

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1836 Main Street
Mohegan Lake, NY 10547
June 2009: e-edition

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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

The slogan for St. Mary's Capital Campaign, "We Are the One's," is taken from a rallying song sung by the South African National Congress in the struggle against apartheid. The song answers the question asked by those looking for freedom: "Who will come and save us?" The song's answer is, "We are the ones we have been waiting for." For many years St. Mary's asked, "Who will come and save our buildings, build our Parish Hall, fill up the church on Sunday?" The song had the same answer for us: "We are the ones we have been waiting for."

St. Mary's, like all churches, is legally classified as a voluntary organization. All the large and small tasks that go into sharing the Good News that draws us closer to God, transform lives, and create the beloved community of God's family are voluntary. How it all gets done is talked about in terms of the stewardship of time, talent and treasure. *Time. Talent. Treasure.* If you are one of the people who contribute to the family of God gathered at St. Mary's in time, talent and treasure, this letter is not for you. If you're not in that group yet, this Rector's letter is for you! It's time to talk about time.

Time and commitment to God's work at St. Mary's is just part of the deal when you choose to become a member of our family. I am not a big fan of throwing guilt around, but we've got some problems at St. Mary's and we need to talk. Let me start with a new twist on an old story from Jesus that will let you in our problem.

A father asks his two sons to go and work in the field: the first says "yes", and doesn't go. The second says "no", and doesn't go either, leaving the father in the lurch. At St. Mary's people seeking ministry mates receive a "yes" that is really "no," and many "nos" that stay "no." Either way, the folks who do say "yes" and actually show up are left scrambling. Or a really necessary piece of work simply doesn't happen, creating serious financial problems, event bottlenecks, cancelled plans or half measures that leave our church community compromised. This is debilitating to our ability to be a functioning, healthy community.

Many of you are here because of the quality of the Christian education and the Sunday worship. For our ministry to be real to us it has to move beyond Sunday attendance. Sunday is the worship point, the fueling stop, the place of empowerment. For Church to be Church some of that fueling and empowerment needs to be invested back into the Church. The Church is called to minister in two ways: to build up the body of Christ, (that's us, the church) in order for the body to minister to the world God loves. We love, because God loved us first. It is meant to be an infinity loop. We need everyone's giftedness, everyone's talents. God gave them to you along with your call to join St. Mary's as a means to bring God's power to the work God has given you to do.

You may think you can't offer anything. My question is, have you given God a chance to show you that you can, "through him who strengthens you?" God does not call people to be pew warmers. The big surprise that any old timer at St. Mary's will tell you is that what you receive is far more than what you give by rolling up your sleeves and digging in.

We need everyone to step up to the plate and step up their game. So what is your answer? Where is your commitment? Do you reap the benefits of belonging to St. Mary's without giving of yourself? Are you in or are you out? What are you waiting for? *We (and that includes all of us) are the ones we have been waiting for!*

Listen for God; follow directions!
Blessings! Mo. Claire

NOTHING GOES WITHOUT SAYING

How often do we think to ourselves things like ..."She knows I love her - it goes without saying" or "He knows how much I appreciate all his hard work- it goes without saying"? The truth is, words can be a powerful affirmation, and the absence of the right words can leave a void that really hurts. The truth is, very little goes without saying, and the important things should NEVER go without saying. There are things we know, but sometimes we need to hear them loud and clear.

On Sunday, June 7th, we will celebrate an important rite of passage with Kelly Scozzafava, Kaitlen Donaldson, Lisa Cinque and Sam Melikian. This group is named **RITE-13** after the special liturgy we will celebrate with them on this day. In some respects this is a new way of saying to our young people things we have meant to convey all along - things like: "We stand with you as you make your way on the journey; we're here if you need us; we think you are terrific; we love you." We often assume that our teens feel appreciated and accepted as a vital part of our congregation, but adolescence can be such a time of uncertainty that some things just can't be said often enough.

One of the unique aspects of the *Journey to Adulthood* program is that it seeks to provide rites of passage that are often lacking in our culture. We help define points along the path to adulthood that tell our young people they are making progress; they are growing; they are becoming adults. Rite-13 is the liturgical cornerstone that lays the foundation for the entire congregation of St. Mary's Episcopal Church to rise up and in one mighty voice tell our young people, "You matter to us. Your lives are of inestimable value. The journey you are now embarking on is significant." It is a way that we fulfill our baptismal covenant of "seeking and serving Christ in all persons."

The Rite-13 Liturgy is a rite of passage that recognizes the gift that God bestows upon each one of us: the gift of manhood or womanhood. This is a free gift that we cannot earn and need not prove. This gift is the essence of who we are. The same energy that pushes us through adolescence gives us the power to change the world. As these young people grow and mature, their knowledge and skills will increase, but the core of who they are remains the same.

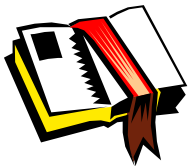
Mother Claire is building a St. Mary's Book of Wisdom based the experience, hope and strength from our Parish. Sayings, stories, learnings and scripture that have helped parishioners to understand the five life lessons that have taken them from childhood to adulthood. 1) Life is hard. 2) You are going to die. 3) You are not that important. 4) You are not in control. 5) Your life is not about you. What a treasure and priceless gift this Book of Wisdom will be.

And here is our priceless opportunity for us to affirm all that is good in the young people who live and grow around us and to recognize them as young men and women in our midst. Don't miss this incredible chance to say out loud in a very powerful way what we have meant to say to them all along. Remember, NOTHING GOES WITHOUT SAYING!

---Adapted from the Rite-13 - Journey to Adulthood

ST. MARY'S MEN'S GROUP

We have a small group of men who meet each week to read and talk about God's Word. The Men's Group as met for a few years at 8 AM on Saturdays in the church office. During that time, we have read from the Gospels, Proverbs, the Epistles, Genesis, and Exodus. Currently, we are reading a book of meditations entitled *At His Feet* by Chris Tiegreen.



First we read a passage from one of the Gospels followed by the meditation from *At His Feet*. Then we discuss what we have read - and whatever else comes to mind. We are serious, but we have fun. No is expected to be an expert. In fact, the only expectations are that you be curious and a man - it is a men's group, after all!

So, you men are all invited. If you have an interest in learning - in a non-threatening atmosphere - about God's Word and what it may say to you, give us a try on Saturday mornings at 8 AM. You're already up! Come on over!

--- Michael Attanasio

JOSEPH KOREN GIVES THANKS & PRAISE

Thank God for the Saint Mary's newsletter.

Thank God for the St. Mary's food pantry.

Thank God for the food at Mohegan Park - good and bad.

Thank God for the Nicene Creed.

Thank God for the gifts of leadership, in and out of the mental health system.

Thank God and praise to St. Mary's that I have been out of the Bronx Psychiatric State Hospital system for over 10 years. Praise you, Jesus, for my freedom from that State Hospital dungeon!

Thank God for Walter Decker. Thank you Walt, my friend, for taking time out of your busy schedule to interview us every week.

Thank you, Frank and Iris, for the Christmas/New Years dinner at your house.

Thank God especially for Social Security and Medicaid.

And praise God for the forest next door to the church. (It is about to become a bank and other businesses.) Can you remember enjoying how it used to look?

YOUR MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY!

Yep, it's Mom's Birthday! On August 16th we celebrate our patron, St. Mary. One of the biggest days of celebration in Europe goes by quietly here. So let's stir it up with some joyful noise! Families and individuals seeking baptism that day should speak to Mo. Claire.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love.

---Mother Teresa

- ❖ **New Volunteers.** The Food Pantry has several new volunteers that come all the way from a North Salem group home for the developmentally disabled to be with us on Saturday mornings. Eric, Wing and Tim bring a smile, strong hands and willing hearts to help out in any way they can. Shirley Price's daughter, Michelle Tyler brought them to our door. Thank you, Michelle.
- ❖ **Huge Easter Distribution.** We served 135 families at Easter, and all left with a feast and with Easter baskets for children and grandchildren. Our friends at McHale Pest Inc. had an employee family party at which the children made baskets for giving. Heidi Wilkins and other McHale staff delivered 135 baskets and 59 hams to add to the distribution. Thanks to all who contributed to make the distribution a success.
- ❖ **Feinstein Challenge Attracts Support.** The Feinstein Challenge is over and we are already winners. During the months of March and April a total of 12,942 cash contributions and food items were collected and counted. It was a true community effort. The word has spread: there is hunger in our community and there is something we can do about it. At least four different Girl Scout troops held food drives for the pantry's benefit. Along with our own youth group, folks from Seton and Yorktown High School conducted a successful food drive at Shop Rite on Rte. 6. The Cortlandt Little League on their opening day invited us

to be there to collect food from all who came. Benjamin Franklin Elementary School and Elizabeth Anne Seton School had food collection days. Several local businesses and churches made considerable financial donations. A generous patron, Doctor Moy from White Plains Hospital, made a significant monetary donation and not for the first time. So, many thanks to many people!

❖ **A few small ways to help:**

▶ If you shop a DeCicco's bring your receipt to customer service and ask stamped for a donation to The Community Food Pantry. Bring the stamped church. We will have a basket in the back for collection. When we turn receipts in, DeCicco's rewards us with donation depending on the amount of receipts we return.



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▶ If you stop by Lakeland Liquor throw your loose change in their for charity jar. Tell them your local charity is: The Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's on Rte 6. I did this and just recently we received a check for \$200 from them and they will do it again.

▶ Stop in at the new Panera's in the Cortlandt Town Center. Tell them you are from St. Mary's. Frank Doyle has been picking up breads and baked goods from Panera's each Wednesday and Sunday at closing. Thank them for their help. It is always a good thing to show support to the community businesses that support us.

▶ The end of the school year is upon us and summer is near. Hunger does not take a summer vacation nor does the food pantry. So if you are planting a garden, put in a few extra plants. Fresh produce is always welcome. If you find a little extra time on your hands, come join us. We may not be doing great things on Earth, but we are doing small things with great love.

❖ **Two Upcoming Events:**

▶ The second annual Community Food Pantry and St. Mary's Golf Outing for **September 21st**. Mark your calendars for a day of fun and fund



scheduled raising, and

▶ our Harvest Food Drive at Shop Rite, Route 6. The date is to be

-- Terry

scheduled. Berardi

JUNE 21ST 9:30 - ONE SERVICE: SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC & AWARDS



Join in for the annual celebration of another year of God's goodness in the lives of our children and the incredible work of our Sunday School teachers. We will also be celebrating our High School Seniors who will be graduating and going into their next stages of life with our blessing. Lastly, but by no means leastly, it is **Father's Day!** So much to celebrate! Sign up to bring your favorite food when the clip board comes round!

J2A & PILGRIMAGE 2009

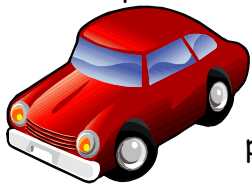
In October our present J2A class will make its confirmation when the Bishop visits St. Mary's. Our class consists of Daniela Attanasio, David Knight, Maddie Manfredi, Daniel Witt, and Adam Woodley-Aitchison.

Earlier, in August, the class will have made a Pilgrimage to Navajoland in New Mexico. You may recall that two previous classes made Pilgrimages to a Lakota Sioux reservation in South Dakota. Regardless of the location, God is present if we seek him, and he will reveal himself to us.

The mission of Pilgrimage is not restricted to the Pilgrims: it is an event to be shared by the whole parish family. This is done, first, through your thoughtful prayers and, secondly, through your financial support. The Pilgrims themselves are expected to raise funds from family and friends and by participating in many fundraising activities.

The group has sold wreaths, plants, and candy in the past, but now they are stepping up their efforts. There will be a two-day **car wash on May 30 and 31**. They need to raise a ton of money - and we need you to bring your dirty car to us on Saturday or Sunday. (You can even get your car cleaned during church!) Mike Manfredi is heading up this event, and we need your help to make it a success.

Paul Witt is organizing youth to do **odd jobs for a fee**. Do you have anything to be moved, cleaned, mowed, weeded, painted, etc. by one person or a whole team, talk to Paul.



For those of you (and you are many!) who have procrastinated about making a will, I will do it for you at half price. For the first four people who contact me, I'll donate 100% of the proceeds to the Pilgrimage.

Finally, we will also gladly accept cash donations and will present you with a commemorative "angel".

This is an exciting time for our youth and our St. Mary's family. Please participate with us and help make a permanent impression on our children.

--- Michael Attanasio

FOUR WAYS TO HAVE FUN AND MAKE \$\$\$ FOR ST. MARY'S: FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE SCORES!

In a brain-storming session back in early February, our fundraising committee decided on a few events for 2009 - some old and some new -- which we hoped would bring in additional money to St Mary's, as well as offering fun for the congregation and our neighboring communities.

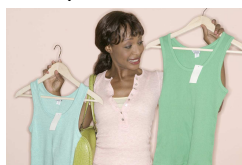
Aunt Millie's was Fabulous!

We started with a new-and-improved Aunt Millie's Attic on April 25th. (*Who was Aunt Millie, anyway?*) It was chaired by our veteran and incomparable fair coordinator Iris Doyle. We were all thrilled with the results: *it was the highest income-generating Aunt Millie's to date*. We couldn't have done it without the help of everyone. So to those of you who donated items and supported us by attending the fair, and especially to

those who volunteered their time, hard work and expertise to make it happen, I want to extend my heartfelt ***Thank You to all!***

The Boutique Continues!

Of special note and a major contributor to the success of Aunt Millie's was the grand opening of St Mary's Formal Boutique, specializing in teen prom and ladies' special event dresses. As a result of its initial success, the Boutique will continue to be open on Saturdays, usually from 10am to 4pm, and our very own Ann Marwick and Dorrie Parsons will be there to assist and be your personal shopping advisors. Prices are low, and the quality of the gently-used clothes and accessories are high. So please continue to mention our little shop to everyone who is looking for that prom or special event dress. Once prom season is over, we will be exploring making our Boutique a permanent shop and restocking our boutique with teens' and women's summer clothes and apparel. We are even considering a Christian gift section to make it easy to find that unique something for those special days and events in our lives. So please continue to come and shop at the new St. Mary's Thrift & Gift Shop and spread the word to family, friends and neighbors. We are hoping our little shop will become a mecca for all thrifty shoppers and bargain hunters.



Folk & Classical Rock at New Coffee House

Our next event, chaired and coordinated by Ann Marwick, is one which we know our congregation will enjoy. It will be on Sunday June 7th from 2pm to 5pm at the Bean Runner Coffee House, 201 South Division Street in Peekskill. This is a fairly new cafe not far from the Paramount, serving great food as well as offering a wonderful playroom where parents may watch their children have fun and release pent-up energy.

Our first coffee house event will feature the Phantom Flyers, who play folk and classic rock of the 60s, 70s and beyond. The band features Chris Dentato, John Gibson and Gordon Russell, who have played in various establishments throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties. With only a \$5 cover charge, there's no excuse not to come. So stop by and try the best coffee in Peekskill, while enjoying a sandwich or a yummy dessert. The owner is not charging us for the event so please support his coffee house by purchasing a little something while you listen to the band and have an afternoon of fun and relaxation. We will have flyers soon which we will be asking for your help to distribute. We want to get the word out to as many folks as possible. We look forward to your company, so mark the date on your calendars. Family, friends and neighbors are all invited, too!

Giant Outdoor Fair & Rummage Sale

The third event, conceived and chaired by Alberto Gancitano, will be on Saturday, July 18th when our parking lot will be transformed into our fun-in-the-sun Summer Fair and Rummage Sale. We will be selling clothing, toys - inside, outside, sports equipment (all in good repair) - and games, as well as good rummage.



So as you are putting away those winter clothes and taking out the summer ones, if you find any that no longer fit or you no longer want, please donate those in good condition to the sale. We are asking you to please launder the clothing beforehand, and sort it into separate bags (e.g., boys, girls, teen, men's adult, and women's adult) so that it is ready to sell. Curtains, towels and linens are all welcome. (*This is not Aunt Millie's, so no books, white elephants or household items this time, please.*) We will announce a drop off point as we get closer to the fair date.

We plan to have vendors, such as the ice-cream vendor from Shrub Oak and face-painters. If you have any ideas for other vendors, let us know. There will also be a barbecue (hamburgers, veggie burgers, franks,

potato salad, etc.) and cold, non-alcoholic drinks. The summer fair is being geared toward families and children. So we are asking more of our St Mary's family members to volunteer time and energy on fair day. Children are welcome and can even help, too. Come and spend a fun summer day at our July fair and rummage sale. Remember: save not only the date but your stuff!!

**KIDS JAM CAMP:
June 28, July 12 19 26 (No camp July 4th)**

Join us for games, crafts, fun and surprises! Kids' Choir will be learning songs with Adam and Kids' Hip Hop Choir will be learning dances with Kaitlyn Donaldson and Maddie Manfredi. Parent helpers needed too! Sign up to take a week shepherding our kids through an energizing, faith-building summer experience!

**MOHEGAN COLONY
STORY-TELLING FESTIVAL AUG. 8**

Come for a day of story-telling and music right here in Mohegan Lake! Two stages, one for adults, one for families with children. A great all day summer event that you can dip in and out of at your leisure for way less than it costs to take the gang to a movie! Feed your family's hearts and imaginations with this wonderful local event. Located at 99 Baron De Hirsch Road in the Pavillion at Mohegan Colony, August 8, 1:00 pm - 10:00 pm.

**PARENTS OF
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AND TWEENS!**

The next three classes of Rite 13 and Tweens are the largest groups we have had at St. Mary's. We will need parents from these groups to be the leadership for ministry to this important age group, and it really needs to start before they hit the difficult teen years. Please make plans to be with us August 25th to learn about the vision for youth ministry at St. Mary's. Come and learn the vital importance of bringing God's good news to middle schoolers and for some basic training in Middle School ministry. Stay tuned!

July

2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	2	3	4 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
5 9:00 Rite II No Kids JAM Camp	6 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory	7	8 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	9	10	11 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Midnight Run 12PM
12 9:00 Morning Prayer Kids JAM Camp	13 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM	14	15 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	16	17	18 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Summer Rummage Fair 10AM-4PM
19 9:00 Rite II Kids JAM Camp Seton Food Delivery	20 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory	21	22 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	23	24	25 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
26 9:00 Morning Prayer Kids JAM Camp - Last Sunday	27 Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM Rectory	28	29 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	30	31	

August

2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Midnight Run 11:30
2 9:00 Morning Prayer	3 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory	4	5 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk.	6	7	8 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Mohegan Story Telling Festival Mohegan Colony J2A Pilgrimage Departs
9 9:00 Rite II Fr. Jebemani Celebrant	10 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory	11	12 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	13	14	15 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry J2A Pilgrimage Returns
16 9:00 Rite II and Baptisms St. Mary's Day Celebration Seton Food Delivery	17 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory	18	19 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	20	21	22 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
23 9:00 Rite II	24 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory	25	26 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM	27	28	29 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
30 9:00 Rite II	31 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory					

September

2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1	2	3	4	5 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM Midnight Run 12PM	
9:00 Rite II	6	7	8	9 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM Via Media 7PM	10	11	12 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
8:00 Rite I 9:30 Family Service 10:15 Coffee Hour 11:00 Rite II/Parent Bible Study Church Brunch Church School Registration	13	14 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM	15	16 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM Via Media 7PM	17	18	19 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
8:00 Rite I 9:30 Family Service 10:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Church School 11:00 Rite II Seton Food Delivery	20	21 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory St. Mary's Golf Outing at Hollow Brook Golf Club 8:00AM	22	23 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM Via Media 7PM	24	25	26 Men's Group 8AM Food Pantry 10AM
8:00 Rite I 9:30 Family Service 10:15 Coffee Hour 11:00 Rite II 10:30 Church School	27	28 Women's Bible Study - 10:00AM Rectory	29	30 Compline/ Evening Prayer Mohegan Pk. 6PM Via Media 7PM			

E-PLDGING IS THE WAY TO GO! - ESPECIALLY IN SUMMER!