



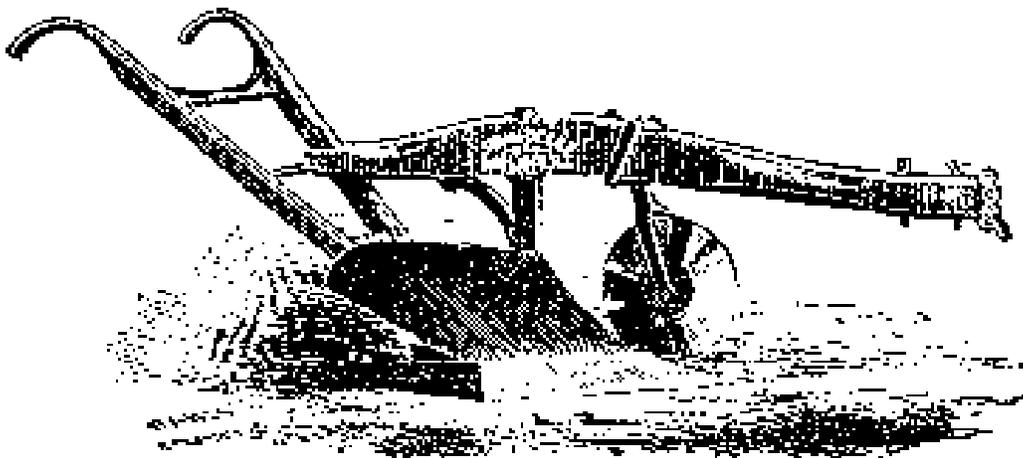
# *The Bells of Saint Mary's*

## *June 2016*

### Wonders upon Wonders

I sit down to write this article about an hour before having a SKYPE conversation with friends across the International Date Line in New Zealand. At 1:00 pm our time, on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May as the clock turns to 8:00 am tomorrow, the 21<sup>st</sup> of May in Gisborne, New Zealand. It makes me remember watching old Star Trek episodes when Starfleet Command would call Captain Kirk as the Starship Enterprise was cruising around the galaxies in search of trouble that needed righting. At that time, we watched in wonder and could only dream of what we now call “video conferencing”. And there is no way we could have dreamed it would take place from my iPhone6!

The reason for the SKYPE call is a follow-up to a relationship that began with a letter written on December 18, 2014 and read to us by Christopher Douglas-Huriwai as our guest Celebrant at the late service on Christmas Eve that year. After this article you can



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read the whole letter (copied and included in this edition) but the key phrases are: “To the Reverend Michael Cunningham, and to the congregation at The Church of St. Mary, Lompoc; and Don and Chris have communicated with me an invitation to explore a closer relationship with you all through the Red Shirt Project, and perhaps through youth and ministry exchanges with us here in Tairawhiti, New Zealand. I am more than willing to support such an endeavor, and look forward to hearing from you about how we might start such a journey together appropriately.” The letter is signed by The Most Reverend William Brown Turei, who is the Archbishop of the Church in New Zealand.

Which brings me to this year’s Red Shirt Project. Because of your tremendous support of this ministry that defines us in many of the communities that I have been a part of throughout my over 30 years of service to the Episcopal Church, and now is well known as the home of the Red Shirt Project throughout the church, we are now engaged in partnership ministry with the Diocese of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

Bishop Turei’s Director of Youth Ministries, (his title is Youth Enabler), along with three of his young people, 16, 19, and 20 I believe, will be flying over to LAX on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> of July to join us for worship on Red Shirt Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. They will join, as of this writing, 17 other young people and eight adults for the largest RSP in a long time.

And the amazing thing about all of this, the wonder upon wonders of it all, is that it began with the Red Shirt Project in 2005, when then 15 or 16 year old Chris Huriwai and a young woman also from NZ joined us for the work that year. Then, in God’s good time, Chris was called to ordained ministry among the Maori people who he is part of, and stopped to see us on back from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

It has been common for “kids” who have been on the life-changing journey of the Red Shirt Project to stay in touch with me over the years. We have spent time in dynamic formation experiences that link young people to our work on the project. At last count, three Eagle Scouts, four priests, one deacon, and untold hundreds who have gone on to successful productive lives as adults who continue to work in and out of the church and support the work that formed them by giving so that others can do the same...change their lives for the better.

This year, Allison, Megan, and Clara Swart, Kaira Munson and Stephen Bastian represent our church among the many young people going on the journey. I am very excited to have our own members among the group that includes representatives from seven Episcopal churches in our diocese and I don’t know how many from New Zealand. This is exciting stuff!

I also want to remind you that I don’t ask only members of St. Mary’s to donate funds for the trip. Below is a copy of the appeal letter that over the course of four days this week (to avoid looking like I was sending spam!) I sent out to over 800 folks on my personal

email address book. In the past, my appeal to my own contacts has brought in about half of the annual funding needed. This year is tough because I no longer qualify for a grant from two different foundations that I could always count on for about four thousand dollars. But, I believe that everything we do, we do for God's glory and that God will provide what we need. That is why I am asking you to give. Please give, so that we can realize this goal. Obviously, the next expansion of ministry is for some of our young people to go to New Zealand and experience the church and the ministry there.

There is no end to God's creative world of ministry. Ours is to reach out and enable our young people to go where God calls them to go so that they may grow and lead others to dynamic ministry in the name of Jesus for the good of God's church. And I promise you... There will be wonders upon wonders...and all the wonders will be real.

*With my hand on the plow,  
Fr. Michael+*

Dear Friends of the Red Shirt Project,

5/16/2016

Exciting news begins this appeal letter. We have four young people from the Maori Nation in New Zealand joining 15 other young people for one of the largest Red Shirt Projects in a long time. Four from my parish, St. Mary's in Lompoc, Three from St. Paul's in Ventura, Four from St. George's in Hawthorne, Two from St. Stephen's in Hollywood, Two from St. Albans in Yucaipa means a broad cross section of cultures and ages will converge on July 2nd in Lompoc. Add to this our loyal group of adult volunteers and we will be 27 people strong at worship on Sunday the 3rd as we head out for Barstow, CA the first night. Fillmore, Utah on the 4th of July, Casper, WY on the fifth and arriving at Christ Church, Red Shirt Table on the 6th.

A full and busy ten days of work and community awaits us. This year features the 3rd Annual Red Shirt Community Pow-Wow on the 15th and 16th of July. Before that, we have numerous projects before us to keep us busy, working, tired, and together.

As always, I can't do it without your help. Would you please give again so that we can take this year's trip? Checks made out to St. Mary's and write RSP16 on the memo line. Or you can just write your check to Red Shirt Project and mail it to: St. Mary's Episcopal Church 2800 Harris Grade Road Lompoc, CA 93436.

I need to raise \$20,000 to make this work...please give generously. The opportunity these young people have before them is unique in their young lives...please help them to realize it.

With my hand on the plow,  
Michael+

The Rev. Michael Cunningham, Rector

*(One thing to notice...in the four days since sending out the note, some of the numbers have already changed...there are now five from St. Mary's...not four...just as one example)*



## Te Pihopatanga o Te Tairawhiti

Diocese of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

18 December 2014

Rev Michael Cunningham  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
2800 Harris Grade Road  
Lompoc, CA 93436-2210

To The Reverend Michael Cunningham, and to the congregation at The Church of St Mary, Lompoc:

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I write to extend my blessings and greetings to you all in this Christmas season. May the God of Hope, through the gift of his only Son, inspire you all to love and to give as generously this season as He has done for you.

My thanks to you, Reverend Michael, and to your family, for the hospitality you have shown to our priests – the Reverends Don Tamihere and Christopher Douglas-Huriwai during their visit in November, and now to Chris and his wife Sharlene, who are with you today. They are indebted to you, and no doubt look forward to being able to return the favour in the near future.

Don and Chris have communicated with me an invitation to explore a closer relationship with you all through the Red Shirt Project, and perhaps through youth and ministry exchanges with us here in Tairawhiti, New Zealand. I am more than willing to support such an endeavour, and look forward to hearing from you about how we might start such a journey together appropriately.

Merry Christmas to one and all, and a Happy New Year.

Nga Manaakitanga

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Turei".

The Most Reverend William Brown Turei

# MISS ELLA AND THE WEDDING HAT: PART II

DEDE DUNN·FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016

The rain woke me. It sounded like little rocks hitting the roof. I peeked out the front bedroom window toward the Greek house across the street, but I could n't see it. That's how hard the rain was. I ran to the sleeping porch and looked out at the back garden. I could see Young Uncle Charlie slogging toward the garage door where the Reo car lived. He wore a black slicker and rubber boots and carried Grandma's big umbrella and soon, I saw the car back out and stop by the side porch. Uncle jumped out and ran up onto the porch.

As I ran toward the stairs, I could hear Grandma singing. LOUD. She only did that when she was extremely delighted about something. She had a truly lovely voice. In fact, it was so lovely that, when she was sixteen, she ran away with a traveling opera company that had been performing in Houston. Her Papa found out where the group was headed next and brought her back home. She said she never forgave him because she could have been a great opera star like Lily Ponds. (Years later, I realized she meant Lily Pons, the great soprano and star of the Metropolitan Opera.)

I knew that since it was Saturday, we would soon be on our way to the church for Altar Guild duty and so I decided that I might just as well face Grandma's oatmeal and get it over with. I sat on the top step of the stairs that led to the landing below and sat, one step at a time, down the stairs and into the kitchen.

This morning, she was singing at the top of her very healthy lungs. The selection for this morning was what she called "Bringing In the Sheets" (she meant "sheaves"). "We are come rejoicing, we bring in the sheets", she sang. This was followed by a chorus of "Jesus loves me, and I know, Mr. Windham tells me so." Mr. Tom Windham was our Priest and that wasn't the way that Miss Martine and the children in Sunday School sang it, but Grandma was undaunted and sang so as to wake the dead, Grandpa said.

When I reached the kitchen, her face was wreathed in smiles. That in itself was unusual. Morning was not Grandma's favorite part of the day, but it was different this morning. She smiled at me and said, "There is Grandma's sweet girl! guten Morgen, dear one!!" I looked around to see if there was another little girl there, but she seemed to mean me. "And how are we liking pancakes and orange juice for breakfast today? Sounding good, does it?" It sounded like Heaven to me. But this must be a joke. Where was the dreaded oatmeal?

Grandma said, "See how happy we are being because of the rain? It is blessing from God! And we celebrate the rain with great happiness."

I wasn't sure why we should be so happy about rain. We lived in Houston, Texas. It rained all the time. Sometimes it rained for days at a time and things smelled funny because they never really dried. Still, I thought it was silly to question because if I was going to get pancakes and juice instead of oatmeal that made it a great day. I got my plate to take to Grandma and saw Irish Auntie and Grandpa deep in conversation on the back porch. Grandpa handed her something and said, "It's worth it. I hope it stops raining" and I thought that I didn't want it to stop raining before I got my pancakes, so I hurried to Grandma.

Mama came downstairs and had a whispered conversation with Irish Auntie and when Grandma saw them, she smiled and said, "Iss pancake time and then off to do Altar Guild duty to please our Lord and Saving (we thought she meant "Savior", but who really knew and when you think about it, maybe she was closer than we knew.) and then back home and maybe we are playing bridge. Yes! Bridge and hot tea and cake! That's what we'll do."

And so we ate and dressed and piled in the car to go to the church for Altar Guild duty to please our Lord and Saving. We were through in an hour and then we piled back in the car and started off down Houston Avenue toward home. However, as we neared the right turn that should take us to Weber Street and The Big House, Uncle kept going while Grandma yelled at him, "Dumkopf! You are missing the turn for home. Was ist das? Turn on Alamo and go around the block! What is wrong with you?" But Uncle kept driving on Houston Avenue toward downtown Houston. And just then, the rain stopped and the sun came out and the water seemed to disappear and it turned into one of those wonderful days that sometime happens in Houston. A miracle!

Auntie said, "Now, Ella, calm down. We are going to Munn's (this was the department store where Mama worked in the office as a comptometer operator. I didn't know what that was, but it sounded important.) We're going to buy Dede a dress to wear to the wedding. Louise wants her to be the flower girl." She looked at me and smiled and said, "You'll wear a beautiful new dress and new shoes and I'll make a flower crown for you to wear. Would you like that?" Would I ever?!! And she said to Grandma, "And Ella, you need a new dress to wear. Maybe we could look at some while we're there. If you don't want to do that, then you can sit and wait while we do our shopping."

Once inside the store, Grandma said, "You are bringing me here under false intenses (she meant "pretenses", we thought). You are bringing me here to buy a hat! I am telling you again, NO HAT! I am not doing it! I am sitting here and waiting. You show me the dress you are picking out for Dede and if I'm not liking it, we are going home. NOW!!"

Auntie picked out a cream colored ankle length organdy dress with a lavender sash and Mama picked out some cream colored slippers to go with it She brought little gloves and Auntie said that she would make me a flower crown out of whatever flowers Louise chose. Her colors were to be purple and cream and I looked at myself in the mirror and could hardly believe it was me. And I was told to go to show Grandma, who sat with a frown frozen on her face.

Auntie said, "Well, Ella, what do you think? Aren't the slippers pretty?" and Grandma said, "They're not being practical, but I guess they'll do. They do go with the dress. The sash is nice. The color is pretty," and as she said this, a saleslady appeared with a beautiful silk dress. It was a lovely shade of lilac and Auntie said, "I had the saleslady pick this out because I thought you might like to have it for the wedding." And Mama appeared with a pair of beautiful shoes and gloves and Grandma said, "I guess it will do, but I am not deprived (she meant "deceived", we thought)! You are tricking me into buying a HAT! I told you five hundred times, NO HAT! I will NOT wear one. You cannot think you are talking me into a HAT!" And at that moment, another saleslady arrived with a beautiful hat. It was a light cream color and on the brim was a spray of violets and the saleslady said, "If Madam would just try it for one moment. With the shape of your face and your beautiful eyes, it would be just perfect for you. You'd stand out and probably be more beautiful than the Bride. Would you, just for me, let me see how pretty you are in this hat?" And Grandma put it on. She looked at herself in the mirror. She picked up a hand mirror and turned to see the back as Irish Auntie winked at the saleslady.

Grandma said, "Well, I'm guessing this is all very nice and I guess I could wear the hat maybe one time.. That would be okay, I guess, but I can't afford all of this" and Auntie said, "It's all taken care of. It's my treat, so let's get everything wrapped and go home for that tea and bridge. And I think that as a special treat, we should let Dede go to the Popeye Club at the movie."

I didn't know it then, but all of this had been arranged in advance by Mama, Irish Auntie, Grandpa and Mama's saleslady friends. Auntie said later that the rain almost messed things up, but she would have taken Grandma on that shopping trip if she had been forced to drown her. Grandpa had supplied the cash and everybody in The Big House was in on the escapade. Well, everybody but Grandma and me. And that's what happened. Pancakes and juice for breakfast, the Popeye Club, popcorn, a candy bar, a movie, a Flash Gordon serial, a cartoon and all my friends there. A new dress, new shoes and the promise of a flower crown. And Grandma had a HAT. Not a bad haul for a Saturday afternoon, right?

*copyright Ella Chapman Dunn  
April 2016*

Dress to Learn Project returns Last summer the Outreach Ministry Team began a new project to help Needy families clothe their children as the new school year began. The **Dress to Learn** project provided New clothes to 44 children affiliated with Good Samaritan and other local agencies. On the appointed days, Outreach Team members and parish volunteers met the families at Ross and each child was allocated \$100 For shoes and clothes. How did we do this? Generous donations from members of St. Mary's made the project possible. Parishioners gave \$4,250 and \$200 came from the Outreach budget. This summer Outreach will Offer St. Marians the opportunity to participate in the Dress to Learn project again. More details will be provided in the July Bells.



For now, **thank you so much for the generous support last summer.** With projects throughout the year, Outreach provides a targeted path for St. Mary's to serve others "with gladness and singleness of heart."

## Financial Summary

As of 04/30/2016

Undesignated checking & savings	\$124,672
Designated Checking	\$33,349

	Actual April '16	Actual Jan - April '16	Budget Jan - April '16
Bequests		\$13,343	
Income	\$20,157	\$98,141	\$109,088
Expenses	\$31,363	\$113,816	\$111,883
Net income/(loss)	(\$11,206)	(\$2,333)	(\$2,795)

St. Mary's has a policy of transparency, open and full disclosure. If you want more detailed financial information, please ask a Vestry member, attend a Vestry or Finance meeting, or visit the office during normal business hours.

## Radical Hospitality/In-reach report to the Vestry, May 2016

**The In-reach Team serves primarily on an "As needed" basis. There are 14 parish members who signed up for the Team.** We do not need meetings, just a willingness to help the Parish.

**Pot-luck luncheons: Ten members of the team lend support whenever there is a Pot-luck luncheon.** Twice a year we share a scheduled pot-luck meal: Easter and Pentecost. We receive the food, set it out and clean up after the lunch. On The Feast of St. Mary, the St. Martha's Guild provides a brunch.

**Holy Cassarolers: provides emergency meals for parishioners.** Any person in the parish can place food in the freezer for use by any member who need assistance with temporary food. We ask that people carefully seal the meal, tell what it is and how many people it will feed. A "frozen on" date tells us when things have out-lived their usefulness. **There is a need for single helpings:**

**Driving St. Marys.** Nine members of the team make themselves available for driving parish members to doctor appointments when necessary. Our most ambitious project was recently when a parish member had 24 Physical Therapy sessions in six weeks, each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Eight team members split up the sessions and assisted the person.

**Coffee Hour goodies: Any parish member is encouraged to offer goodies for the Coffee Hours. We have found that** placing a clip board on the serving table with the next week's date listed works quite well. Many people bring goodies without signing up, and that is fine.

**St. Martha's Guild: The St. Martha's Guild is part of In-reach. Mostly we just communicate with them to see** what we can do to assist in their Ministry providing receptions following memorial services.

Please talk with Glen Newcomb if you would like to join.

Present:

Norma Anderson, Patti Balcena, Bits Bowles, Linda Everly, Molly Gerald, Steve Aranguren – Vestry Liaison.

Absent: Charlotte Compton, Charlotte Hayes, Barbara Holt, Ron Pace (inactive).

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 with Molly Gerald presiding while Ron Pace is inactive. Linda Everly opened the meeting with prayer.

Steve Aranguren reported on his presentation of the Outreach report to the Vestry and shared their recommendations and concerns, as follows:

- 1) Vestry approved the decision making process used by Outreach with regard to Funding Victory Outreach in the first quarter.
- 2) Vestry approved the process by which Outreach spends its funds – it's working fine.
- 3) Vestry approved a joint bulletin board for In---reach and Outreach.
- 4) Minutes should be provided in the Bells.
- 5) New members should be recruited to Outreach.
- 6) The three main items targeted for improvement are:
  - 1) Communication with Fr. Michael and parish,
  - 2) Engagement of more people to participate in projects,
  - 3) Incorporation of giving beyond the local level as part of Outreach.

Steve advised that local vs distance outreach is the main point of concern. Vestry Thinks the Outreach mission statement should be broadened. Discussion of these points followed.

Members noted that the contribution to the Diocesan Mission Share Fund is a way the parish extends giving beyond the local level. Outreach members were asked to look at the information on the Diocesan website regarding the Mission Share Fund prior to the next meeting (scheduled 6/14/16). It was also noted that Outreach's budget has been reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000 per year and a suggestion was made that Outreach consider asking for additional funds in the next budget cycle to expand giving beyond the local level.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to invite Fr. Michael to the next meeting to explain his vision for Outreach giving. Molly will invite him.

Patti Balcena reported on the socks project of March---April. She made two deliveries to the Bridge House during the project timeframe. She noted how grateful many people seemed for this simple item provided. No exact count of socks collected is available, but we know that our parish was very generous. She advised that the following items were identified as needed and possibilities for Outreach efforts:

- towels (new/used),
- shampoo & toiletries,
- blankets/comforters (new/used).

The *Dress to Learn* project was discussed. Ross will be the designated store for purchasing back-to-school clothes. The Fri---Sat. of July 29---30 and August 5---6 will be the dates to meet with parents and children at Ross, as school begins August 16<sup>th</sup>. Last year clothes were provided to 44 children, with \$100 given to each child. \$200 came from the Outreach budget, and the remaining \$4,250 was donated by individuals in the parish. Molly will make sure the project is listed in the June Bells. Molly reported that she provided possible dates for the Senior Saints Luncheon to the band that plays each year. She is waiting for their response about Wed/Thurs options in October when they will be available. (Band selected Wed. 10/26)

Steve advised that Donato Ricci will let us know details regarding an E---talk by the Healthy Lompoc staff when more information is available.

The selection of agencies for the second quarter allocations was deferred until the June meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:45.

# SUMMER ARTS CAMP

Praise God using Art, Movement, Song



Tie-Dye

Music

St Mary's Episcopal Church

## NO-COST SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM

Children ages 5-12

JUNE 20-24

9:00 AM TO 1:30 PM

Ending with Youth Worship Service

JUNE 26 10:00 am

Fabric Painting

Creative Movement

Clay Sculpting

Instrument Making

St Mary's Episcopal Church, 2800 Harris Grade Rd, Lompoc 733-4400

For more info see "Education" @ [www.stmaryslompoc.org](http://www.stmaryslompoc.org)

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 www.stmaryslompoc.org  
 www.redshirtproject.org



Sharon LeRoy	06/02
Charlotte Hayes	06/03
Jeanne Kendall	06/07
Christopher Ghormley	06/08
Neiko Pagaling	06/14
Alicia Hamilton	06/17
Kira Munson	06/19
Stan Sheldon	06/19
Sheryl Murray	06/22


  
**Many Hands Make  
 Light Work**  
**Please join Team Mark  
 Work Party on Saturday,  
 June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30<sup>am</sup>.**  
 You can help with the gar-  
 dening, vacuuming the  
 sanctuary, changing light  
 bulbs, or many other things  
 that help keep the church  
 going!