



THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S

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

Dear Ones,

This August I had the pleasure of accompanying our Journey to Adulthood (J2A) class on their Pilgrimage to the Navajo Land. Pilgrimage is a holy (set apart from daily life) journey to listen to God. A central aspect is for the Pilgrims to seek God's vision for their lives. I have yet to meet the teenager who receives a fully formed "thunder bolt," but they do receive intimations, rumors if you will, of God's glory (power) and how it works in the world and their lives. The biggest take away for most is that God is - and that God has a place for them in the world.

This kind of vision and perspective is not a given, by any means, for youth in this culture. This heart knowledge, felt knowledge, is what ultimately gives us zest, purpose and power in our lives. It is God's drawing us closer to the source of life by drawing us into the future that He, who is the source of life, already inhabits. Without the sense of being drawn towards God, fulfillment and a life that is larger than self, life feels aimless and what we do seems senseless.

Scripture says it this way: "Without vision the people perish." Vision is why we do what we do. Vision sets our priorities and provides the power to do the multitude of small tasks required to get there. However, in the life of the Spirit, vision is not generated by us; it is given by God and always requires trust on our part.

How do we know where to go and if what we are doing is right? Blessing, and that's the long and the short of it: what God is blessing determines our direction. Keeping our hearts tuned to perceive and follow blessing keeps our eyes on the prize and allows us to skip the enervating hand-wringing that our money culture teaches us to do in response to challenges. Hand-wringing is the "glass is half empty and there will never ever be any water to put in it" worldview. It is decidedly ungodly and untrue. Challenges are an opportunity to learn how to rest in God's goodness and move in God's power.

When we have clearly and truly perceived God's desire, whatever it is we need to accomplish that desire will be provided for us and through us. The process of God providing *for* us builds our trust. The process of God providing *through* us builds our capacity to be agents with God for goodness in this world: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting (and ultimately freeing) the imprisoned, opening our hearts and our doors, materially and spiritually. It's how we grow up in Christ.



So, what's the challenge we are facing? What's going to help us grow up in Christ? It's pretty concrete, the Pine Room's slow-motion collapse has speeded up, and we will have to tear it down before our Capital Campaign will be completed. Most of us who have pledged to the Capital Campaign, pledged for the full five years (starting in 2006). The Pine Room will have to come down long before 2011.

Here is the good news, a significant number of us have joined St. Mary's after we did the Capital Campaign, and there are still some of us who didn't pledge in 2006. To that end we will be undertaking another chapter in the Capital Campaign and an opportunity to ride this wave of blessing that is opening up even as we speak.

How will we do it? The temptation is to start wringing our hands and like Abraham, trudging reluctantly ahead thinking God will make us sacrifice our son. All of us have occasion to forget that all the while God himself will provide the sacrifice, and the ram is already on the way. But we have to trust that this is so.

So, who is going to do all this? Our Campaign motto of 2006 still stands: **We Are the Ones! We are the ones we have been waiting for.** So get ready for the

joyous, wonderful process of listening for the vision, getting caught up in it and being set on fire for God!

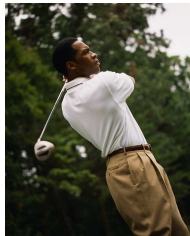
We are the Ones! Thanks be to God!

Blessings! Mo. Claire



THE SECOND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING AT THE HOLLOW BROOK ON SEPTEMBER 21

NOW is the time to sign up for a great day of golf and/or helping make **Second Annual St. Mary's/Community Food Pantry Golf Outing** a success! Again this year **Mohegan Lake Motors**, our neighbor across Route 6, is our Title Sponsor. We will have a fabulous day of golf at the nearby Hollow Brook Country Club on Oregon Road in Cortlandt Manor.



The event will include 18 holes of championship golf plus box lunch and barbeque dinner, awards ceremony and silent auction following play. Featured events of the day will include: a Hole-in-One Contest, a Putting Contest, Sponsor Gifts, Closest to the Pin Contest, Player Gifts, Prizes and Awards, Longest Drive Contest, Guess Your Distance and much more.

Go to <http://www.golfhollowbrook.com> for more information about the Hollow Brook. Register now and remember to invite your family and friends to play. You may register at <http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/12394-CopyofStMarysCommunityFoodPantry/>

If you don't golf (or you have to work that Monday), but you would like to help by being a sponsor, you may go to that site and click on sponsors and contribute. Even if you are not a golfer, we need go-fers for all or part of the day. (You might even ride around in a golf cart - Mo. Claire did last year.) And we need some really nice items or services for the silent auction. Call or e-mail the church office if you are available to help. Thank you for your support of the St. Mary's Episcopal Church and

the Community Food Pantry. We look forward to seeing you on the course and at the club!

Date:	September 21, 2009
Time:	10:00 am
Facility:	Hollow Brook Golf Course
Fees:	BBQ Dinner Only: \$35.00 Individual Golfer: \$150.00 Foursomes: \$550.00

THE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY- WHAT A SUMMER IT WAS!

"The purpose of life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others. Only then have we ourselves become true human beings."

-- Albert Schweitzer

It has truly been an amazing summer so far. Usually during the summer The Food Pantry sees a decrease in the number of families served, a decrease in the number of volunteers and a drop in donations. This has not been the case this summer. During the month of July there were two weeks where more than a hundred families came through the doors to receive our services. We are signing up close to *20 new households each month!* These are very difficult economic times for our friends and neighbors, and so far we have been able to help in small way.



Another sign of God's work here is the number of volunteers from many different sectors of our community that have been showing up on summer Saturday mornings. Families, individuals and community groups have offered their hands and hearts. One Saturday we had as many as thirty volunteers!



One Saturday, as I entered the Parish Hall to begin distribution, I saw a young man in a wheel chair with his mother bagging apples that we had received unexpectedly from The Food Bank of Westchester with our order that week. I turned the corner and there were people making bags to carry groceries, bagging breads and pastries from BJ's and Panera's, and sorting food and clothing items in preparation for our guests. It was a fairly awesome sight.

And as far as donations go, The Food Pantry has received a surprise donation from a Mohegan Park resident. We also received a contribution from Macy's Yorktown

employees' Bag Hunger campaign. Frank Doyle collected food contributions weekly during the campaign. In addition to the food items, the employees donated \$782.50 in checks and cash that corporate headquarters will match. Just recently The Food Pantry received a \$400 check from Lakeland High School's Human Rights Club, the result of a fund raising activity they conducted during the school year. God does provide to keep us going to meet the ever-increasing need.

Please continue to keep The Food Pantry in your prayers and please join us as we serve, show compassion and express the will to help others. It is part of the path God has laid for us to become true human beings.

--Terry Berardi

VIA MEDIA II BEGINS SEPT. 9

Via Media starts back up again for four more sessions! Join us once more for great ideas, conversations, dinners and exploration of this crazy love called God! Lets us know if you are coming and if you need child care! Dinner starts at 7 pm and we go until 9.

BISHOP ROSKAM TO VISIT

Bishop Roskam is coming on to St. Mary's on Saturday, October 17th at 6 pm for Confirmation and Reception. This celebration will be followed by another - a "confirmitzvah" party at 7:30. Everyone is invited! Put it on your calendar now!

NAVAJO LAND HO! - J2A'S PILGRIMAGE

In August, St. Mary's sent forth our third group of Pilgrims in our Journey to Adulthood program. J2A is a five-year Confirmation program that starts with the community building and service projects of our 'Tween group and then in Rite 13 continues through the exploration of God in spirituality, society, sexuality and self. In J2A the youth are learning and practicing what is required to earn adulthood as a Christian person. It's a long and rewarding process. One of the highlights of the five-year program is the Pilgrimage trip.



Acoma Pueblo high above the desert

This year's Pilgrims arrived in Albuquerque and went directly to the Acoma Pueblo - Sky City - the oldest continuously inhabited city in North America, more than 1000 years old. It sits on top of a 400 foot high mesa in New Mexico.

They next went to Good Shepherd Mission in Navajo Land, Fort Defiance, Arizona. A significant gift of Native American spirituality is its attachment and focus on *the land* as an expression of the Creator's love and one of the much respected books of God's revelation of his will and way for the people to live. At Good Shepherd the Pilgrims worked for three days on a sustainable agriculture project. Much of Navajo land has been invaded by exotic plant species that have destroyed the native ecology. The Pilgrims planted many trees and explored the confluence of God's justice, peace, empowerment and ecology. They met Navajo elders who spoke with them, and they enjoyed learning how to make a Navajo staple and treat - fry bread. The last evening there they did an amazing hike into the Red Slick Rock formations made famous by the artist Georgia O'Keefe. A beautiful moment was Communion celebrated at the top of 400 foot cliff at sunset with the young couple who were our guides and who had never experienced Communion together before.



Canyon de Chelly

Heading across the tumbleweed desert they encountered Canyon De Chelly, the heart of Navajo Land, and Ship Rock one of the most sacred sites for the Navajo. Contemplating time and our place in it was a gratefully humbling experience in a place shaped millions of years ago and inhabited for thousands.

The next three days were spent in and around Mt. Hesperus, another of the four sacred mountains of the Navajo, in Durango, Colorado. The highlight was the solo climb of Mesa Verde, the third sacred mountain, and the two-hour prayer solo for each pilgrim at the top.

Although the trip lasted only a week the Pilgrims commented on how the experiences made the time flow, change, and expand. All of them returned to their parents changed and expanded as well.

Look for pictures up on the website and on the Parish Hall bulletin board! The Pilgrims will be sharing their experiences and hosting a thanksgiving coffee hour on Sunday, September 27th! Please make plans to join them!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION & WELCOME BACK BRUNCH SEPTEMBER 12TH

- **Services at: 8:00 and 9:30**
- **Brunch at 10:30**
- **bring something to share!**

Welcome-Back-Sunday is almost here, and it's time to catch up with each other on summer travels and plans for the coming year. Come for the fun and good pleasure of seeing one another and getting connected again!

Sunday School is taking a decidedly interesting turn this year! Over the summer the teachers took time to study a variety of curriculums for children and families. The Pre-K, Godly Play, and Grade School Kids JaM children will be using the "Spark!" Bible-centered curriculum. The 'Tweens/Rite 13/J2A kids will continue on with their programs that include learning how to pray, and how to do meditation, scripture study, self-examination and building community using a wonderful variety of resources that are centered in Bible study.

At registration parents will be able to order for purchase the Bible their child will be using in their class. Spark Bibles are \$22.45 each and R/13, J2A Bibles are \$20.00 each. *Children will need their Bibles for every class* and will want to share the stories with you when they come home. Great for bedtime reading and daily devotion time, you will be sharing these stories to teach and learn for the rest of your child's life.

St. Mary's Christian Education is a group effort. We are more of a co-op than a service. To bring home all that is taught in Sunday school we ask *that parents be present in supporting roles*. - from hosting the children's snack table at Coffee Hour, to making sure the costume your child wore for the Gospel play gets hung back up, or helping your child's teacher with class once a quarter. There will be opportunities for you to join with your child in Christian community and interdependence. Kids learn

first from parents. Remember: You Are The Book! Sign ups to help will be available at Registration.

EXERCISE MATS?

If you have any exercise mats that you no longer want or need, would you please speak to Mary Jane Decker? She wants mats that she can clean easily. In case the H1N1 hits her school, Mary Jane would like mats for kids to lie down on until the children are picked up by parents.

