


Copyright 1976 by Eleanor Dickinson

Cow Hollow Church News

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin  March 2010

God Would Have All

The Rev. Dr. Jason L. Parkin, Rector

*If God would not have All,
Why tooke He mee?*

John Donne, 1572 - 1631

As this month of March unfolds, we will journey through the heart of the poignant season of Lent, and then enter the Week of Weeks that commences with Palm Sunday. Many people find Lent depressing, with its emphasis on penitence, self-denial, and disciplined reflection. Others find the story of Holy Week similarly gloomy, containing, as it does, the tale of the too-frequent foolishness and fearfulness of the human race, the pride and myopia that resulted in the death of the Holy One of God.

It is true that, taken in a certain light, Lent and Holy Week are overwhelming. But only when viewed from a particular perspective; for the deeper truth is that, along the road we will follow these coming weeks, we will experience virtually the entire range of human experience and emotion. If we truly enter into the depths and riches of this story, we will know not only cruelty, fear, and jealousy, but also hope, wonder, beauty, and joy. As we progress from Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness to the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, from the Last Supper through the arrest and ridiculous trial, from the awe-full execution to the awe-some resurrection, we will know sorrow and celebration, dereliction and delight, tragedy, and, finally, triumph.

And why? Why do we relive this story each year? Even more, why did the events we commemorate occur in the first place? For the simple reason hinted at by John Donne in the quotation printed above: the simple reason that God wants us all. That God wants us back. That God wants us in that blissful, profoundly joyous life and relationship with God for which we were fashioned and born. That God came among us and to us and even *after* us in Jesus; and that nothing we have done, nothing we have been, nothing we have become will, ultimately, thwart God from God's plan and purpose and pursuit of the entire human race. Yes, Holy Week and Easter are about human frailty and brokenness. Yes, we come face to face, as we must, with how far we have strayed from our true selves and our true calling. But, finally, this story is about love: the love that will not die; the love for each person reading this column and for his or her neighbors and colleagues and foes; the love that is not an emotion but a **decision** on God's part; the love that will not rest until God "have All."

New Permanent Musical Leadership

Fr. Jason Parkin

Welcome to...**Chip Grant and Steve Repasky!**

It is with the greatest delight that I am able to announce that we have called our new musical leaders! Chip Grant will be the Director of Music, and Steve Repasky the Associate Director, beginning immediately.

Sometimes you find what you are looking for right under your nose. For months, the Music Search Committee diligently and patiently listened to the articulated desires of the congregation concerning future musical directions, reviewed dozens of resumes and applications, engaged in interviews and extended discussions, and participated in five auditions. Throughout that process, Chip, as interim adult choir director, and Steve, as long-term guest organist, have provided superb and creative leadership to our ministry of music, exercising patience of their own as the search process extended far longer than anyone had anticipated. Then, at a meeting in January, the Search Committee came to the conclusion that, in fact, the Spirit had already guided us into a relationship with the people meant to lead us forward into the next chapter of our common musical life.

Chip will be, as his title suggests, the supervisor of the entire music program at St. Mary's. He will continue to conduct the Adult Choir, coordinate the Candlelight Concert Series, and serve, for the time being, as the cantor at Unplugged. He will also assume primary responsibility for choosing music for the morning Eucharists. Steve will continue to serve as organist, and will, at some point after Easter, assume leadership of the Youth Choir. He will, in addition, be the pianist for Unplugged, and will work with both Chip and members of the Unplugged community to develop increased vocal and instrumental leadership and an enhanced musical repertoire that matches the liturgical style of that unique service. Chip will provide assistance

with the Youth Choir, serving as an occasional clinician on vocal technique and related practices. This new structure allows for greater coordination among all of the components of our music ministry.

Chip served previously as the Director of Music at the Church of St. Helena, a large Episcopal parish in Beaufort, South Carolina, and is the founder and director of Urban Opera, a new organization in the Bay Area. He is a member of the professional choral ensemble Volti, and was first introduced to St. Mary's as a guest bass section leader and soloist over the past several years. Chip earned his Master of Music degree in conducting at New England Conservatory in Boston. He has worked with the Boston Ballet and traveled to Rome to be assistant conductor with Opera Festival di Roma. Chip has also served as Chorusmaster with San Francisco Lyric Opera for several seasons.

Steve, a native of Youngstown, Ohio, is a partner in Hupalo & Repasky Organ Builders, LLC, serving as an organ tuner, technician, builder, and restorer. He served for many years as the organist and schola director at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in San Francisco, a large congregation in the SOMA area, and is a former officer with the San Francisco chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Steve has a Bachelor of Music in organ performance from Youngstown State University, as well as a Master of Library and Information Science from UC Berkeley.

I am thrilled to be able to make permanent what has been such a rich and rewarding interim relationship, and know, based on the countless comments I have received, that this news will be most welcome within the St. Mary's community. Please join me in giving thanks that Chip and Steve are joining the parish staff, rejoicing that God has brought us all together!



News of Note from the Sr. Warden

Anne Kieve

Thank You, Roulhac

Those of you who attended the Annual Parish Meeting in January may remember that I was very much under the weather with a cold, and therefore did not say much. I apologize for missing that opportunity to thank Roulhac Austin for her absolutely heroic efforts and accomplishments as our Senior Warden. She was a marvel to observe and a delight to work with. Her troubleshooting skills are now, if they weren't before, finely tuned. So, thank you, Roulhac for everything you did as the leader of our vestry. In the words of "Roulhac, The Senior Warden" (sung to the tune of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" at the Faith and Funding Christmas Party), "Roulhac saved the day ... in her most delightful way." Thank you, too, for continuing to serve us as our stewardship chair as well as delegate to the Deanery and Diocesan Convention.

An Introduction

While I know many of you, perhaps I should introduce myself to those I know only by sightings at services – usually the 11:00 AM, sometimes 9:00 AM, seldom 5:30 PM, and once, only once because I am not an early morning person, 8:00 AM – and other parish events. Transplanted from Washington, D.C. in 2000, my husband Loren and our children David, Andrew, Alex and Kate and I "found" ourselves at St. Mary's that first Christmas Eve. The next several years we were in a state of flux: one year spent in Ojai, CA and another trying to decide if California was the right choice for us. During this time I met my neighbor Marta Johnson who invited me to join some friends at Crissy Field. It was, of course, St. Mary's walking group: super ambassadors of the parish, all. Our children are adults now, each in a different city, and as Loren and I settle into the 'empty nest' phase of our lives, we recognize that St. Mary's has been key in making San Francisco our home. It is a community I am both humbled and honored to serve.

The Annual Report

The Annual Report gives a pretty thorough account of parish life last year, although as hindsight, it doesn't represent the urgency with which so many challenges were identified and addressed. The budget deficit was major: stewardship pledges did not cover projected expenses and some pledges were not realized. The music search took a winding path. *Home for Christmas* needed a makeover, and there were unanticipated building repairs. The Annual Report acknowledges hundreds of volunteers, from the members of the Altar Guild to the Youth Group chaperones, who offered their time and talents that were essential to our programs and ministries. But we need more of you to share your time and talents. A number of key positions are vacant, and we can always use more help even where we have a thriving ministry. How do we face these challenges as a community so that we continue to grow and flourish?

The Year Ahead

We are blessed with wonderful clergy, dedicated vestry and staff, and many, many eager volunteers. Brought together by a shared faith, we come from many different places, with many different talents and interests. At Sunday services, we celebrate the Eucharist: the format is set, the prayers said in unison. But in our parish life as a whole, those differences are valuable resources. How do we share our interests and talents? How do we learn about our fellow parishioners? How do we know where help is needed? We ask and we listen. At this year's Annual Meeting, the format was a bit different: questions and topics of concern were solicited from the parish in the prior weeks, and were discussed in an open forum. It was refreshing, and, hopefully, set the tone for the year ahead. We need to strengthen communication and encourage dialogue because engaging in dialogue is the first step to greater participation, to finding ways in which all our interests and talents can enliven and enhance our wonderful community.

Let's talk!

Sunday School & Youth News

Youth Group Schedule

- March 7 6:30 to 8:30 PM 6th – 12th graders
Adventure Nite; bring \$5.00
- March 14 6:30 to 8:30 PM 7th – 12th graders
bring a friend
- March 28 6:30 to 8:30 PM 7th – 12th graders
bring a friend

Mission Trip: Save the Dates

Youth Group: Mark your calendars today. Our 2010 mission trip will be from July 24 to August 1 to Standing Rock Reservation in Mobridge, South Dakota. It's for youth entering 9th grade and up, including 2010 High School grads. Details about fundraising and planning will be forthcoming. Yes, we will be doing at least 40 hours of service. The cost is \$300 per student and financial support is available. The Pre-Trip Service Retreat will be from May 7 to 9. We will be going with All Souls Parish, Church of the Resurrection, St. Timothy's and St. Paul's. We'll be working in Wakpala at St. Elizabeth's Church and the rectory next door. They both need to be re-roofed and re-painted. RSVP to Jennifer at jennifer@smvsf.org or 415-921-3665.

Holy Week & Easter at St. Mary's

As we enter Holy Week, we come to the central events that shape our common faith as Christian people. The heart of the liturgical year is the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising of Jesus. Our participation in the saving acts of God finds its deepest expression in this great Week. Our celebration of Holy Week is the occasion above all others when we stand before the awesome mystery of redemption, bringing to God all that we are, both as individuals and as a community of faith, at this moment in our lives.

The rites of this week are based upon sources and practices stretching back to the fourth century in

the Church at Jerusalem, and even earlier. On Palm Sunday, for example, we process into church singing a jubilant hymn just as joyous crowds waved palm branches and strewed their garments in Jesus' path as he entered the holy city. On Maundy Thursday, following a meal reminiscent of the Last Supper, we wash one another's feet, echoing Jesus' commandment to his disciples to love one another as he loved them, the *mandatum novum*, or new commandment, that he uttered while bathing their feet. On Good Friday, the most solemn day of the Christian year, St. John's story of the Passion is sung in a beautiful and poignant setting. And at the Great Vigil—the preeminent celebration of the year, and the first proclamation of the Lord's Resurrection—we begin the liturgy in complete darkness and light the Paschal Candle, the symbol of the Resurrection and the light that spreads into our lives; and, through sacred scripture, song and psalm, recount the history of God's saving presence in our lives and world.

Yet during Holy Week, we do not merely mimic the ancient rites of earlier Christians. Far more significant is the reminder that, like our ancestors, we share in the celebration of Holy Week so that we might once again find ourselves immersed in God's grace. It is from this week that all the other weeks of our life take their meanings.

Each of the liturgies within Holy Week contains its own unique beauty and power. Resist the temptation to move straight from Palm Sunday to Easter. Come, take your place in the entire journey: join the crowds that shouted "Hosanna," the circle of friends who shared in that final sacred meal, the throng that saw the Christ be offered up for human brokenness. And then, like the stupefied few who were present for Jesus' rising, rejoice in the dawning of the New Day and the New Creation.

Good Friday Offering for the Middle East

For 150 years, the Anglican Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East has provided a unique presence and witness in that fascinating yet perpetually troubled part of our world. The Anglican Church has focused not only on



Wednesday Morning Eucharist; Thursday Evening Prayer

As we move into and through Lent, don't forget the quiet, thoughtful, and inspiring Eucharist celebrated in the Chapel every Wednesday morning at 7:00 AM. This is a perfect way to be spiritually strengthened in the middle of the week, and to be nourished by the insightful reflections of fellow members of St. Mary's who offer the homily each week. If you can spare the time, walk down Union Street to La Cucina afterward for a fun and lively breakfast.

Similarly, on Thursdays, Evening Prayer is offered in the Chapel at 5:15 PM. This is another gentle way to keep God at the center of our lives during the holy season of Lent.

Healing Ministry

Lee Walsh

On the first Wednesday of each month, a healing service follows the 7:00 AM Eucharist in the chapel. After the service, we move the altar back, and participants stand in a healing circle. Someone seeking healing moves to the center of the circle and asks for prayers, addressing their concern while the others put their hands on the person in blessing. The concern expressed can be the speaker's own, or on behalf of someone else. It can pertain to a physical challenge, a lost job, marital difficulties, or any source of pain in someone's life. The attending priest prays aloud on behalf of the supplicant for healing, and everyone else silently joins in with their own positive prayers. If you or someone you know could use a boost from sharing a concern in a safe space, and could benefit from collective prayer, be aware that we will be there in the chapel ready to receive you on every first Wednesday of the month.

establishing congregations but also on simple service and ministry. There are Episcopal hospitals from Damascus to the Nile Delta to the Dead Sea. Children of all ages are cared for in Episcopal orphanages and rehabilitation institutions. Others receive an education in Episcopal schools throughout the Middle East that they would not normally receive—and all without regard to race or religion or national origin.

In an effort to sustain and strengthen this ministry, St. Mary's will be participating in the annual Good Friday Offering for the Middle East this year. Please be as generous as possible, either on Good Friday at the 7:00 PM service itself, or before, with a check memoed "Good Friday Offering."

Progress with Our Financial Challenges

Mother Beth and Roulhac Austin

At our annual meeting, the parish adopted a budget anticipating a pledge income of \$850,000. At this level we freeze salaries, do not fund new programs, dramatically cut back on our existing programs, and fail to pay our full diocesan assessment. We need pledges of \$915,000 to fully sustain our shared spiritual home. To date we have received total pledges of \$824,430. Yes, we received generous responses to our pleas in January and February. And yes, we are still short. Yes, we need your pledge.

Many people in our congregation are out of work, underemployed, or struggling to find jobs. Now more than ever our community needs to witness to the Gospel, extend Christian care to one another, and offer spiritual education for all ages. If you can do more than your fair share to support the church for others who temporarily cannot, now is the time to step up. Please do not falter in sustaining our church community

If you haven't made a pledge for 2010, please make one now. Contact Marybeth Volk in our Finance Office, mb@smvsf.org or at 415-921-3665 ext 316.

Healing Ministry (cont.)

Deacon Everett Powell

Another kind of healing ministry takes place on the Sundays when one of the deacons is present. The deacon waits at the chapel altar at the end of the 9:00 AM service and during the Eucharist of the 11:00 AM service for anyone who needs healing to come forth. People can very privately share their request for prayer for themselves or for others. The deacon softly says a prayer in response to that specific request. During the announcements for those services, the deacon invites anyone with a special prayer request to come to the chapel altar for healing.

Yet another part of St. Mary's healing ministry involves the use of the individual prayer-request cards, the blue cards in the pew racks. You may write your request on the card, and place it in the offering plate. From there, the cards are forwarded to members of a prayer group who begin praying individually right away and who also pray again during a monthly group prayer session. Names of people that appear on the blue cards are also printed in the weekly service leaflet.

Earth Day: A Chance to Renew

Peggy da Silva, Creation Care Team

Lent is upon us: time to repent and prepare. Spring is almost upon us: time to glory in new sprouts of life. Just in case any of us were casting about, thinking "Gee, what can I repent? What might I give up for Lent?" -- the Creation Care team has a suggestion. We can all try to give up making so much garbage.

We are planning an event to help us learn more and make some resolutions. At the diocesan environmental conference last Fall, Julie Hagelshaw and I met an employee from Recology (our newly-renamed garbage company). We learned they have a tour of their facilities, and we thought some people at our church might like to go. I know several people who have gone on this

tour, and they say it is eye-opening and inspiring. As we at St. Mary's continue to try to green our activities, especially in relation to our food-related celebrations, one goal can be zero-waste. Please check the church Web site to sign up for the tour. We have four possible dates posted.

Looking ahead, we will be celebrating Earth Day at church on April 18. As always, we welcome suggestions for prayers, songs, and readings. It will be lovely to put our own particular San Francisco/Episcopalian spin on a worldwide day of reflection and action.

Bay Area Hikes

John Walsham

After five days of El Niño rain, the forecast was with us. Seventeen St. Mary's hikers and two dogs set out to walk a muddy four-mile loop starting and ending at the Marine Mammal Center in the Marin Headlands.



Left to right: Joe Morganti, Deborah Franklin, Anna Kharbas, Virginia Norris, Tom Norris, Linda Sharp, Agnes Poon, Linda Logemann, Ellen McLean, Cathy Moreland, Howard Moreland, John Walsham, Marta Johnson, Sandy Stadtfeld, John Addeo and Nancy Clothier plus dogs Kate and Niko.

Photographer: Tony Imhof

The walk took us around Rodeo Lagoon and along Rodeo Beach, returning through the hills of Fort Cronkhite. As we walked near Rodeo Lagoon the

sight of the ducks on the water was too much for Kate, our accompanying Welsh setter. She leapt into the water, leash and all, and swam out towards them. The ducks were far too fast for her, and when several pelicans glided in, Kate realized that she was over-matched and came back to us. The ocean was in powerful form and voice with huge waves pounding Rodeo Beach.

After the walk, we toured the impressive new Marine Mammal Center building and animal recovery pens. Docents told us of the work of rescuing distressed seals and sea lions along six hundred miles of coast from the Oregon border to San Luis Obispo. The center is the largest of its kind in the world.

Later, we gathered for lunch and chatter at the funky Presidio Yacht Club in Fort Baker.

Watch for hike announcements in the Sunday Bulletin and join us to renew body and spirit with good companions as we continue to explore our remarkable local environment.

St. Mary's to Volunteer at SF Food Bank: We Need You

Looking for a volunteer opportunity for your family? Volunteer at the San Francisco Food Bank. St. Mary's has arranged for a group of 25 people to volunteer on Saturday, April 10, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. Children ages eight years and older are welcome.

The San Francisco Food Bank works to end hunger in San Francisco. It provides donated and purchased food to over 600 non-profit agencies, enabling them to give nutritious meals or supplemental groceries to thousands of low-income families and individuals in our community. It is the largest distributor of food to non-profit agencies in San Francisco; for many agencies, it is their only source of food. This year, it will distribute nearly 33 million pounds of food, or enough to provide

70,000 meals a day. Please join us in helping the food bank in its efforts to provide food to those most in need. Contact Stephanie Lehman at 415-441-6193 or slehman21@yahoo.com.



Volunteer Jeanne Lacy baking a cake at Raphael House. St. Mary's volunteers cook and serve the evening meal the first Monday of every month. Volunteers 18 years and older are invited to participate.

Real Bread

Fr. Jason

As all will have discovered by now, St. Mary's started using real bread for communion during the Sunday morning liturgies late last spring. The practice began on Pentecost, and we have been using it since that time.

The use of real bread is not a modern innovation: in the early centuries of the Church's life, the Eucharist was seen not only as a re-enactment of the Last Supper, when Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his disciples, but also as an echo of family and communal meals. Very quickly the practice developed of families and individuals bringing loaves of bread to the sacred gathering, some of which would be used for that particular celebration, and some of which would be taken out to the homebound or sick. Actual bread was always used. In some locations, unleavened bread was the norm, while in other parts of the Christian world, particularly in the East, leavened bread was

standard. In returning to the use of real bread for the Eucharist, we are, in fact, returning to a more ancient practice grounded in the understanding of communion as a sacred meal, a sharing of the presence of the Risen Christ in the forms of wine and bread.

The use of wafers, or “hosts,” as they are more properly called, arose during the High Middle Ages, when there was a shift from an emphasis on the Eucharist as a sacred meal to an interpretation that focused much more heavily on the service as a memorial of Christ’s *sacrifice*: indeed, the word “host” comes from a Latin word meaning “victim.” During this same era, receiving communion was reserved almost exclusively to the clergy, and laypeople were expected merely to watch the celebration as spectators, as they were deemed, in general, unworthy to participate in the meal. Hosts became objects of adoration rather than food to be consumed and shared. (It was during this same period that the altar was moved against the wall, thus causing the priest to turn his back on the congregation, and the liturgy was celebrated universally in Latin despite the fact that few could comprehend it.)

In more recent decades and centuries, there has been a reclamation of the Eucharist as a meal, and, in parallel fashion, a strong movement to use bread that more closely resembles the bread we all might encounter in our daily meals, or at gatherings with family members and friends. Real bread also offers the advantage, in contrast to most hosts, of having taste, texture, and aroma, thus involving our senses more fully in the act of sharing the meal. Children—who are now welcome and even encouraged to receive communion, which has not always been the case—can make the connection between the Eucharist and other shared meals readily, whether consciously or subconsciously.

This change in our practice has not been without its challenges, I know, and I am grateful for the patience of all as we have gone through some trial and error. The bread does disintegrate some when

intincted in the wine (*intinction* being the technical word for the act of dipping the host into the wine). We have not yet worked out exactly what size loaves we need on a regular basis. However, the wonderful news is that there is a group of people, led by Anna Kharbas, who are interested in exploring different recipes to find the best match for our needs. Our hope is that individuals and families will indicate to Anna their interest in being a part of the process by volunteering to bake bread for the weekly Eucharist on a rotational basis. We expect the recipes to be easy enough that little or no baking experience will be necessary, and that we will have enough participants to ensure the time commitment would be minimal. I know, from extensive experience in previous parishes I have served, just how moving it is to see bread one has baked being shared by beloved fellow parishioners. If you would like to be part of this process, please contact Anna at ajkharbas@yahoo.com or at 415-425-2456. I would be inexcusably remiss if I did not thank Jan Bolles profusely for her time, energy, and devotion in being our primary baker these past eight months! Please let me know of your questions or insights.

The use of real bread is a powerful reminder of our connection to the Last Supper and to Jesus’ act of generosity in giving himself for the human race. Thank you, again, for your patience as we journey forward.

Men’s Group Breakfast

Green Eggs and Ham

Breakfast and discussion

Saturday, March 13, 8:30 – 10:00 AM

Great Room

Join fellow parishioners and friends for a time of food and fellowship as we anticipate St. Patrick’s Day.

Cooks and other helpers needed.

Look for your Evite or contact Fr. Jason at

Jason@smvsf.org

Newcomers most definitely welcome.



Sharing dinner before an Adult Education book discussion in February on *Evidence of Evolution*: Fr. Jason, Lindsay Firth, Joe Jennings, Mary Ellen Hannibal (author), Mother Jennifer, Marisa Jennings, a guest, Peter Fish, and Howard Moreland

Adult Education in Lent

What will you do to make this a more meaningful Lenten season?

Join us as we gain a deeper understanding of forgiveness, grace, and love with a series called, "The Prodigal God." Using the bestseller of the same title by Timothy Keller, we'll explore the familiar prodigal son parable from different perspectives: the irreligious younger son, the moralistic elder son, and the Father who loves them both. *Newsweek* called Timothy Keller a "C. S. Lewis for the 21st century."

The series begins on February 22 and continues each Monday through March 29 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in Fowler Hall. We'll gather over a simple soup supper, view a brief video presentation that introduces the evening's theme, and then break into small groups. RSVP appreciated to Marisa or Joe Jennings either via email marisab2003@yahoo.com or phone 415-927-2716.

Visiting Musicians

Chip Grant

In January, St. Mary the Virgin welcomed a klezmer band as added accompaniment for the first half of the liturgy at both the 9:00 and 11:00 AM services. The Gonif ("bad boy" in Yiddish) is made up of Stuart Brotman on the cello, Sheldon Brown

on the clarinet and soprano saxophone, and Jeanette Lewicki playing the accordion. They also perform regularly with the Bay Area based ensemble, The Klez-X.

Tenor saxophonist Rodney Byrd improvised and riffed on the "Spiritual Sunday" hymns in February. Mr. Byrd, a street musician based in Oakland, regularly performs in the "concrete canyon" of San Francisco's Financial District in the evening.

Upcoming Music

Chip Grant

As much as we as Episcopalians love our English heritage (and we do love our English heritage), we will be celebrating the music of our American heritage at our mid-Lent Holy Eucharist, March 14. We will feature music from colonial times, African-American spirituals, as well as Southern shaped-noted songs. "Shaped-note" or "shape-note" is printed music, literature, or recordings, relating to Sacred Harp singing and other shape music. This style of singing stems from singing schools in the colonial period and preserved in the rural South.

We are delighted to welcome back "The Whole Noyse" who will join our Easter celebration on April 4. Herb Myers, Richard Van Hessel, Stephen Escher, and St. Mary's own Sandy Stadtfeld will perform on modern reproductions of cornetts, sackbuts, and curtals, wind instruments of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Candlelight Concert on Sunday March 14 at 4:00 PM

Please join us for a chamber recital offering spiritual and musical refreshment in the middle of Lent (or on *Laetare Sunday*, the middle Sunday of Lent), with a nod toward St. Patrick. **The Elizabeth Gillespie Women in Music Concert, A Lenten Respite** will feature Marla Perkins at the piano, along with some friends. All are invited to become a Friend of Music. For more information look on St. Mary's Web site.

2010 Parish Retreat

Mother Beth

Sign up now for the annual Parish Retreat held at the Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg Friday, May 14 to Sunday, May 16.

This is a time for relaxing, playing, and getting to know your parish family while surrounded by the beauty of the wine country at our diocesan retreat center in Healdsburg. You can enjoy a swimming pool, opportunities for hiking, games, laughter yoga, and reading in the shade of redwoods. Healthful food is prepared by the ranch staff throughout the weekend, and programming is offered for the children and adults on Saturday morning. Costs for the weekend are: adults \$185 each, youth (13-18) \$105, children (3-12) \$85. Please see the information on the church's Web site for complete details on costs, accommodations, and how to register. Space is limited. We cannot guarantee reservations for a single room; however, we will make every effort to accommodate your preference, space permitting. Reservations are first come, first served.



The chapel at Bishop's Ranch

We are looking for people to volunteer in planning activities and providing assistance with programs on site. If you'd like to offer your time and talent to make this another terrific parish retreat for St. Mary's, please see Mother Beth as soon as possible, as plans are underway. beth@smvsf.org

2009 Annual Report Available

Copies of the 2009 Annual Report are available for pick up in the narthex of the church or by contacting Roni Crews in the parish office at 415-921-3665 or office@smvsf.org.

Note: Date change for St. Mary's Women Arising
St. Mary's Women's Group will meet on the third Saturday of the month in Fowler Hall at 10:00 AM. The date this month is March 20 and the group is open to all women. Contact the Rev. Nancy Bryan at 415.608.8777

Episcopal Charities' Action Networks

Episcopal Charities (EC) is committed to striking at the root causes of poverty in the five-county San Francisco Bay Area. So far, the three Action Networks are: Healthcare, Education and Environment. To learn more, contact Justin Cannon at jcannon@episcopalcharities.org or 415-869-7801. A full article can be found in the Winter 2009/2010 Pacific Church News, the quarterly newsmagazine published by the Diocese of California.

Haiti Relief Efforts

Contributions can still be made to support the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti through the social outreach arm of the national Episcopal Church, by going to www.er-d.org/donate-select.php, or by sending a check to:

Episcopal Relief and Development
P.O. Box 7058
Merrifield, VA, 22116-7058

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ Cow Hollow Church News via Email

In the interests of conservation, you may like to receive your parish newsletter via email instead of on paper. If so, please contact Roni Crews in the parish office at 415-921-3665 or office@smvsf.org.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Holy Week and Easter Services

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY MARCH 28

8:00, + 9:00, + 11:00 AM Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist
Choirs at 9:00 and 11:00 AM
+ 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist *St. Mary's Unplugged*

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK MARCH 29
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK MARCH 30
12:00 noon Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK MARCH 31
7:00 AM Holy Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 1
6:00 PM Supper and Liturgy for Maundy Thursday
Holy Eucharist, Foot-washing, Stripping of Altar
Adult Choir

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2
12:00 noon Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM Liturgy for Good Friday
Adult Choir

EASTER EVE APRIL 3
8:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter
Adult Choir
Alleluia

EASTER DAY EUCHARISTS APRIL 4

+ 8:00 AM *Adult Choir, Whole Noyse Renaissance Winds,
Timpani*

** + 9:30 AM *Youth, Children's Choirs, Adult Choir soloists
Whole Noyse Renaissance Winds, Timpani*

** +11:15 AM *Adult Choir, Whole Noyse Renaissance Winds,
Timpani*

+ 5:30 PM *St. Mary's Unplugged*

** Special times + Child care



2325 Union Street
 San Francisco, CA 94123-3905
 (415) 921-3665 • www.smvsf.org

**First
Class
Mail**

INSIDE...

From the Rector	Cover Story
Music Search.....	2
Sr. Warden's Letter	3
Sunday School & Youth	4
Holy Week & Easter	4
Financial Challenges	5
Healing Ministry	5
Earth Day	6
Spiritual Hikes	6
Real Bread	7
Adult Education	9
Visiting Musicians	9
Parish Retreat	10
Holy Week Schedule.....	11

HIGHLIGHTS—MARCH 2010

Also visit www.smvsf.org

YOUTH GROUP

- **Youth Group – March 7** 6:30 to 8:30 PM, 6 -12th graders; Adventure nite; bring \$5
- **Youth Group – March 14** 6:30 to 8:30 PM, 7-12th graders; bring a friend
- **Youth Group – March 28** 6:30 to 8:30 PM, 7-12th graders; bring a friend

SPIRITUALITY & PASTORAL CARE

- **Spiritual Support Group – 2nd & 4th Sundays**
4:00 PM in the Vestry Room
- **Wednesday Eucharist** 7:00 AM in the Chapel
- **Thursday Evening Prayer Service** 5:15 PM in the Church
- **Golden Gate Nursing Home Ministry – Sunday, March 28**
1:30 PM at 2707 Pine Street

OUTREACH

- **Raphael House Ministry March 1, April 5, and May 3**
Volunteers are needed to help prepare or serve the evening meal on the first Monday of each month. 18 yrs old and up. Contact Marisa Jennings at 415-927-2716 or marisab2003@yahoo.com for more information.

MEETINGS & MISCELLANY

- **St. Mary's Men's Group**
Saturday, March 13, 8:30 AM, Fowler Hall
- **St. Mary's Women's Group**
Saturday, March 20, 10 AM, Fowler Hall
- **Cow Hollow Church News** always available on our Web site smvsf.org
- **Deadline for the April Cow Hollow Church News**
Monday, March 15. Please email articles to moreland@alumni.rice.edu and office@smvsf.org
- **Collections in the Narthex**
–Collection of packaged foods for St. Gregory's Food Bank
–Collection of travel-sized toiletries for women at St. Luke's Hospital

SAVE THESE DATES

- **SF Food Bank** April 10, 12:30 to 3:30 PM
- **Bishop's Ranch Retreat**
May 14 – 16, The Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg
- **Youth Mission Trip** July 24 to August 1