

# ST. MARY'S MESSENGER

March, 2013

Vol 3, No. 3

Lord Jesus Christ, I praise and thank You for what You have already done for me in Your incarnate life, Your atoning sacrifice, and Your triumphant resurrection. Take my eyes off myself, and focus them firmly on You, that my whole life might proclaim Your love and grace. Amen.



## SPRING CLEANING... HEARTS, MINDS, AND SOULS



Dear Friends:

We often hear about March coming in like a lion, but this year it was a bit early, with that windstorm that came through, Monday, Feb. 25th, that blew

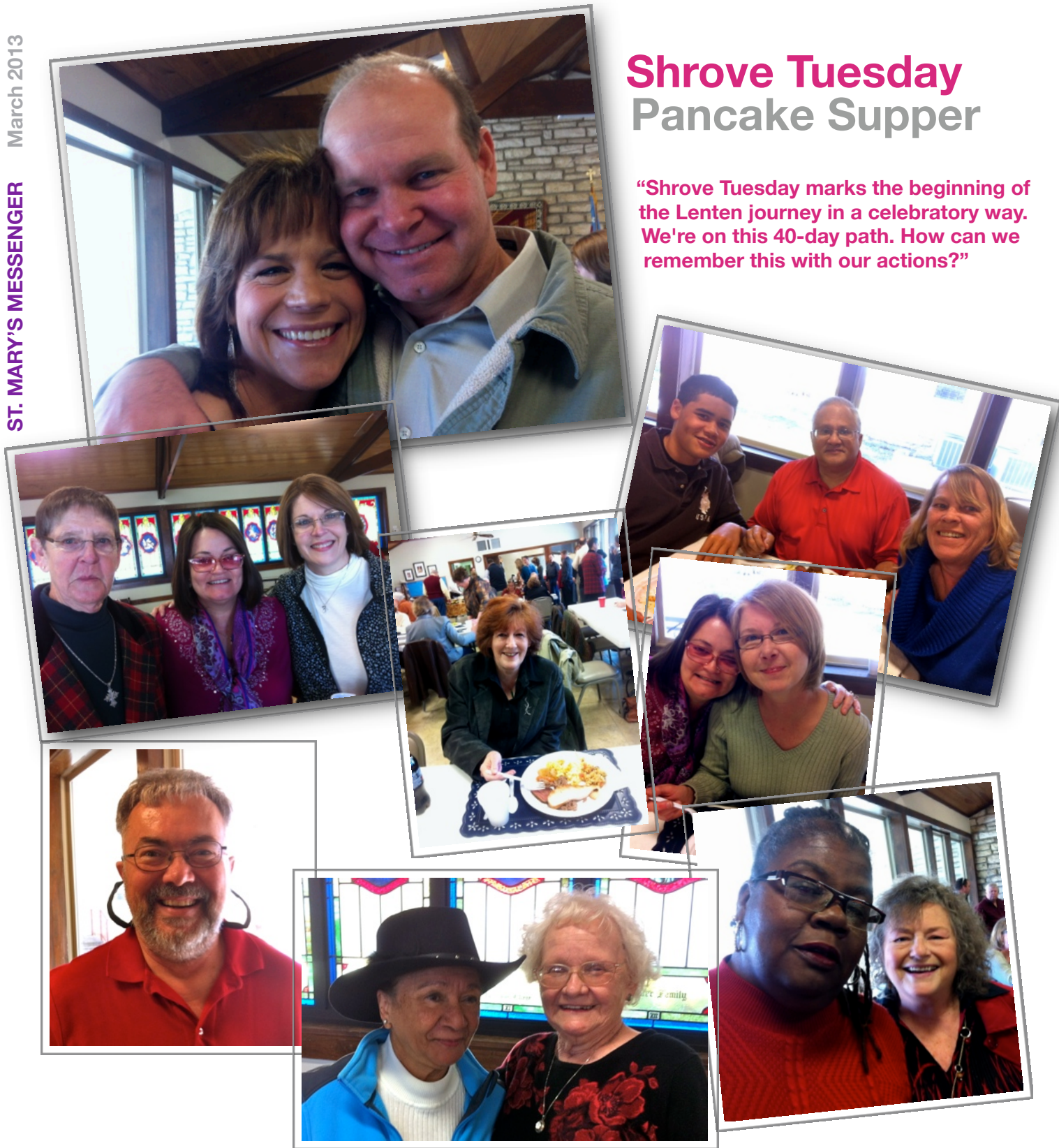
through for hours. I have a collection of asphalt tiles from the ridge line of the sanctuary in my office (and an insurance inspector is coming by to take a look). The sound of that wind was alarming, the pressure of the wind, relentless. I have heard several stories from folks about how the wind held your attention and even frightened

you with its power. May the moving presence of God grab our attention as vividly this Lent, shake loose our resentments like the tiles blown off the roof, and bring us to Easter, transformed and open to the power of the resurrection. Yours in Christ,

Susie +

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

"Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of the Lenten journey in a celebratory way. We're on this 40-day path. How can we remember this with our actions?"



St. Mary's was THE place to be on Tuesday, Feb. 13th! Parishioners kicked off Lent 2013 with a fun pancake supper. We had quite a big turn-out and LOTS of pancakes and bacon. Rev. Susie gave the blessing (of course), and then Vestry

members and ECW served the meal. There was plenty to go around. Good fellowship, good food, and good conversations - what more could you ask for?





**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS  
SUNDAY - MARCH 10  
MOVE YOUR CLOCK AHEAD ONE HOUR ON  
SATURDAY NIGHT!!! (AND DON'T MISS CHURCH!)**



*Jerusalem, Jerusalem! ...How many times I wanted to put my arms around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me! (Matthew 23:37)*

### **From Bishop Andy Doyle's Notes:**

The image we are given is of God/Jesus as a hen gathering a whole bunch of chickens under her wings. What might that imply about our relationship with those other chickens? It requires a physical closeness to be packed together under those wings. It implies a learning to get along with one another if we wish to stay packed together under those wings. How do we balance our own comfort level of space with this image of physically gathered together under God's loving wings? being packed together in a pew? rubbing shoulders with others on the way out of church? sharing the peace by touching others with a handshake -- or an embrace (when appropriate) -- or even a kiss between spouses?



*We celebrated a fine baptism and 3 confirmations with Bishop Dena Harrison on February 17, 2013.*

### **TULISHA'S EASTER UPDATE**

There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the children on Easter Sunday, March 31st, on the church grounds, following the 10am service, along with a "potluck" style reception in the parish hall, so everyone bring your favorite Easter goodies to share (cookies, cupcakes, deviled eggs, fruit tray, etc). We will have a nicely decorated table for the goodies and coffee and juice will be provided. We can enjoy fellowship together!



We are asking for donations of plastic eggs and candy for the egg hunt, they can be dropped off at the Church Office anytime during Lent.



# birds & blooms

APRIL 5-7, 2013

*Camp Allen Retreat Center*



Calling all nature & bird lovers- this retreat is for you! Enjoy Camp Allen's 1,100 forested acres, attend expert led sessions, hike scenic trails with experienced guides, and much more!

## *Featured Sessions*

Live Owl & Hawk Demonstrations  
Audubon Presentations  
Landscaping for Attracting Songbirds  
Spring Migration Habits  
Birding Identification  
Sunrise Bird Watching  
Nature Appreciation Hikes

## *Rates*

\$200 Double Occupancy  
\$300 Single Occupancy  
Per-person rates include hotel lodging, buffet meals, and programming. The retreat begins at 5:00 pm Friday and concludes at 2:00 pm Sunday.

To learn more, call: 936.825.7175  
or register at: [campallen.org](http://campallen.org)



# The Little Red Marble

## by Randy Johnson



We are told many times in the Scriptures to be witnesses for Christ. Here are just two passages on this subject: 2nd Cor. 5:20; Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us: "We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." And again in: Acts 1:8; But you will receive the power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and shall be My witness both in Jerusalem, and all Judaea and I all Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of the earth. (Both from the NASB).

We are to be the hands, and feet, AND VOICED of Christ on earth today. But many of us find it difficult to talk to people we do not know well about our faith. Those who know us well, know they can call on us for help in times of need. And we respond to the best of our ability. But those who don't know us well just don't ask. It is up to us to see the need and offer something. I always found this very difficult - until about Christmas 2011. I started carrying red marbles in my pocket because of the story I'm going to tell you below.

There was an elderly retired gentleman living near Waxahachie. He preferred to not cook more often than was necessary. So nearly every morning he would walk down town to have breakfast in one of the cafés or diners near his home. Not always going to the same establishment, he had the opportunity to meet his old friend and to make new friends. He talked to them and often they told him their troubles.

He was known for always having some red marbles in his pocket and giving them away. When he met someone he felt may be in need of lifting up, he would give them a red marble and say: "This red marble is to remind you of the blood of Christ, who died on the cross for you." He would also tell them to keep the marble as long as they needed it and then pass it on to someone else in need when the time was right. He would end with, "You can't keep it - you must pass it on."

When the old man died hundreds of red marbles were found in his house. A friend of mine helped the old man's children clear out the house and asked about the marbles. At hearing what they had been used for he asked to have some of the marbles. They gave him all of them.

My friend told the story of the red marbles and passed them out at his church, at work, and everywhere he went. Eventually, I received several from him at an Emmaus Team training session. I gave some to my wife and my son received his on his Walk to Emmaus in February 2012.

My family and I all carry red marbles. And we do pass them out, particularly my son, John. In the past few months I have heard about a dozen stories of the red marble and how it helped someone in a difficult time. I have passed out quite a few and wish to tell you one of my stories.

About a year ago there was a friendly, pretty, and very helpful young woman in one of my classes. Her husband was overseas in the war and was due back about half way through the semester. She told me she would be absent a couple days when he returned. He was to return on a Wednesday and needless to say she was not in class that day. But surprisingly, she missed the entire next week. When she showed up on the following Monday it was obvious that there was a problem. She looked to have been crying for days and had lost weight. This once happy and pretty lady now looked rather sad. She asked to speak with me privately. We went into the hall and she told me that her husband told her first thing after arriving home that he wanted a divorce. She was devastated. Tears rolled down her face and she lost the ability to talk. She just cried. I comforted her the best I could with a friendly touch and reassuring words, but the crying continued.

Finally, I remembered the red marble in my pocket. I placed it in her hand and said, "This red marble is to remind you of the blood of Christ, who died on the cross for you. Call on him in this time of need." I also told her, "Keep it with you always as long as you feel you need it. Then pass it on to someone else who needs it. You will know when to pass it on." The crying stopped and she smiled again and simply said, "Thank you."

Because she had missed so many classes she decided to drop my class and return the next semester. When she showed up on the first day of the next term, her beauty and self confidence had returned. The first thing she did when she came into the room was hug me and whisper another thank you in my ear.

We never talked about the divorce and how she and the children were doing until the last day before the final exam. She had a very high "A" average and the exam would be no problem for her. But after class we talked a bit and she said that she was getting on with her life and all was working out for her and the children. I asked about the red marble and she pulled it out of her pocket and told that it had been the beginning of her recovery.

A little red marble, just about ½" in diameter, brought her back to the Christ she had forgotten was always there for her. She said that prayer had sustained her.





## OVER THE COMPOST PILE

By Kathleen Woodby

During the early 60's, Ethel Woodby – my mother – was the Society Editor for the Denton Record Chronicle. Amongst her daily reporting duties was her award-winning Sunday column “Over the Coffee Cup.”

She wrote about every-day life events, usually humorous, as if she were having a kitchen table conversation with a neighbor. In one article she told of our trip to Houston when my

uncle gave me a baby alligator. The ensuing bath with my pet was the subject of the article. Needless to say, this was a hard thing to live down for a 10-year-old girl!

This story prefaces my dubbing this column “Over the Compost Pile.” I can’t promise to be as funny as mother. But I will attempt to put some humor into my gardening advice.

If your success at seed germination is sketchy, the Lampasas Bloom Fest is just around the corner in April. There you can buy flowers and vegetables ready for planting. Robin (my farming partner) and I will be there too!

Potatoes should be planted now. Cut seed potatoes so that each piece has 3–4 eyes per 3–4 ounce piece. Coat with sulfur powder and let set for a few days. Plant the potatoes with the eyes up in a three inch trench, 18 inches apart. Cover with soil. When the plant breaks the surface, cover with another three inches of soil so that just the tip of the plant is showing. Repeat this once more (to prevent sun burn which will turn the potatoes green and inedible). It takes over 100 days for potatoes to mature to size. For new potatoes, harvest earlier.

Right now I have lettuce and Swiss chard ready for harvest. In the garden I have potatoes, onions, leeks, collard greens, several types of cabbage, garlic and spring peas. I have hundreds of vegetables and flowers started in the green house.

Local farmers markets will soon get underway. I can’t give specific dates yet, but will as soon as possible. I will probably only be at the Copperas Cove and Killeen markets on Saturdays this year. But I will post lists of what is available on the bulletin board on Sundays from which produce can be ordered for me to bring the following Sunday. Look for the “Fresh From The Field” banner at the markets. That’s our logo.

## Mary's Coffee Cake

*I brought this to church a couple of weeks ago, and several people asked me to put the recipe in this month's newsletter - so here it is!*

### Dough Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter  
 1/2 cup Crisco  
 1-1/2 cup sugar  
 2 eggs  
 1 cup sour cream  
 1 tsp vanilla  
 2 cups sifted flour (you don't have to sift it - but I do)  
 2 tsp baking powder  
 1/2 tsp salt

### Topping & Middle:

1/2 cup chopped nuts (I used walnuts - but I bet pecans would be GREAT!)  
 1 tsp cinnamon  
 4 tablespoons sugar



### Directions:

Grease and flour a bundt pan. Mix the dough ingredients in the order listed above, beating well after each addition. Put half the dough mixture in the bundt pan. Put about 1/2 or 3/4 of the topping mixture on the dough, then add the rest of the dough (this can be sticky and messy - don't worry). Sprinkle the remaining topping on top of the batter.

Bake for 1 hour at 350. (Don't rush this.) Cool thoroughly in the bundt pan before removing. This is good for eating right away, or freezing for later.

**Note:** No one in my family has ever been really successful at doubling this recipe - so I wouldn't advise it - but if you feel lucky, go right ahead! :)

### EPISCOPAL INTERNET WEBINAR SEMINARS - LEARNING FOR FREE!

As part of ECF's on-going efforts to assist congregations in developing their leadership and financial resources, the Episcopal Church Foundations is offering a wide range of web conferences for clergy and lay parish leaders this winter. There is no cost to participate in most of the web conferences (there is a nominal fee of \$10 for Fresh Start web conferences) and all lay and clergy leaders are welcome to participate.

Topics include vestry leadership (in English and in Spanish), engaging congregations with local communities, capital campaigns, clergy transition, annual giving, endowments, and planned giving.

INTERESTED? Go to: <http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/news-and-events/events-detail?>

## ST. MARY'S RELAY FOR LIFE

MAY 3-4, 2013

by Mary Halvorson

YEA! The date is set for the 2013 Lampasas County Relay for Life! St. Mary's has a Team in the race! Now is the time for all St. Mary's Cancer Survivors to stand up and be recognized – at least be sure Mary Halvorson knows who you are so the team can relay in your honor.



You do not need to be a survivor to relay – all you need is a desire to Relay and raise funds for a Cure to Cancer. Right now, all of you who want to relay with us need to go to the American Cancer Society's web site ([www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org)) and "click on" the find it button. Type in "Relay For Life, Lampasas, TX". From there you will "click on" the St. Mary's Episcopal Church team and sign up or donate as you choose. Last year we raised over \$4,000 to be used for research, and/or transportation to doctor visits by our Lampasas cancer patients, and other needs. Let me know your survivor story, tell me stories of you/ your loved ones struggle to survive, so that our team may honor them.

Of course, this is all about raising money to fight cancer so we can share more memories, have more time with family and friends, and more celebrations ...and more Birthdays! So donate on line/write a check/sign up for our team. The fundraising part is easy – the relay part is fun, so write May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> on your calendar today for Relay.

Time is moving on and our Relay For Life, Lampasas County, is approaching. Ask your friends and co-workers to donate to the cause. For each member who collects \$100.00 or more, you will receive a free Relay For Life 2013 T-shirt. All survivors who participate receive a free Survivor T-shirt. There is a reception for survivors at the beginning of Relay. We will also have a Care Giver Lap to recognize those who work so hard to make us comfortable, get us to appointments, hold our hands and give us a hug when things get tough.

There are many opportunities to give...donate to a team member, purchase a Luminaria for only \$5.00, donate in honor of someone who is struggling to survive cancer/or has survived cancer; or in memory of someone who has lost their battle against this dreaded disease.

If you want to Relay with us on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, sign up now. It is easy to raise your \$100.00. Just ask 10 people to donate \$10.00 each – and you did it – \$100.00. But don't stop there, keep asking. If you are employed, ask your employer to match your donation or make a donation. People and businesses are honored that you ask. We all know someone who has been touched with this disease. Ask them for their Tax deductible donation today.

See Mary Halvorson if you need any forms to sign up or donate. Let's make this the year we raise upwards of \$10,000.00 and become a Jade Relay For Life Team!