



# *The Bells of Saint Mary*

## *February 2013*

### Lent and Lenten Madness

Lent is almost here. I want to talk with you about Lent Madness and encourage you to sign up so that you can participate in this very fun and very educational exercise this Lenten season. It is produced by the same company that produces Forward Day by Day and has become something of a sensation in the church. It is modeled on the March Madness brackets of the NCAA college basketball final tournament that produces, every year, a winning team that has won every game in its bracket. The bracket begins with 64 teams who through the luck of the draw meet and hopefully beat teams on their half of the bracket. Eventually, the "sweet sixteen" gives way to the "elite eight" and then to the "final four" and finally the championship game. Lent Madness is modeled on this famous event in American life every year, and now, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year I think... has become a great way to learn more about the church and the Saints.



During Lent, working off the bracket of 64 saints...there will be a voting challenge, done on-line, between two Saints. In order to vote, you have to educate yourself as to who it is you are voting on...and of course, learn about. Eventually, through many close battles and some not at all close battles, as we get closer and closer to Holy Week, the brackets will become smaller and smaller, and the amount of people voting will get bigger and bigger until the championship battle, the winner of which will receive the Golden Halo! It is all quite fun and will make you laugh in Lent...what more could you want?

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Louise Larson has already caught the fever and has ordered the poster sized bracket chart, so that we can follow it together on Sundays. Copy and paste this address into your browser and you will be connected to their website.

<http://www.lentmadness.org/2013/01/bracketology-101/>

Ash Wednesday will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> and we will do three services that day at 0700, 1200, and 1800 hours. Also, when you go to the lent madness web site, you will see a whole bunch of things to look at, one of them being a call to consider participating in Ashes on the Way...which is the Imposition of Ashes, on Ash Wednesday on street corners and sidewalks of the town you minister in. I am going to do this for Ash Wednesday. Probably in the early afternoon somewhere in Lompoc.

When I told you at our Annual Meeting that we had to begin to reach out from this building and begin spreading the word that we are St. Mary's and we are growing and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ at 2800 Harris Grade Road on Sundays and everywhere else everyday, I meant it. If we are going to continue to grow our church, we need to let people know we are here. So read about it, and then feel free to come and join me on Ash Wednesday in between services out on the sidewalks of Lompoc, imposing ashes on the foreheads of all who want it. I will need some help handing out brochures and information about our church. Come be an Evangelist for St. Mary's!

The following Wednesday, and all Wednesdays in Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 1730 that will flow into a simple service of Holy Eucharist at about 1800 and after that a simple supper of soup and salad and bread and a class on Job.

Our worship will be very similar to how we observed Advent, contemplative, quiet and prayerful. We will sing quite a bit of music from Taize during Lent. We will not be saying Alleluia, and we will be saying the Confession. We will try our best to take on a discipline intended to increase our mindfulness and give up something that distracts us. The more focused on our faith and the sacrifice that Jesus has given for us, the more complete our Lenten observances will be. I encourage you to participate as fully as you can this



*Baby mangrove tree, Waitangi,  
North Island, New Zealand.  
Photo by John Beeler.*

year. Lent is a great reminder that none of this is about us...it is all about Jesus. And that is a reminder that we need to hear and observe.

So come join us on Shrove Tuesday, February 12 for a simple service at 1800 in the church, then pancakes, sausage and as much fattening stuff as we can throw at you... because the next morning will begin Lent...and Lenten Madness...and I don't want you to miss out on either one of them!

With my hand on the plow,

Fr. Michael+

## **Outreach PB&J Drive**

During Lent, the OutreachMinistry Team will collect jars of peanut butter and jelly for the Lompoc Food Pantry. Small jars work best for clients of the agency. Please drop off your donated items in the container in the narthex between Sunday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,  
Molly Gerald

## **Lent Madness 2013 Comes to St. Mary's The Saintly Smack Down**

What do you get when you combine a love of sports with holy saints? Lent Madness, of course. Based loosely on the wildly popular NCAA basketball tournament, Lent Madness pits 32 saints against one another in a single-elimination bracket as they compete for the coveted "Golden Halo". But it is more than that: Lent Madness is really an online devotional tool designed to help people learn about some amazing people who have come before us in the faith. Some are already household names, others are virtually unknown, but we can all learn something from the unique ways they followed God.

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck, an Episcopal priest and rector of St. John's Church in Hingham, Massachusetts. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the church's calendar of saints, Schenck came up with this unique Lenten devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born on his blog "Clergy Family Confidential."

Starting last year, Schenck partnered with the Rev. Scott Gunn, Executive Director of Forward Movement (the same folks that publish Forward Day by Day) and Lent Madness went viral, reaching over 50,000 people and getting mentioned in everything from the Washington Post to Sports Illustrated (seriously).

Here's how it works: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted about two different saints on [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org) and then participants vote to determine who goes on to the next round. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time – usually 24 hours – and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the *Round of the Saintly Sixteen*; eight advance to the *Round of the Elate Eight*; four make it to the *Faithful Four*; two to the *Championship*; and the winner is awarded the **Golden Halo**. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. It's fun, it's informative, it's the saintly smack down!

To win in 2013, will take grit, determination, holiness, and perhaps some good old-fashioned luck. This year Lent Madness features a slate of saints ancient and modern, Biblical and ecclesiastical including John the Baptist, Martin Luther King, Hilda of Whitby, Luke, Dorothy Day, Benedict of Nursia, Martin Luther, and Harriet Tubman as they vie to fill the shoes of 2012 winner Mary Magdalene. This all kicks off on "Ash Thursday," February 14, and will continue throughout the 40-day season of Lent. To participate, log onto [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org), where you can also print out a bracket and fill it out to see how you fare or "compete" against friends and family members. St Mary's will follow the competition with a huge "bracket" that will be posted in Fitch Hall. Like that other March tournament, there will be drama and intrigue, upsets and thrashings, last-minute victories and Cinderellas.

If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to grow closer to God?

## Senior Driver Checklist

The decision to give up driving is a very difficult choice. Driving gives you independence and freedom of mobility. It is very hard to put yourself in a position where you have to rely on others to get around. But on the other hand, you don't want someone you love to get hurt. You know that you are making more mistakes and your reaction time and sight aren't what it used to be. Other drivers seem to be moving quicker now. But how do you know when it is time to give up the keys? The following is a checklist of some warning signs that may indicate you have a problem:

1. Do you limit your driving at night?
2. Do you avoid driving on the interstate?

3. Have you had 2 or more traffic tickets in the past 3 years?
4. Have you had 2 or more fender benders accidents in past 3 years?
5. Do you use your mirrors instead of turning your head when you back up or merge into traffic?
6. Do you nod off or get dizzy sometimes when driving especially if you forgot to eat or take your meds?
7. Do you park in the back of the lot because you don't want to worry about maneuvering your car between other cars up front?
8. Do you have a hard time seeing motorcycles or bicycles when you drive?
9. Do others give you unsolicited driving directions or advice when they ride with you?
10. Do you forget where you were supposed to turn even though you been there often?
11. Do you have trouble concentrating on driving if the radio is on?
12. Do you ever make mistakes switching on one thing, such as turn signals, when you meant to turn on something else, like windshield wipers?
13. Are you forgetting where you parked more often?
14. Do you miss stop signs or traffic lights sometimes?
15. Do you have trouble getting in and out of your car?
16. How many times in the past couple of weeks have you sat down because you felt dizzy?
17. Do you ever have uncontrolled shaking?
18. Do you drift out of your lane sometimes?
19. Do you drive slower because you don't react as fast as you used to?
20. Do your children refuse to ride with you or let the grandkids ride with you because they think you are not safe?

*Submitted by Mike Munson*

## **Epiphany Tea**

January 26th was a beautiful day of good food, friendship, and fellowship. The tables were set with love and care, and each person had a handmade fortune cookie with a special bible verse.

Lots of helping hands made it work, but a special thank you goes out to Julie Sherman and Jeanne Kendall for their leadership.

Thank you to everyone who helped by making food, serving, cleaning, setting tables, making decorations, and especially for attending!

Heidi Holdsambeck

# Financial Statement

As of 12/31/2012

Undesignated checking & savings \$68,601  
 Designated Checking \$23,211

	Actual Dec '12	Actual 2012	Budget 2012
Income*	\$36,000	\$329,136	\$339,097
Expenses*	\$24,084	\$319,579	\$339,097
Net income/(loss)	\$11,916	\$9,558	\$0

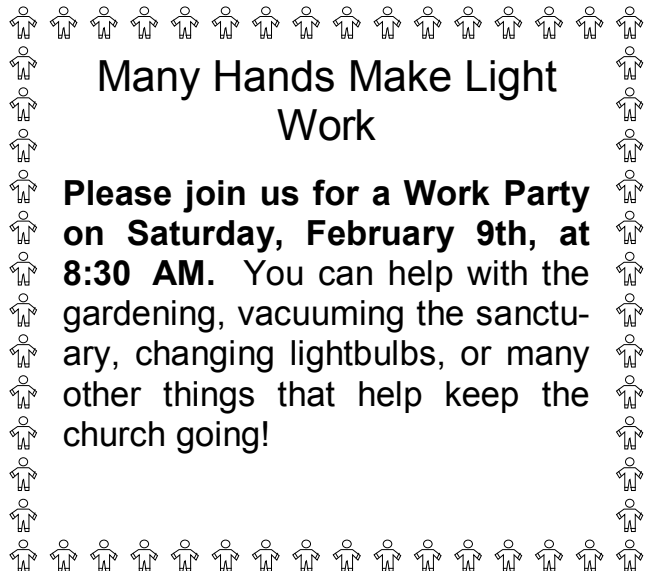
\* YTD Includes BTM income, and expenses over and above the sale of the Rigel property, to pay off the Mortgage Balance and Interest.

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*Sunday Eucharist*  
 8:00 AM and 10:00AM  
 Church Office Hours  
 Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM  
 Telephone: (805) 733-4400  
 Fax: (805) 733-4405  
 www.stmaryslompoc.org



**Many Hands Make Light Work**

**Please join us for a Work Party on Saturday, February 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!

## Bede the Bat

Greetings to everyone in my church family at St. Mary's! It's me again, Bede the Bat in the St. Mary's Belfry.

I have a confession to make. It's nothing really bad, but I was always taught that it was impolite to stare at anyone, especially if they can see you doing it. So you probably haven't noticed that I've been staring at you. In fact, I've been staring at everyone at St. Mary's. I'm just a people-watcher, I guess. I'll bet that some of you are people-watchers, too. St. Mary's is a great place to hide and watch.



I'm particularly fond of watching during Sunday church services. I hang upside down high above the congregation and have a wonderful time. I try not to be too obvious about it, but sometimes I think that people see me. Watching a congregation is great fun. Some people are very alert and you can tell that they are truly enjoying what's going on. Once in awhile you can catch someone taking a little nap especially during the sermon when they don't have to stand or kneel or get up or do anything else physical. Some people fidget and move around a lot and some leaf through their Prayer Books or Hymnal and some people even hold their phones where no one can see them and they text! As I said, it's great fun to watch to see how people react to what's going on.

One interesting thing that I've noticed is that people, unless they're asleep, don't much like Silence. They don't seem to know what to do with just being quiet. I'm sure you've noticed this in a conversation with another person. Most of the time, the person you're talking to is not listening to you, but they are thinking up what they will say next and might even interrupt you in order to say it while it's fresh on their mind. Humans just don't handle silence very well. They whisper to each other and are usually in a hurry to get to coffee hour so that they can talk. I find this interesting because I personally love Silence. I find it refreshing. It's a time to consider what is being said by others, but most people (at least this is what I've observed) are relieved when it's time to respond to the Prayers Of the People or to sing a Hymn. Anything, but that dreaded Silence.

Being an artistic type Bat, I decided to write a poem about Silence in church. The Prayer Book even provides for Silence, but it can make some people uncomfortable. They are eager to get onto what's next and are puzzled as to why no one is saying anything. Once in awhile, I am so moved by

this sort of thing and what I see that I write poetry about it. I know I don't seem like the type and if you look at my picture, you might wonder how anyone who looks like that could have any sensitivity at all, but I will show you what I mean. Here is my poem about Silence.

### Silence May Be Kept

(Thoughts on opening "The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer")

The Prayer Book calls for "Silence" --

hard for some.

For me,

it is a present from the Lord.

I love

the blessed Silence,

but I find

the Prayers

that follow Silences

are

hard.

written by Me. Bede the Bat, Poet

Next time you're in church, watch what people do with the time they spend there. Notice what they do with Silences. It's fun. Just don't get caught doing it.

'Til next time, this is Me, Bede the Bat, saying many blessings to you and see you in church.

*While I was in Australia recently, I got to visit some of Bede's cousins who live in the woods by a creek near Sydney. They wouldn't pose for the camera, though.  
(Photo by John Beeler.)*







Marie Pope	02/01
Sarah Cunningham	02/02
Julie Sherman	02/02
Robert [Bob] Coe	02/05
Paul Hamilton	02/09
Linda Everly	02/10
Mary Wynns-Smith	02/12
Barbara Manchester	02/16
Cynthia LeRoy	02/18
Richard Kendall	02/19
John Sipos	02/21
Howard Gould	02/23
Gloria Griffith-Montague	02/23
Patricia LoCicero	02/27

## 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:*

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

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

**Allan, Bill, Carl, Jason, Juliana, Kevin, Kimberly, Paige, Patrick, Robert, Simon, Ryan and Whitney.**

*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](http://www.stmaryslompoc.org) call any of our Prayer Ring members, or email Stephanie Bastian at [jeffnsteph95@msn.com](mailto: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

## **2012 SENIOR WARDENS REPORT**

When I began to think about what I would say this year, the song “Rejoice in the Lord Always” kept running through my mind. Then like a light going on I changed the word “Rejoice” to “thank you” “thank you Lord Always” I am not good at that but what I am even worst at is thanking the members of St. Mary’s.

So first thank you; to you Michael for allowing me to be your senior warden this past year, I know there have been times when you and I did not agree or I broke your trust but you still worked with me and let me do my thing.

Secondly I must and I mean must publicly thank Rick Kendall, Junior Worden, for accepting my times of frustration and anger, then asking are you done? To which I would answer yes. Then calmly and softly he would say, good lets go on. Thank you Rick for all you have helped me, Michael, and our church accomplish this past year.

Thirdly and my finally thank you goes to you the parishioners of St. Mary’s, it is you who make all that happens around here possible. There is food on Sundays, paying off the mortgage, the Red Shirt Project, the nets-for-life, the decorating of the church, the holy casseroler’s, and on and on. You do all those and so many other things that no one hears or knows of, you are the ones who deserve the biggest thank you.

I could never say it enough,

Thank you

Howard Gould  
Senior Warden

### **Junior Warden’s Report – Annual Meeting, January 27 2013.**

I’ve re-learned something over the past year, which I’d like to share with you.

As Junior Warden, one of the duties I signed on for is to remind you on the first Sunday of every month, that the open plate (the cash) goes to Fr. Michael’s discretionary fund. We started this a couple years ago after a particularly cut-to-the-bone budget process. Fr. Michael uses his discretionary fund for a variety of charitable causes, as he sees fit.

While it is important to have a budget, it tends to give me a perspective of scarcity, rather than abundance. A few years ago, wrestling with the budget process, the Vestry decided that we could afford \$2000 per year for Fr. Michael’s discretionary fund. \$2000 doesn’t go very far, but with a deficit budget, that is all we thought we could afford. This past year, by asking once a month for the open plate to go to the discretionary fund, you have funded about three times the amount that we felt we could “afford”.

So I have learned again this year, that maybe we should work together in community, making our needs known, and just asking.

We asked for your help to purchase Nets for Life, and you responded.

We asked for your help to provide backpacks, and you responded.

In so many ways this past year, you have all responded. Helping with weddings, and funerals, and teas, and other events. Helping with Sunday School, and Christmas decorations, and Angel Trees, and Feeding the Homeless, and Red Shirt, and Vacation Bible School. Making a new Mary Garden and providing new Benches. In so many other areas, you all step up and do the work.

You always respond when we ask. And to that I want to say Thank You. We probably don't say Thank You enough.

You also responded when we came up with the Blue Envelope fund to pay off our mortgage. A few years ago, with a deficit budget, and a looming balloon payment / refinance, your Finance Committee came up with a recommendation to sell our former rectory and raise the balance to make this Church debt free. We are now debt free. And that is amazing. So once again, Thank You to Roger and the Finance Committee, and to you all for making this happen.

We approached the Diocese with the plan. The advisors to Bishop Bruno had no good reason to let us sell the former rectory. From their point of view, you just don't sell property. But our Bishop listened to our plea, prayed, and said "Yes". And for that, we also need to say "Thank you".

So what have I learned this year? I've learned that we need to continue to be in community. Make our needs known. Ask for what we need. God provides. And we should say Thank You to God, and to each other.

Rick Kendall  
Junior Warden

## **Buildings and Grounds**

During the past year, many St. Mary's parishioners have given their time and talents to both improve and maintain the church and grounds. The following tasks were accomplished this year:

### Buildings -

#### Interior -

- Installed new carpet in Fitch Hall
- Washed and oiled the pews and woodwork in church
- Washed all windows
- Various plumbing, electrical and maintenance repairs

#### Exterior -

- Painted Main doors to Church and Fitch Hall
- Began painting wood trim
- Replaced flood light in front of church
- Wash all windows
- Re-stained outdoor furniture

#### Grounds -

- Replanted some of courtyard gardens and installed St. Mary statue
- Added new concrete benches in courtyard
- Planted the peninsulas in the parking lots
- Extensive repairs to the sprinkler system
- On-going pruning and clean-up on grounds

Our building are beginning to show their 20 plus years and will require additional maintenance and repairs in the future. We have been fortunate to have parishioners with the talents and dedication to handle many of the required maintenance and upkeep. I expect this to be the case in the coming year. If we continue to stay current with the upkeep, we should be able to have a facility that we can be proud.

I am grateful to all of you that have devoted so many hours, especially Jan and Jim Cooksey and Lenore and Gethin Hughes. Also to our gardener, Hector for all he does for the church.

#### **Choir and Music**

##### 2012 Annual Report/Summary

St Mary's Chancel Choir is a dedicated group of singers for whom music is an integral and important part of worship. Their voices create an ambience that provides the congregation with an emotional connection to the meaning and tenure of the worship service. The choir, accompanied by our musical director, Chris Bowman, on organ and piano sings a wide variety of music and are an integral part of the Sunday 10 o'clock service and other special services held at St. Mary's.

The choir serves as an example to the youth and children of St Mary's of how worship can take on various forms. Our children at St Mary's have continued to present special musical offerings to the congregation during the monthly children's service. Chris has provided musical selections which Trudy put together into songbooks for the Sunday school class; and the teachers assist in helping the children practice for this monthly offering. Our kids have some GREAT voices!

In 2012, our chancel choir was augmented on Easter and Christmas with additional parishioners, guest singers and musicians. This allowed them to sing more complex pieces and arrangements. Special contributions were received to encourage guest singers and musicians. These special offerings enhanced outreach to the community.

The choir recently added a new member as a result of the Christmas service. Unfortunately, another member was lost due to relocation. The biggest current need is for an alto section and more male voices to allow a full range of musical offerings. The choir is a wonderful experience of Christian fellowship, patient work and lots of laughs.

The congregation is encouraged to actively participate by joining their voices in this ministry. St Augustine of Hippo said, "Those who sing pray twice." While writing this report, the following associated quote related to St Augustine seemed appropriate:

*"He did not say you had to sing well. As an old Army chaplain once announced when I was in basic training, "I want everyone to sing. If you have a wonderful voice, you should use it to praise the Lord. If the Lord didn't give you a good voice, now is your chance to get even."*

## Finance Committee

### St. Mary's Episcopal Church 2013 Cash Budget and 2012 Cash Budget & Actual Results

Description	2013 Budget	2012 Actual	2012 Budget	2011 Actual	2010 Actual
Total Income		329,136		398,425	358,215
Less Burn The Mortgage Income		11,821		84,530	36,000
Income	310,000	317,315	312,094	313,895	322,215
Less Expenses:					
Administration	249,142	240,487	232,860	233,753	230,798
Buildings & grounds	37,190	35,972	36,260	24,613	43,640
Christian formation	1,200	827	1,000	176	2,343
Communications	980	372	980	270	2,103
Mission share fund	18,000	15,325	15,000	12,887	29,305
Mortgage (includes principal + interest)	0	18,014	18,014	REV 131,810	47,280
Outreach	5,000	5,010	4,000	3,946	9,419
Pastoral care	0	63	200	0	2,130
Radical hospitality	1,100	723	750	160	1,273
Stewardship & renewal	500		500	0	3,439
Worship	3,400	2,781	2,530	1,882	1,546
Total Expenses	316,512	319,574	312,094	409,497	373,276
Net Gain or (loss)	(6,512)	(2,259)		(11,072)	(15,061)

Undesignated Funds Analysis	2012 Actual
Undesignated funds at the start of the year	64,506
Undesignated funds at the end of the year	68,600

2012 Designated Funds Analysis	Ending Bal.
Administrative support	683
Christian formation fund	128
Concert fund	5,063
Flowers fund	937
Honorarium fund	58
Outreach fund	1,152
Radical hospitality fund	1,753
Repair and replacement fund	11,453
Worship fund	655
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED</b>	<b>21,882</b>

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION – ANNUAL REPORT

2012 yielded many meaningful and lively discussions for Adult Formation on Sunday mornings which included:

- Praying the Psalms
- The Story of Ruth
- Spiritual Journey Down the Yellow Brick Road

Adult Formation also sponsored two outings – Legally Blonde – The Musical at Solvang Theater Fest and the PCPA production of The Wizard of Oz at the Marion Theater in Santa Maria.

The Church School continues to be a meaningful experience for our children involving volunteer parishioners to lead monthly, hands-on theme study with the children. Palestine 30 A.D. concluded in June. During the summer months Trudy conducted Sunday morning discussions about the gospel reading with the children. VBS continued the Palestine 30 A.D. theme with In the Days of Miracles. The children studied 5 of the miracles performed by Jesus Christ and culminated the week with a fishing trip to River Park. The theme for the 2012/2013 Church School is the Old Testament Servants of God (willing and unwilling). Once again parishioners stepped up to lead our children. Family Fun Events continued but moved to Sunday afternoons to accommodate family schedules. Events included games, crafts, food and worship. A Movie night was held in March and the April Family Fun event celebrated Earth Day with the planting of a garden on Emma's Playground and included the wisdom of our Patriarch (Ray Gould) and matriarch (Mary Saldino). May's event was postponed because of end of year school activities and dance recitals. Special summer events included a picnic and tour of the mission in July and a fun day at Boomers followed by a spaghetti dinner at Trudy's. In November the children and a large group of adult volunteers descended upon La Purisima Mission in costume for a photo shoot of the Christmas Story. The pictures were integrated with scripture and live tableaux to create a Christmas Pageant that was their most inspiring yet.

Our children continue to lead and inspire us at the 10:00 am worship service the last Sunday of each month. Sadly the concluding sessions of The Journey Down the Yellow Brick Road and the October Family Fun Event were cancelled due to Trudy's illness.

Last of all Trudy wishes to extend a large thank you to all the kind and generous people who have made Christian Formation so successful. Your liaison for Christian Formation would like to further extend many thanks to the people who stepped up to support the children and their programs when Trudy was no longer able to continue.

### **Communication Committee** 2012 Annual Report/Summary

The Communication Committee works to improve and maintain the flow of information among all members of our parish family including news, calendar events, projects and programs, and information about weekly and special services.

In 2012, the committee has worked hard to maintained the church's website to communicate who we are and what we are doing to both our parish family and to the wider community. In addition to the maintaining the website and keeping the associated calendar up to date and informative, we have also maintained a Facebook page for sharing other information with our "friends".

Thanks to John Beeler's efforts, we also electronically published 11 issues of "The Bells" newsletter. Hard copies were made available to parishioners who don't receive electronic mail. John has also continued to photographically document life at St Mary's for our historic archive.

Approximately 55 “Email Blasts” were sent out over the past year to inform parishioners about upcoming events or special news. Jeanne Johnston and Don Lown sent these mailings to an average of 135 email addresses.

One special “Robo Call” was implemented to the home phones of our parishioners to invite them to a special visit by Bishop Diane Bruce.

Perhaps the biggest achievement of the year was the publication on our new Parish Directory. Committee members Don Lown and John Beeler photographed all available members of the parish and the committee took on the task of updating everyone’s information for the current database. Rick Kendall and Elizabeth Hatcher input all the information into a new computer program that will make updates more efficient.

A new Christmas banner was designed and acquired announcing our Christmas Eve services which were up significantly in attendance at both services over the last couple of years.

**Communication** efficiency was dramatically enhanced with a new Communications Kiosk in Fitch Hall, the handiwork of Glen Newcomb. It’s become a one-stop shopping experience for everything you wanted to know about or get involved with at St Mary’s.

The committee would like to hear from parishioners on how we might improve parish communication for 2013.

**REPORT OF THE OUTREACH MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TEAM (MDT)**

For 2012 the Vestry allocated \$4000 to the Outreach MDT. The bulk of that allocation was spend on projects in the local area. The table below shows expenditures by quarter. Thanks to parishioners’ generosity an additional \$500 in designated funds will be carried-over to 2013 to support the back-pack project.

1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr
Catholic charities	City of Lompoc Children’s Drop-in Lunch Program	Backpacks Middle & High School	Holy Family Services Lompoc Food Pantry Luncheon for Seniors Toys for Teens Dorothy Jackson Center Bridge House Warming Center
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$2500

In addition to the programs mentioned above, the parish supported many other outreach projects, not funded through the team, but through other people's offerings of time, talent and treasure. Some examples of these include: Red Shirt, Feed the Homeless, Nets for Life, First Responders Luncheon, African Team Ministries, Angel Tree, among others.

To better capture the "sense of the parish", the Outreach MDT will use the results of an outreach questionnaire to guide its efforts in 2013. While core team members will continue to meet on a monthly basis, the hope is to invite others of the parish to attend meetings when special, ad hoc, projects might require broader support from the Outreach MDT or the parish. The intent is not to take-over projects special to a person or group of people, but to offer support and engage additional parishioners if needed.

I would like to thank all those who support 2012 outreach projects, and especially the members of the Outreach MDT: Molly Gerald, Barbara Holt, Norma Anderson, Glenna Baker, Bitts Bwles, Giselle Boyd-Snee, Charlotte Compton, Charlotte Hayes, Ruth Hicks and Ron Pace.

Ron Pace will serve as the Outreach Ministry Development Team Chairperson for 2013.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggie Gould, Chairperson 2012

## **Pastoral Care**

### Prayer Ring

Stephanie Bastian 735-2795

Intercessory prayer-prayers for others- is the focus of the Prayer Ring. Traditionally, prayer requests come from parishioners and priest. This group of approximately nine members has experimented with electronic communication in the past year and has found that the human touch may have been lost. The coming year opens the possibility of re-organization and re-assessment, all of it with the consciousness of meaningful prayer lives. The group welcomes new members.

### Prayer Shawl

Mary Jane Newcomb 733-3811

There are currently four people actively crocheting or knitting for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. All of our supplies have been donated, including needles, hooks and yarns for anyone who would like to join this informal, but prayerful group. These are held in boxes in the last storage room on the right in the Sunday School hallway. There is a basket in the Kiosk with completed and blessed shawls for anyone who would like to have or deliver one.

Since we began praying in this way, we have delivered more than 300 shawls, most locally, some far away by person or by mail. Since Advent of this year, there have been at least 6 given to parishioners, including our two infant Jesus actors!



Currently we have two difficulties. One is that we don't receive direct requests for special prayers and shawls, although anyone may ask Charlotte Compton, Bits Bowles, Cynthia LeRoy or Mary Newcomb (733-3811) or put a request in the Prayer Request Box. We are eager to pray and work with personal focus. The other is that Ray Gould's blue prayer shawl....kept for him with the name tags so he won't be cold on Sundays.... has disappeared. If you see it, perhaps it could be returned.

#### Daughters of the King

Elizabeth Hatcher 733-4400

Monthly meeting. Their focus is prayer and assisting the priest especially at funerals. They had 3-5 members in 2012.

#### Caroling

Caroling this last year fell under pastoral care. Ten parishioners visited 13 home or care-bound parishioners. I believe we really did spread "Glad Tidings." For me, it was the best part of Christmas this year. Thank you especially to Glen Newcomb for leading the singing.

#### **Stewardship Committee**

Jeanne Johnston and Bob Lingl

Stewardship was addressed this past year at St Mary's as we invited Bishop Diane Bruce to an all-parish meeting in September. While I believe that many heard Bishop Diane's message in their hearts, I also believe that it is difficult to see a St Marian corporate response to her message. If stewardship is everything that we do after we have said, "I believe" what does that response look like? Maybe it remains personal, acted out in ways that are hard to see in a group.

We heard the personal stewardship paths of several parish speakers, stories that enlightened our own paths.

Stewardship should be very forward looking. Yes, we have paid off the mortgage on the church. Yes, we are no longer landlords of the former rectory—that never felt like God's work to me. But do we have aspirations for growth? How could we improve our buildings for better use? Is there a pre-school in our future? Can we move beyond maintenance? I challenge the incoming vestry and all parishioners to work on a vision and a goal.