesterday - - we listened, we learned, we asked questions, we laughed, we cried, we prayed, we ate, we shared Eucharist. But hold on, that may have been the order of things, but that's not what happened yesterday. Yesterday, the spirit caught me once again and said; John, I've been here all along, you just haven't been paying attention.

So what should you, those that weren't there yesterday, hear? Talk to those who were there; they will tell you marvelous things; things about Diane's instruction, things about her stories and her history, and if you don't press too hard, maybe something about themselves. Listen closely, for it will be in the quiet space between their choked words, or in their glance to the side to shelter a falling tear that they will show you what happened.

In the weeks ahead, all of us can talk to the pragmatic aspects of vision, mission and money. We can focus on what we are called to be. How true stewardship will arise from our heart and be organic to what we are called to be. And, if we heard Bishop Bruce and heed her words, we will give of our first fruits and not from the leftovers; we will be happy with what we have, and we will have to have faith, and focus without worry.

From me, that is enough. Yesterday happened.

Today, you share where your heart is; you speak to what you see as our mission; you manifest your faith; and you make tomorrow, and all the tomorrows that follow, happen.

Rick Kendall, September 30th

Recently, Fr. Michael asked for volunteers from the Vestry to talk to you about Stewardship. I didn't hesitate, and said "Yes". I'm not sure why I'm up here. "Yes" is not my "go-to" response. My wife Jeanne can tell you that my kids have learned to phrase their requests of me, with "No" as their desired answer. I've been involved in many ministries over the years, but have politely said "No" several times when asked to serve on the Vestry. Firmly entrenched in my comfort zone. Three years ago, I said "Yes". Last year, I said "Yes" to being your Junior Warden. No longer "Playing it safe", but responding to that little voice that told me I need to serve. I'm glad I did. Serving my Church is not always easy, but I find it rewarding.

So let's talk a bit about **Stewardship**. It bothers me that the word "Stewardship" has been co-opted to mean: "We are going to stop what we are doing, and ask you to give money to the Church". Who remembers the story about "Pygmy Turkeys"? I am glad I came a week ago Saturday, to hear Bishop Diane talk about her story, and how she learned about Stewardship as a young child. For me, there were several common themes to those stories. The main ones I remember are: "Have Faith", and "Give First Fruits, not Leftovers". So I learned one more time that Stewardship is much more than money, and not about giving. Stewardship is not about giving money to meet a budget. Stewardship is not fundraising.

- **Stewardship is what we do after we say "I believe...."**
- **Stewardship is living into a VISION OF MINISTRY in a concrete way.**
- **Stewardship is the main work of the church.**
- **Stewardship is the way we use all our resources, including our time, talent and treasure, to continue Christ's work of reconciliation in the world.**
- **Stewardship:** "The responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving".

Money is necessary to accomplish the work of the church...but money is not our God. God owns everything and all blessings come from Him. We are to be good stewards – managers – of the many blessings for which we should be thankful. Money isn't our possession; it's God's possession, which we hold in trust. I prefer the word "caretaker" rather than "manager".

What I learned about Stewardship really started in earnest several years ago, here at St. Marys. Jeanne and I said "Yes" to taking a "Crown Ministry" class, led by Sally Goetch and Norma Anderson. We learned many lessons about the Christian perspective for:

- Money,
- Budgeting,
- Giving, and
- Our responsibility of Stewardship for everything God has given us.

My main take-away message from Crown was: Treat giving as an act of worship, acknowledging everything I have comes from God. It is important to me to give, as part of our worship service; put the envelope in the plate and sing the Doxology to give thanks to God for everything God has given to me: Purposeful, Intentional, Planned, Joyful Giving.

So what do we do now? Last week Fr. Michael asked us to **Pray and Ponder, Worship and Wonder**. Please say "Yes" to this. Let's talk with each other. We need to discover our vision, and set our goals. We will need to set a realistic

budget for next year, and base that budget on projected pledge giving. We haven't yet figured out how to accomplish this yet. Your Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Vestry cannot do this alone. We need help from the entire congregation, so please say "Yes". Please. Come talk to me later if you have any questions.

Thank You.

Rob Glasgow, October 7th

My idea of stewardship is taking responsibility and providing care for those things in the world that are important to me. By important, I mean, those things that make our lives meaningful and through them, we can better understand God's love for us.

Understanding the meaning of stewardship begins with the acceptance and agreement that everything we have actually belongs to God and has been given to us, not to own, but rather to protect and use wisely, making sure that these gifts are always treated with respect and with the idea they will be here for future generations.

Our own personal relationships, our children, our earth and certainly all living creatures that need our care to survive are our responsibility. It is our role in life to provide this care. These are the gifts that God has entrusted to us.

Today we have brought our animals to be blessed. Those who have lived with pets understand the true meaning of stewardship. They know firsthand that caring for these animals is not a one way relationship. Oh sure, we feed them and clean up after them. We take them to the vet when they're sick or to make sure they remain well. We give them our time, attention and many times, a great deal of our wealth. Often we are the ones that have to make the final decision about the end of their lives. For all of these things, I know they are grateful.

The amazing thing about being in a relationship with animals is that it is a two-way street. I think the folks who brought their animals here today are really looking for a way to return the blessings that they have received from their pets. It's always that way, whenever you give of yourself, the blessings are returned to you. It may only be a wagging tail, a soft purr, or a look of unquestioning loyalty. But that is everything they have to give and it's more than enough for us to understand the depth of God's love for us.

Alice Drus, October 14th

For the last three weeks you have heard my fellow vestry members' impressions of Bishop Bruce and stewardship. Now it is my turn and I find myself in the unenviable position as final speaker. Golly, you are thinking. What can she say that hasn't already been said? We get it. We understand that stewardship is not

about money or budgets. I, like everyone else, found the Bishop to be very dynamic, captivating, entertaining and, most of all, extremely spiritual. For me, her stories of her spiritual journey and faith were the most moving part of her visit. They were filled with stories of her relationships with her family and, later, her peers. Her shared experiences got me to thinking about the importance of relationships in our lives. We all go through life engaging in a series of relationships, some temporary, but most long lasting. For me, the key to good stewardship is the nurturing of these relationships. In that light, I have decided to share a very extraordinary story of my own that will help me illustrate this idea.

My story is really a true love story and is about my parents, Jack and Charlotte. I just returned from a visit with them to celebrate a very special event, their 75th wedding anniversary. They are currently living in a wonderful assisted living facility in Munroe Falls, Ohio. Their story begins in the early months of 1937. My father had graduated from Cornell University and had accepted a job as a tire designer at BF Goodrich Tire and Rubber Company. My mother had only recently graduated from high school, and since our country was recovering from the throes of

the Great Depression, she was unable to afford higher education. Her oldest brother was a draftsman for BF Goodrich and was impressed by this fine young man from New York State so he brought him home to dinner to meet his family. For my mother, it was love at first sight. Dad still won't commit to whether or not he was also as quickly smitten. Whether he was or not doesn't really matter because, six months later, on October 7, 1937, my mother and father were married. My grandmother's friends all said it wouldn't last, but, 75 years later they are still very much in love and quite the inseparable couple. They had four children, three boys and me. My youngest brother, Paul, died of pneumonia when he was 19 months old. My surviving brothers and I provided my parents with eight grandchildren, and they, in turn, provided nine great-grandchildren. There were certainly a lot of relationships to nurture here.

We had a small family dinner at my dad's favorite restaurant which included my folks, my brothers, their wives and two of the grandchildren. My brothers and I each presented a toast. Each was as different as could be, but each had a common thread. Our parents provided us with nurturing, encouragement, tough love, and most of all, stability. They were always there when we needed them to pro-



Alice Drus telling her remarkable stewardship story. Photo by John Beeler

vide whatever support was necessary. We didn't always have a lot but we always had enough. Mom always said, the more love you give, the more love you will have. My dad was the rock we all totally relied on. He is a strong, principled man but always so gentle and caring. He never raised his voice and very rarely had to discipline us. We could count on mom for that because she was almost always the parent around when the discipline needed to be delivered. She did not believe that my father should have to mete out the punishment when he got home from work. Besides, by then, the crimes committed were too far removed and she believed in immediate feedback, if you get my drift. As we grew to adulthood, we were encouraged to be the best we could be. They looked after my brother John's kids when he and his wife needed to work to make ends meet. They were there for my brother Fred and his wife when their youngest son was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis. They helped take care of their older son when Rob had to be hospitalized and assisted with medical bills. When our twins, Rachel and Gail, were born they stayed with us from the first of November until the end of January to provide much needed support for all of us, but especially for Laura, who was shell shocked by the whole experience. Mom and dad also made sure that we were nourished spiritually. We attended church regularly and my brothers and I were taught the importance of nurturing a relationship with Jesus Christ and our loving God. As they got older, the tables began to turn and we needed to be there for them. This was a hard pill for them to swallow, especially for mom, but they both eventually gave in gracefully and allowed us to return to them what they had given us, love and support. On November 21st dad will turn 98 and on December 30 mom will turn 94. The Lord has certainly blessed our family and we continually give thanks for the unique longevity of our relationship with our parents.

Now how does this relate to the here and now? Father Michael continually reminds us of God's love for us. He also reminds us of the need to follow Jesus, walking in His footsteps, and doing for others the things He would have us do. He also reminds us that we are a remarkable community of believers who can accomplish remarkable things when we work together as a community. This requires us to engage in relationships with each other. Bishop Bruce stated that our mission, as a community of believers is to discover what God wants us to do. She went on to say that our ministry is the way we choose to answer God's call and that the call has to be organic – part of our hearts. She challenged us to focus on mission and ministry and to prayerfully consider God's gifts and their use. In order to do this we need to develop a Mission statement which is our BEING statement and she challenged us to involve all members of the parish in its development. So, we have a lot of work to do. When you are invited to engage in the dialogue that will forge our Mission statement don't hesitate to be a part. We will all be strengthening our relationships with one another and with our Lord and Savior.

I would like to leave you with these thoughts from Bishop Bruce. Stewardship is what we do after we say we believe. Stewardship is the main work of the church and is the use of ALL RESOURCES.

Financial Statement

As of September 30th, 2012

Undesignated checking & savings	\$61,025
Designated checking *	\$21,099

	Actual Sep '12	Actual Jan - Sep '12	Budget Jan - Sep '12
Income*	\$29,178	\$244,011	\$254,323
Expenses*	\$25,763	\$242,030	\$251,626
Net income/(loss)	\$3,415	\$1,981	\$2,697

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

African Team Ministries Sale – November 4TH and 11TH

We thank you for your support in years past and ask you once again to visit the display of wonderful gift items.

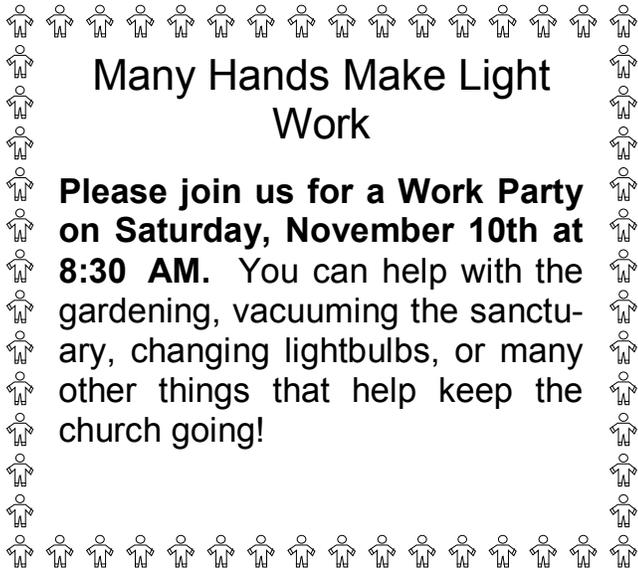
In case you need another reason to support the African Team Ministry Sale:

Each year, according to the World Health Organization, some 500 million people are infected with mosquito-borne illnesses: dengue, malaria, yellow fever, and various forms of encephalitis, including the West Nile virus.

Malaria, a preventable and treatable disease, is one of the biggest killers of young children in Africa. Overall, the disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, kills an estimated 1 million people annually, the vast majority of them in Africa. One of the most effective preventive measures against malaria is to sleep under insecticide-treated bed nets, which are a finely woven barrier and kill most mosquitoes upon contact.

This year one of the programs supported by African Team Ministries is providing insecticide-treated bed nets to people in their communities. The first priority is to provide them to children and pregnant women to prevent malaria infections and deaths.

Elizabeth Hatcher



Many Hands Make Light Work

Please join us for a Work Party on Saturday, November 10th 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!



Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
 Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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Julie Anderson	11/05
Dana Manchester	11/05
Donna Vordale	11/07
J. Ryan Daley	11/10
DeLores [Dodie] Ellis	11/10
Sheila Holley	11/10
James Gibson	11/12
Carol Shuemaker	11/12
Frances Aranguren	11/14
George Bowman	11/15
Natalie Ricci	11/16
Robert B. Glasgow	11/18
Glenna Baker	11/19
Peter Drus	11/19
Nancy Straight	11/20
Mary Bliss	11/22
Anne Gusland	11/22
Christopher Woods	11/22
Roberta Woods	11/23
Henry Culmer	11/25
Kathleen Gonzales	11/27
Malcolm Anderson	11/28

Bede the Bat

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

Hope everyone is enjoying the Fall -- football, which is my favorite and figure skating coming up and lots of activities at school and at Church. Fall is my favorite season for obvious reasons. I love Halloween and have a great time entertaining at parties. It's a good time to pick up extra money and the fruit this time of year is amazing! The other seasons of the year are nice, too, but Fall will always be my favorite.



The seasons of the year remind me of the seasons of life. Spring and Summer seem to belong to the young and the young at heart, while Fall and Winter speak of the later years of a person's life. I was reminded of that because of the annual Senior Saints Luncheon. It was the 16th year for that wonderful event and St. Mary's always does it right. I don't need to tell you that St. Mary's is filled with hospitable and caring people and it's never more in evidence than at this gathering. Folks from nursing homes and all over the area come and know the warmth and generosity of the St. Mary's family. Some of those who come to the luncheon experience one-on-one conversations with those who truly listen to them. They are not nurses or caregivers or even family members. These are people who are there to make their older friends welcome and provide a nice meal.

The event has caused me to think about what it means to "get old". Often there is no one to talk to and recall happy times and memories of long ago or perhaps the family is very far away and the person is in a nursing home. It can be a very sad time for many of our older citizens. Many of their friends and family members are gone and often the only person they ever talk to is the nurse who brings them food or medication or a caregiver who is busy with the day-to-day chores of the household they serve. It makes me sad to think of these folks and I wish I could help, but being a Bat limits what I can do for them. But then, just when I am the most sad, I think of YOU! YOU can do so much that I can't do. There are many things that members of a church can do for those who just can't get to church on Sunday morning. For instance, at the last church I served as Bat, there was a team of folks composed of two LEM's and several others who visited the local nursing home after church every Sunday. They gave Communion, took the leaflets with Sunday Lessons and they sang the Hymns that the nursing home folks loved. There were booklets that contained all the Hymns and a shortened form of the Eucharist and they pretty much conducted a Service. I went with them every Sunday. They developed a relationship with the folks who lived there and often, some members of the congregation of that Church would pick them up

and take them to what they called "Real Church". I went with them every Sunday and watched that Ministry. I was very moved by it and loved it that some of the group asked to come to the Church to be a part of "Real Church". They were so proud to be a part of the community again.

You don't have to be a LEM or a part of a team to visit a nursing home and talk to and listen, really listen, to residents there or to take part in an annual luncheon. I used to listen to some of the stories that the older people told when I went with the group to the nursing home. They were fun and interesting and they had such a good time telling them. I think they were just happy to have some human contact, someone who would truly talk to them and were interested in what they were saying.

I applaud what St. Mary's is doing with their outreach to our older friends. So much more could be done. I will be old someday and God willing, so will you. It shouldn't be a sad time. It should be a beautiful Fall heading toward a warm Winter peopled with those who care, who love and who truly listen to what they wish to say. They would probably say, "Thank you for your kindness, for valuing me as a human being. I hope that when you are my age, someone just like you will visit and help make your Winter a happy time."

Love and blessings from Me, Bede, the Bat.



At Movie Night on October 19th, your editor was greeted not by Bede, but by two of his neighbors! Even after dark they were an impressive sight. No injury done, fortunately. Father Michael says they're a sign of a healthy ecosystem. (Photo taken at the Carolina Raptor Center near Charlotte, North Carolina, by John Beeler.)



Would like to see about starting up a Lompoc wide Church Bowling League at Vandenberg AFB Lanes. We have no time set nor day but hope to contact other churches in the Lompoc area to compete. First we have to see how many bowlers we have interested in St. Mary's. Plans now for starting after the New Year. Contact Don Lown at surfdon@mac.com or 805-588-4804

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:

Gisele Boyd-Snee, Lee Bowles, Pat Day, Ray Down, Sr., Isla Hill, Sheila Holley, Almedia Hutchinson, Robert Hicks, Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon, Linda Smith, Rachel Williams, and Keith Wright,

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

Bill, Carl, Jason, Juliana, Kevin, Kimberly, Patrick, Robert, Simon, and Ryan.

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