

saint mary's episcopal church

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the rev. claire woodley-ritchison, rector

St. Mary's Reunion September 3 – 5, Labor Day Weekend 2010!

For as the rain comes down from heaven, not returning until it has watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving grain to the sower and bread to the hungry, so is my word that goes forth from my mouth, it shall not return to me empty..." Isaiah 55:10-11.

Dear Friends,

Where ever you are in your journey, at some point God brought you in the doors of St. Mary's. You may not have known it then, but in and through God's work at St. Mary's you were deepened as a Christian, challenged and nurtured. And then... out into the world! Through job transfers, retirement, loss and gain, and just plain old growing up, you moved away from St. Mary's, but to coin a phrase; "You can take the folks out of St. Mary's, but you can't take the St. Mary's out of the folks!" Wherever you have gone you have taken the word of God with you in your heart. We hope you are passing it on to those whom you have met who are hungry in body and spirit.

Time hasn't stood still here either! Things are moving and shaking! We're having a party to say goodbye to the Pine Room and we're getting the whole family back together this Labor Day Weekend to do it up right! That cranky old building is coming down! Come and say goodbye with us and remember all the things that happened from 1940 onward! **We want you there!** We're asking you to come, to let us know where you're kids are at, where you are at, where you have been and what's happened in the years since you left St. Mary's.

Enclosed is an event schedule (lots of fun things going on!) personal profile and registration form. For those needing overnight accommodations we have reserved a block of rooms at the Peekskill Motor Inn.

We want to reach as many people as possible. **Please pass this on by 1) making a copy and sending it to family and friends, or 2) go to the St. Mary's website at www.stmarysmoheganlake.org/ and go to the events page and forward it to friends and family.** Don't forget to check out the videos and see our Facebook

page “St. Mary’s Mohegan Lake Reunion” with lots of pictures of current and former St. Maryans.

After we take the Pine Room down, a new hall needs to go up. We are asking you to be part of God’s blessing to a new generation. We are asking you to bless St. Mary’s with a financial gift to help in the construction of a new hall and share in this new chapter of God’s work at St. Mary’s. Our goal for this phase of our Capitol Campaign is \$250,000 and we pray you will be a part of it!

Over the weekend you’ll have plenty of opportunities to catch up and see where we are at the different events. Some events are low or no cost and some will equal any night out on the town, but all of them will be worth it. If you are not able to make it and still wish to pledge to this second phase of our Capitol Campaign there is a form for that as well. So come! Come be with those home folks who have shared in this part of your life. I hope that God’s word has dwelt richly in your heart and that it is ready to return, with blessing and honor, hugs and laughter, and all to God’s glory!

Be Blessed, and be a Blessing!

The Reunion Committee:

Mary and John Bohun

Iris and Frank Doyle

Lorraine Gordineer

Art and Ardeth Kessler

Carolyn, David and Tony Knight

Patty and Richie Malan

Joelyn and Michael Manfredi

Mia and Alex Matteo

Kathy and George Munroe

Danna and Jack Tschudy

The Rev. Claire Woodley-Aitchison

St. Mary's is entering a new phase in its life. (Hold on to your hats all you who have labored on Vestry or Buildings and Grounds!) The Pine Room is coming down! Yep, that cranky old building that has been patched up, repaired and despaired over, is in slow motion collapse and it's time to bring 'er down! The Demon of Deferred Maintenance (see the attached video for a few chuckles) has done its worst and we say "Uncle!" But such a place cannot go without celebrating all the life lived beneath its (leaky) roof. The Kids Service with Fr. Brian McCulloch, Sunday School with Eleanor Arnold and the Doyles, Aunt Millies, Harvest and Christmas Fairs, E.Y.E. fundraisers, sandwich making for 20 years of the Midnight Run and too many Food Pantry days to count. And there you were in the midst of them, living, loving, learning and the word of God growing within you.

So it's time for a party and we want you there! Labor Day Weekend we'll toast the Pine Room and all that God has done within its walls and in your life. What has God done for you through St. Mary's? How has God's word gone forth in your life? Were you surprised? We hope that your life and ministry is full, multiplied, spilling over and blessing more people as it continues to move from your life into others.

In the "We are the One's" Capitol Campaign of 2007, we realized that God wasn't bringing in a magic Bishop on horseback to save us, that "We are the Ones" to rebuild St. Mary's. We raised \$475,000 in pledged funds and \$250,000 in grants. Our goal for this phase of the Capitol Campaign is \$250,000. The new hall will be modest but eminently serviceable and will add much needed space for Sunday School, the Food Pantry and all the other aspects of our life together. See the link to the floor plans! It's very exciting.

St. Mary's story is deep and wide, and so is yours! Come! Come and share where you have been, what has happened with you and yours! Fill out the "Where are you now" page to be included in our commemorative book. Receive prayer and blessing from old friends and new who share the heart of God's love at St. Mary's. See old and new pictures to jog your memory on our Facebook page "St. Mary's Mohegan Lake Reunion." We'll be giving thanks and celebrating mightily unto the Lord for three days, September 3-5, and we want you with us, whether you are called to pledge or not!

