



THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1836 East Main Street
Mohegan Lake, NY 10547
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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Ones,

Having just come back from the Holy Land, I am struck by how important "place" is. That spot, that land, that place wherein your spirit, your story is rooted, the place where "you" came to be has a position in your life story like no other. It is the place that holds your memories, your hopes, your aspirations.

The Holy Land, because it holds our collective spiritual story is just such a place. Seeing, touching, "remembering" it together as we moved between Israel and Palestine, the first, fourth, tenth centuries, in daily Bible readings and prayer was as profound an experience as I have ever had. It was definitely like coming home to a place I had never been before. In the same way that I plunged into the depths of scriptural study in Burke Library at Union Seminary and came up gasping with the wonder of it all, so I felt as I stepped out into the Judean desert, when I walked through the front door of Jesus' childhood home, when I drank from the well where Jesus met the Samaritan woman. Home.

Coming home. No phrase holds quite so much potential for tasting present joy as well as past pain. All of our homes, physical and spiritual, are rich with possibility as a place for reflection, for reconciliation, and for seeing the next steps on the journey. St. Mary's has been the physical and spiritual home for many, many people in all sorts and conditions of life.

St. Mary's is having a big reunion on Labor Day weekend. St. Mary's, like all groups and all families, has had periods of strife in her history as well as long periods of well-being and deep nurture. People coming home will encounter memories and experiences of both.

But God has many uses for pain, especially in way that God has of turning past pain into strength for today. Here is the challenge: to take pain to Jesus, lay it at the foot of the cross and ask for it to be changed, in the same truth-telling, plain speaking, open minded, courageous, deep hearted self-giving way that Jesus modeled. This challenge is always before us and is not easy. If it were, Walmart would have a section for it. Last I checked - nope, it wasn't there.

Sometimes we think that if this or that person is present, we can't be there! Yet Jesus has said, "Where I am going you are to be also, I go to make a place for you, and I will take you to myself." He's talking about the Kingdom, both the one to come and the one that "is at hand." Each of us has a place at the table, right next to Jesus. "Where two or more are gathered together, there am I in the midst of them." Even if or when they have fought with one another, two Christians have Jesus, who loves them both and is right there with them. The potential for transformation and peace is always present.



The way is open.

The fact that the work is hard is what makes it transformative. Whenever we take this work up, the view afterwards is always, "Why did I wait so long?" The outcomes of forgiveness and reconciliation are always tremendous. The cross of any dark night is meant to be followed by the coming of the Light and the joy of morning. Once released, the power of the Holy Spirit's joy opens new futures we once thought impossible.

It is the Christian process of reconciliation and peace that has the power to make any land the Holy Land. We hope you will join us in the Holy Land known as St. Mary's Mohegan Lake, where some of us were born, others baptized, children raised, folk married, loved one's buried, pot lucks relished, Cursillos taken, Alpha explored and confirmations made with music sung, played and danced, all to the glory of God.

That's why the whole weekend is starting off with a Eucharist of Remembrance and Healing at 4:00 on Friday, September 3rd, to remember those who have died and to give to God any space or place in need of healing. We'll come together in the music that has been woven in and out of our lives in the beloved music and liturgy of the Episcopal tradition.

We're hoping that recent and long-gone St. Mary's alums will land in Mohegan Lake and join us for a wonderful, joyful time of love and appreciation for all that God has done and all that God will do in and through the people and place that is St. Mary's, Mohegan Lake.

Blessings!

--- Mo. Claire

SEEDS BEAR FRUIT AT THE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Inch by inch, row by row.

Please bless these seeds I sow.

--- "The Garden Song" by David Mallet



The seeds that the CFP sows come to bear fruit in many different, wonderful and surprising ways. Today, a thank-you card accompanied by a picture arrived from a little girl who received presents at Christmas time from the pantry. Her guardian is a courageous woman who has been battling cancer for several years. This child is her reason for living, and the CFP provides some sustenance, prayers and a friendly hello when they are able to make it in to see us.

This week, the CFP received two essays from local high school seniors applying for a small grant for their service in fighting hunger. Both mentioned how serving at the food pantry opened their eyes and changed their hearts. Inch by inch, row by row, this garden does grow.

- ❖ Once again The Food Pantry participated in The Fein角度in Challenge. For the months of March and April every item and every dollar donated was counted. The final count was 9,802. So we are winners already! The results will be submitted to The Fein角度in Foundation. Notification of the amount of the awards comes sometime in July.
- ❖ The Easter distribution was a great success. 156 families were provided with a special meal to share with loved ones, and all the children between the ages of 2 and 12 received an Easter basket. Thanks to all who contributed either by donating a turkey or ham or lending a helping hand. A special thanks goes to Janice Reichert and the Junior National Honor Society of Lakeland Copper Beach Middle School who put together 72 baskets for distribution.
- ❖ If you come on a Friday morning, you may be surprised to see a group of young mothers in the parish hall. On April 9th the ten-week STEP program began. STEP is an educational program for mothers. It is provided with the support of the CFP and St. Mary's in conjunction with The Food Bank of Westchester. This is a wonderful opportunity for the participants to learn about nutrition, finance, employment and self-concept issues.
- ❖ The CFP wishes to add a warm welcome to our newest future volunteer, Skye Serrano, born on April 13th to Francene, one of our faithful volunteers. It is interesting to note that about a

week before Skye arrived, I had the privilege of writing a letter of recommendation for Francene's daughter Summer as she made her application for Junior Honor Society. (She was accepted, by the way!) Francene and her daughters, Summer and Savannah, are here every week for regular distribution. Francene's special task each year is the sorting and distribution of Christmas gifts and Easter baskets, and we are very grateful. Congratulations to all.



Warm weather is coming. Folks will be enjoying time outside. If you plant a vegetable garden, plant a few extra rows. An abundance of extra produce would be welcomed at the pantry. And if you are not a gardener, come and lend a hand and help our garden of good will grow.

--- Terry Berardi

MIDNIGHT RUN: WHY DO WE DO IT?

Why? Because there are a lot of Christians at St. Mary's in Mohegan Lake. What could possibly impel people to do something for more than 23 years on the same day each month? Saving lives - that's why. Saving lives - that's what feeding the have-nots on the streets of Manhattan by our Midnight Run support group does. And what is better yet, getting our YOOTs involved in this ministry. Our church supports the making of bag lunches for the Midnight Run organization on the first Saturday of each month. Our snack lunches consist of two sandwiches (meat, cheese, lettuce and mustard), chips or other snack, cookies, juice, sometimes a bagel, and a napkin.

Imagine being homeless on the streets of Manhattan with people avoiding you as if you had the plague. Then imagine that when you settle in for the night, someone shows up and talks to you, gives you food, gives you clothes for a job interview, or gives you toilet items - in short, cares about your plight. You might think you were dreaming!



In the beginning, only adults were involved in this caring activity. But over the past year, word got out and we have Girl Scouts of America involved in this activity. (20-20 hindsight says that I should have had them involved from the very beginning.) What better way of getting our YOOTs involved in humanitarian activities! These troops are our regular supporters:

Gina Graff's Troop #1280 ≈ Rose Schrecke's Troop #2595 ≈ Sue Jacob's Troop #2443 ≈ Karen Mandelkow's Troops #2016 & 1237 ≈ and our newest volunteers, Lori Blaney's Brownie Troop #2414!



Here are some more reasons why we do it:

- Our bag lunches go directly to the people who need them that same night.
- Our contributions do not support the bureaucracy of any organization. Midnight Run has only one modestly paid employee, who was formerly homeless.
- The great feeling inside you that you are *really making a difference*.
- The knowledge that most of us are just one or two paychecks from being homeless ourselves.

If you decide to join us in this wonderful work, just show up at St. Mary's on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am. If you can, bring a contribution of whatever fruit or cookies are on sale. If you can't, just bring your hands. If you want to make a monetary contribution to Midnight Run, you may write a check to St. Mary's, put "Midnight Run" on the memo line, and drop it in the plate with your regular offering on Sunday morning. ---- Barry Tucker

SUMMER READING: *SUGGESTIONS FROM MO. CLAIRE*

Nothing says rest and restoration to me like lying in a hammock, sitting on the beach or rocking on the porch with a good book! Here are some good ones:



The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama

This is the story of a young Chinese man from a wealthy Hong Kong family who, contracting tuberculosis, is sent to stay at the family's beach house in Japan. The story takes place during the Japanese invasion of China in WWII. It is a story of deep beauty and simplicity, exploring the themes of friendship, beauty, family, love and mixed loyalties. It is a story of courage in the making. A short book and a quick read for any hammock devotee.

Jim the Boy by Tony Earley

This is another short book with deep themes built on simple, spare prose. Lovely in many ways, *Jim the Boy* is a restorative book exploring the life of a boy who comes into the world with complex family origins. It is a story of fatherlessness and fathering and the deep love of those who prize truth and impart it with gentle passion.

Einstein's God by Krista Tippett

Drawn from American Public Media radio program, "Speaking of Faith," these interviews of leading American scientists cover the meeting ground of spirituality and science. Moving well beyond the culture wars surrounding these topics, the conversations sparkle with ideas and observations that illuminate that other book Christians are abjured to read: the book of Creation. Covering medicine, astrophysics, sociology and psychiatry for starters, these are stories of deep observation, subjected to trial and metric analysis, which have landed in the place of awe and reverence.

Although dealing with intimidating-sounding scientific disciplines, these scientists are just plain folks, talking to plain folks. They show their incredible grasp of their subject by being able to describe them in the simplest words and metaphors. These essays/conversations are best consumed in the lucid early morning hours or late afternoon tea time, both followed by a walk with good companions. Those essays/interviews dealing with the wideness of God's universe beg a lake, a dock and a starlit night.

The interview with psychologist Michael McCullough on "Getting Revenge and Forgiveness" should be required reading for all Christians.

Happy, reading, snoozing and inwardly digesting!

GOING TO CHURCH ON VACATION?



We hope you do! There are as many ways of "doing church" as there are churches. In scripture one of the places where God is most likely to show up in surprising ways is when humans are "in-between" or in a strange place. In between one place and another, one home and another, one relationship and another, they are, as it were, in a place where God can get a word in edgewise. God speaks up when we are not consumed with the tasks and responsibilities that make up our "usual" life.

Nothing fits that description like vacation. So give God some of your vacation time, and I guarantee that you will be spoken to! And, wherever you go, please bring back a bulletin and any other handouts they might have. We're always looking for good ideas and ways to improve.

And hey, don't forget your Bible!

SUMMER KIDS JAM CAMP IS ON!

We've been changing it up with the Summer Kids JAM Camp! The BIG news is that after hearing about some of the great singing camps that have taken place in the Westchester area and how much fun they are we're going to give it a try and we'll be singing and performing all summer long. With the help of our new Organist, Debbie Jones Norberto, a veteran children's choir leader, and Donatella Hecht of the Family Band and some great surprise guest teachers, kids will be doing theater games, and learning such great church classics as "Amazing Grace" and "I'm a Believer" by the Monkees." This year Camp will be taking place in the Grove and Parish Hall every Sunday this Summer except July 4th weekend. Camp will be here before during and after your family's vacation. Yes there will be some crafts as well games but the focus will be on singing! And parents... you get some quiet time in church, a chance to hear the sermons and a moment to revel in the pause that refreshes. Kids will be returning to church for Communion and when they are ready, they will be sharing the songs they've learned at the Offertory. The old saying goes, "They who sing pray twice," get ready for double the pleasure, double the fun, with Spirit filled, Spirit filled, Spirit filled songs! Oh yeah...!

**SAVE THE DATE:
THE ST. MARY'S/COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY GOLF OUTING IS SEPTEMBER 20TH!**

**ST. MARY'S 2010 REUNION
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 3 - 5**

Circle your calendars. Invite former St. Maryans to come "home" for a visit. Welcome them back and into your home if you can. This is going to be a wonderful event. Here's the schedule - so plan ahead:

THE GREAT ST. MARY'S REUNION

Friday, September 3rd

12:00 - 4:00 Registration at St. Mary's Hosted by Iris Doyle and Friends

12:00 - 4:00 Church Tours

4:00 - 5:00 Eucharist of Remembrance and Healing

6:00 - 10:00 Dinner Cruise up the Hudson River on "The Commander"

Saturday September 4th

9:00 - 11:00 Food Pantry Volunteering For Dedicated St. Maryans

11:00 Choir Reunion and Practice

1:00 Tours of Mohegan Lake and Environs (You won't believe the changes!)

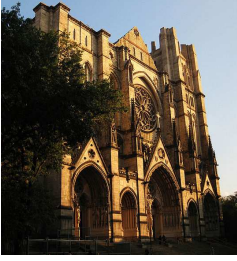
6:00 - 10:00 Barbeque and Dance with Jack Tschudy and the "Bad Habits", playing 60's-70's music, Magic Show and games for kids! (Trivial Pursuit too!)

Sunday September 5th

10:00 Celebration Eucharist

11:15 Coffee Hour and Farewells

RIGHT HERE IN MOHEGAN LAKE!



Did you know that a quarry in Mohegan Lake was the site of "the largest single industry in the Town of Yorktown"? After deposits of granite with unusual rich mellow tones were discovered here, quarries were established, as early as the 1850's. The quarries were most active in early 20th century. Various quarry owners called their rock "Mohegan Golden Granite". It was such a big operation that barracks and commissaries were built to accommodate the hundreds of laborers attracted to the area. Granite from the Mohegan Lake Quarries was

used in the construction of the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine!** There are 2.6 miles of hiking trails at the quarry, now a Yorktown park preserve, and hikers can see "old cables, discarded slabs of granite, and an explosive shed."

June

2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Midnight Run 11:30 10 - 11AM Mom's and Tots
6 8:00 Morning Prayer 8:30 Teachers Meeting 9:30 Family Service Tweens,J2A,Rite 13 Picnic at Peekskill Waterfront 10:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Church School 11:00 Rite II	7 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory	8	9 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	10	11	12 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
13 8:00 Rite I 9:30 Rite 11 10:30 Moving Up Day Picnic	14 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30PM	15	16 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	17	18	19 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
20 Father's Day 8:00 Rite I 9:30 Family Service 10:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Kids JAM 11:00 Rite II Seton Food Delivery	21 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	22 Fuzzy Slippers Café Pizazz 6:30 - 8:00	23 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	24	25	26 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
27 8:00 Rite I 9:30 Family Service 10:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Kids JAM 11:00 Rite II	28 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	29	30 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM			Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM

July

2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
4 9:00 Rite II Kids JAM Camp	5 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	6	7 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	8	9 Men's Fellowship Trip to Renegade Baseball Game 7PM	10 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Midnight Run 11:30
11 9:00 Rite II Kids JAM Camp	12 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30PM	13 Newcomers Dinner 7:00PM Rectory	14 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	15	16	17 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
18 9:00 Morning Prayer Kids JAM Camp Seton Food Delivery	19 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	20	21 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	22	23 Ladies Who Lunch at Sallie Sypher's	24 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Men's Group Breakfast 8:30 Mohegan Diner
25 9:00 Rite II Kids JAM Camp	26 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	27	28 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	29	30	31 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM

August

2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 Morning Prayer Kids JAM Camp	2 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	3	4	5	6	7 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Midnight Run 11:30
8 9:00 Rite II Kids JAM Camp	9 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	10	11 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	12	13	14 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
15 9:00 Rite II and Baptism Kids JAM Camp Seton Food Delivery	16 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30PM	17 Fuzzy Slippers Location TBA	18 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	19	20	21 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
22 9:00 Rite II Kids JAM Camp	23 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	24	25 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM 6 PM Sunday School Teachers Dinner and Training	26	27	28 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
29 9:00 Rite II Kids JAM Camp	30 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30	31				