



# *The Bells of Saint Mary*

## *September, 2009*

### With My Hand on the Plow:

I love being part of a busy growing church. I love being caught up in the numerous deadlines that represent our common life together. Yes, it frequently stresses me out...but when I am really honest with myself, I have to admit that it is way better than being part of a church that just sits there. There is no part of me that likes to "just sit there."

Last Sunday, my first Sunday after the Red Shirt Project, we baptized two new Christians in a wonderful service at our 10:30 worship time.

This summer, we have lived into our Vestry's decision to move our primary worship time to 1030, so as to accommodate our Christian Formation and Education hour being at 0915 on Sunday mornings. I am very pleased with the response of our church to engaging life-long formation. Attendance at our forums has been really strong, and I am very excited now about our expansion to a broader array of offerings when we kick it all into high gear on September 13<sup>th</sup>, with our beginning of our Fall Programming. Sunday school, Journey to Adulthood programs, Godly Play, and three simultaneous adult Christian formation classes will all be offered in our 0915 to 1015 time slot. I am hoping that the inclusion of all of our family members in wor-

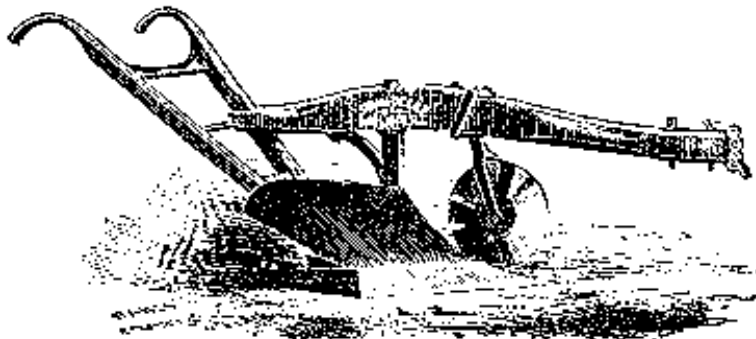
ship will be an enriching and growing experience for our church community. I am also hoping that our core of acolytes will grow, so that our younger church members can begin to be more engaged in the service of others through assisting at the altar for our celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday mornings.

This summer, to better include more members into our pool of those who feel called to read from Holy Scripture at our services,

Mary Newcomb has somehow managed to rework the schedule of lectors so that three readers are now exercising their ministry at each service, thus increasing by a

third the amount of persons assisting in our worship services. So many of you wanted to be part of our worship experience by offering your gifts to the Lord, and I am very grateful for Mary's work at scheduling all of this. I know there is no way I could ever make sense of the demands of scheduling this!

I would also like to ask you to seriously consider joining in our choir. This past Sunday, Robin and Glen held a class that about 24 of us attended that was just sort of a sing-along of hymns and service music, along with a "Christmas in July" sing that Robin arranged for us. It was great fun and very informative. It got me to



thinking that maybe if we arranged a forum that was a little longer, say four weeks in October, then more of us would see singing in the choir to be something that was possible for us to do, rather than see singing in the choir as something we somehow weren't "good enough" for. I hope you will consider this and pray about it. The commitment is to one rehearsal on Thursday evenings for ninety minutes, and to sing, joyfully, on Sunday mornings. I would love it if our choir had about ten more voices in it...and our worship experience would be greatly enhanced with more voices leading us in song. Please pray about this, and talk to Glen Newcomb if this might be something you would consider.

Also this fall, on the third Friday of each month...mark your calendars now...it is Movie Night at St. Mary's. This four month event, (and more if you all love it!) will be classic black and white films that are favorites of mine. The first film will be *The Grapes of Wrath* on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September from 1900 to 2200 in the evening. We will make a fresh pot of coffee and you will need to bring popcorn to share, and anything else that means movie going to you. All films will be in Fitch Hall, with enough time to talk about the movie after it is over. October will be *To Kill a Mockingbird*, November will be *Casablanca* and December will be the original *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*.

We will also be observing St. Francis Day this year on October 4<sup>th</sup>, so get your doggies and kitties ready for the big day (and birds, hermit crabs, birds and all manner of animal friends suitable for the day). October will also feature our All Hallows Eve Day of the Dead service on October 31<sup>st</sup> where we will remember our loved ones who have gone before us with a special service that begins at 4 in the afternoon. The next day, All Saints Day, will feature baptisms and a big festival service in

honor of All the Saints. November will again be our month to focus on stewardship with our festival service of New Consecration Sunday on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with Bishop Gethin Hughes as our featured speaker and leader for NCS day.

We are a busy and vibrant church. We are also a community that gives for the growth of the Kingdom of God in our time. With everything going on this fall, we will continue to be the beacon of light on the hill for the Lompoc Valley. Our support for our various outreach ministries will not waiver or stop in all we are doing to care for our community and for others. This is an exciting time to be at St. Mary's...and I am so happy to be your Rector and to be so immersed in the ministry of Jesus Christ in this place. With our exciting history and commitment to the ministry of all the baptized, we will go forward together, Adiante! into God's future. I often think of the old advertising slogan for the Motel 6 chain..."we'll leave the light on for you". It seems to me that is us...St. Mary's...the light is always on for you".

God's peace to each of you,  
Fr. Michael

## Senior Saints Luncheon

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday October 28th, 2009. On that day St. Mary's will host the 13th annual "Senior Saints" luncheon.

All seniors and shut-ins in our community are invited, and we count on as many of you as possible to come have lunch and visit with our guests...Lunch is at noon, but we will have guests starting to arrive at 10:30a.m. Please join us. There will be more information in the October *Bells*.

Norma Anderson

# SEPTEMBER 2009

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Choral Holy Eucharist	31 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Alanon meetings	1	2 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Godly Play Demo Lesson 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Godly Play Demo Lesson 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Godly Play Training	5 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM KAIROS
6	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Choral Holy Eucharist	7 LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Alanon meetings	8 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM Communications 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting	9	10 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM Finance MDT Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Work Party - Team 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Altar Guild Meeting
13	GRANDPARENTS DAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday Morning Learning Circles 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Choral Holy Eucharist	14 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Alanon meetings	15 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM 1st Responders Service & Luncheon 6:00 PM Vestry Meeting	16 6:00 AM - 8:00 AM EFM - Starts	17 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Cinema Cafe - Grapes of Wrath	19 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR SUFFRAGAN BISHOP @ CAMPBELL HALL
20	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday Morning Learning Circles 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Choral Holy Eucharist	21 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Alanon meetings	22	23 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM EFM Program	24 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday Morning Learning Circles 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Choral Holy Eucharist 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM Learning Circle - Rite 13 Training	28 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Alanon meetings	29	30 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM EFM Program	1 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM Feed the Homeless 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Worship MDT Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	2	3

# The Bat in the Belfry

## WARNING!!

I'm going to write something that will bring about whining and sobbing and even cases of extreme hysteria and denial. So if you are of school age, drop this newsletter immediately and move to a place of safety... Everyone set? Okay. IT'S TIME FOR SCHOOL AGAIN!!

Now that you've had the inevitable reactions, I want all of you to take a deep breath, focus your eyes and stop with the whining! Hush, now! It will do you no good to persist. You need to settle down and consider something.

It's possible that you've heard this before. It follows the same pattern as "eat that oatmeal! I don't care if it's cold and lumpy! It wasn't like that before you kept stirring it and complaining! Don't you realize that there are starving children who would love to have it?" I know. I know. You're thinking "if they're so hungry just send it to them already!" I used to get the same tired routine. "Your Father worked hard to bring home that prune. You're a Fruit Bat, for heaven's sake! Eat it and be thankful!"



But I digress.

So you've probably heard all the stuff about how lucky you are to be able to go to school and how great it is to be free to learn. Right? I thought so. Well, I'm here to tell you (and I hate to interrupt your self-indulgent whining), that your parents are right. You heard me! Your parents are right! After watching TV recently and seeing the struggles for basic rights and freedoms in other countries, it makes me really happy to report that you are free to attend school. In fact, it's your right to get an education! Think you don't need it? Think again. Somebody taught you to read, write and spell, otherwise how would you be able to do all that fancy-dancy texting you do? (Okay, texting isn't exactly spelling, but you get my drift.)

So what I'm saying to you is this: believe the bumper sticker that says, "If you can read this, thank a teacher!" Time to think about how lucky you are to live in a country where you are able to go to school in order to learn to be anything you want to be. What a concept!

Stop the foot-dragging and whining. Sharpen your pencils! It's your right and you didn't even have to fight for it! This is me, Bede, saying, "See you in Detention Hall! Honest, Mrs. Batheart, the dog ate my homework!" All kidding aside, have a great year, have fun, learn a lot and thank God you're lucky to live in the United States of America. God has truly blessed us!

Blessings from the Bat

### The latest Episcopal Joke:

Bishop Hughes told us (August 2nd) that Manna is Hebrew for "What is it?".

Pete Drus said he thought it meant "Pot Luck".

Your Editor said to himself: "I thought it meant 'deviled eggs'."



## Upcoming Birthdays

Cory Gusland	8/3
Karen Unrue	8/4
Elizabeth Hatcher	8/6
Sonia Twells	8/7
Stephanie Kazianka	8/8
Kathleen Cady	8/10
Deborah Cunningham	8/10
Zachary Smith	8/10
Lili Talkin	8/15
Scott Larson	8/18
Mary Newcomb	8/18
Michael Adams	8/21
Mary Sharp	8/21
Jeff Bastian	8/22
Bruce Macomber	8/22
Helen Benhart	8/23
Carol Gransie	8/23
Frances Jane Longley	8/24
Cheryl Howell	8/26
Clive Foy	8/29
Abigail Linn	8/29
Gisele Boyd-Snee	8/30
Catherine (Kay) Rowland	8/31
Daniel Vordale	9/1
Regina Lingl	9/3
Jessie Sheldon	9/4
Alice Drus	9/8
Gary Larson	9/8
Derek Kazianka	9/9
Eleanor [Bits] Bowles	9/10
Molly Gerald	9/11
Beverly Anderson	9/13
Rachel Williams	9/16
Charlotte Compton	9/17
David Anderson	9/19

Lee Bowles	9/19
Julie Esola	9/21
Norma Anderson-Radford	9/22
Kelly Owen	9/23
Peggie Gould	9/24
Jean Woodruff	9/25
Ruth Hicks	9/27



*An arrangement from the Spring Tea*

## September Work Party

If you are a member of Team Mark, **it's your turn to help keep the church** looking good on September 12th at 8:30 AM. Members are: Joe Gonzales (team leader), Rachel Williams (lunches), Alice and Peter Drus, Kathy Gonzales, Cory and Anne Gusland, Dan Hayes, Heidi Holdsambeck, Margie Coe, and Frank and Jane Longley.

## Nothing to do this summer – Solution

“Can you find the names of 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph? This is A MOST re-MARKable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu. LU, KEeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his JOHN boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Victs mentioned it in her column once. One woman JUDGES the JOB to be so involving sHE BREWS a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. ES. THERE will be some names that are really easy to spot ...that’s a FACT. Some people will find themselves in a JAM, ESpecially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The TRUTH is, FROM ANSWERS we get, we are forced to admit IT USually takes a minister or scholar to see some of the M AT THE Worst. Something in our GENES IS responsible for the difficulty we have. THOSE Able to find all of them will hear great LAMENTATIONS from those who have to be shown. One REVELA-TION may help,: books like TIMOTHY and SAMUEL may occur without their NUM-BERS. And punctuation or spaces in the middle are norMAL. A CHIpper attitude will help you comPETE. Remember there are 25 books of the Bible lurKING Somewhere in this paragraph”

How many did you find?

## Thanks from the Outreach Committee

Thanks to the overwhelming response from all of you here at St. Mary's, the Outreach Committee was able to purchase and fill 76 backpacks for the homeless and underprivileged children in our community. This is an annual back to school project. This year 35 backpacks were given to children in the primary grades (K-3) and 61 to 4th grade through high school students.. The school supplies were delivered to the Catholic Charities, the Homeless Education Liaison program (HELP) , a county program that provides a tutor for the school aged children of homeless families, and to MISC. an agency that helps needy families who deal with mental health issues. All the school supplies that remained after the backpacks were filled .were given to Patty Balcena, who teaches kindergarten at LaHonda elementary, to be dispersed as needed by the teachers on that campus. Thank you again for your giving hearts.....

In Christ's Love,  
Your St. Mary's Outreach Committee....

## Christian Formation News: Team Members Needed

Our Sunday Morning Formation Hour has gotten off to a good start with some very useful and informative offerings from the Stephens Ministry. Our full range of Sunday Morning Learning Circles will begin on September 13. We have a few gaps to fill.

I would like to have two teams of two [storyteller and door person] for our Godly Play class. Michelle Pittenger will be continuing as one of our storytellers. The class will have children from preschool through third grade. This is a very specific Montessori based method of Christian formation which requires special training, which we will provide. If we have two teams, the commitment would be for two Sundays a month. This method requires a calm,

low keyed person who would not be overly directive with the children, but would allow them the time and space for their own spiritual responses and reflections. If you know of someone who fits this description or if you hear the Holy Spirit whispering in your ear please come and speak to me.

We would also like to complete the furnishing and equipping of our Godly Play space. This represents a significant, but one time only expense. We will have various story sets pictured on our bulletin board for "adoption". This could be a lovely and unique way to honor a child or grandchild or any relative or friend on a special occasion such as a birthday or baptism etc. We will arrange to have plaques put on each set with the donor or honoree's name.

Six parishioners will begin their first year of Education For Ministry on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. beginning September 16. The first year focuses on the Old Testament, spiritual auto biographies, and theological reflection.

## **2009 General Convention**

I just got back from two weeks in Anaheim running the Discovery Center in the Exhibit Hall of General Convention. It was quite an experience. General Convention takes place every three years and is like a huge gathering of the clan. I saw people I knew from all over the country and from years back, like a family reunion minus the guilt. The scope of the Episcopal Church and its concerns is impressive. There were delegates and representatives from all around the world. The exhibit hall was like a global bazaar with booths selling handmade items from many countries. Other exhibits represented various causes and interest groups as well as publishers, schools, seminaries, missions and outreach projects. Much debate, discourse and decisions take place including passing budgets and resolutions. Resolutions shape the direction of the church. The one that meant the most to me and my work is the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation. This guides and informs my mission at St. Mary's. I hope you will read it and be inspired by it as a call to action for all of us.

Trudy Ardizzone  
Missioner for Christian Formation

## **Crown Ministry: Managing Money God's Way**

Recently I announced that we would be offering a program from Crown Financial Ministries on financial management as an evening program in the fall. We have since learned that Crown Ministries has a new version of the program that will fit into our Sunday morning Christian Formation hour between the Church services. It is an eight week course, one hour of class each week plus some homework each week. We will be offering the first series in the fall, and will run it periodically after that. The program covers such things as learning how to make a budget, how to get out of debt (including credit card debt), giving, saving & investing, as well as how to teach our children these virtues.

With the economic situation we are in now, it seems like an ideal time to "Discover God's way of Handling Money". Did you know the Bible has more than 2350 verses dealing with money?

The classes will be small – a maximum of 12 to a class – so contact Sally or me about signing up. You can catch us at church or call us at 733-4302.

Marno Goetsch

## The Revival of the St. Mary's WISH LIST

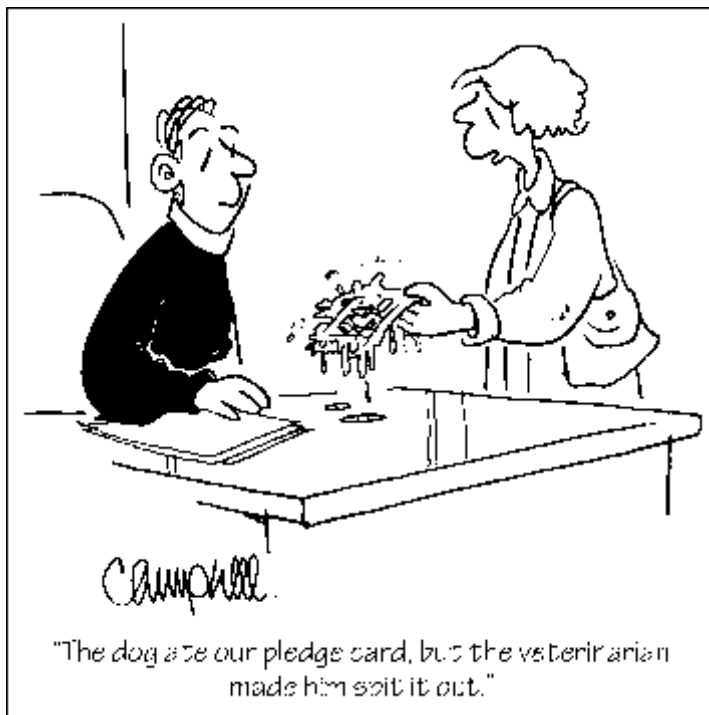
Welcome back to our Wish List. Here are a few new items for you to consider:

100 new copies of the Hymnal *Wonder, Love and Praise*

100 new copies of the Hymnal *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

If you are interested in giving any or all of the copies, let me suggest that you contact the church office so that we can keep a count. They are less expensive if we order in greater numbers than one at a time. This would give us enough for folks to share when we use them on Sunday mornings. If you want to give more, 200 would be perfect!

Thanks for considering this,  
Fr. Michael



## Financial Statement

	Apr - Jun 09	Budget
Income		
UN-DESIGNATED	86,469.46	84,797.00
Total Income	86,469.46	84,797.00
Expense		
ADMINISTRATION	58,125.45	55,886.34
BUILDINGS & GROUN...	16,263.26	18,103.94
CHRISTIAN FORMATI...	166.70	800.00
COMMUNICATIONS	1,100.10	2,887.48
MISSION SHARE FUND	5,944.51	5,770.98
OUTREACH	1,380.00	2,500.00
PASTORAL CARE	0.00	217.50
RADICAL HOSPITALITY	562.75	932.00
WORSHIP	1,011.05	400.00
Total Expense	84,553.82	87,498.24
Net Income	1,915.64	(2,701.24)

## Oaks and Acorns

I have this theory that there is a direct correlation between the number of adults in a church who can greet a child by name and the children's perceptions of church being a happy place for them. I invite you all to help me make this an observable trend at St. Mary's. On Sunday September 13, we will be celebrating the kick off of our educational programs for all ages with Learning Circles at 9:15, worship with teacher and leader commissioning at 10:30, and then Pizza and cake in the Parish Hall, with a bounce house outside for the children. It is also Grandparent's Day. There will be special balloons at the altar. Each one will contain the name, address and birth date of a child or youth at our church. Adults who are not the parents of these children will be invited to come up and select a balloon. The adults will introduce themselves to the children in the Parish Hall. During the year the adult friend will pray for the child and send notes of support and encouragement. During the Easter season the children and their adult friends will share a special celebration event together.

Parents, please fill out the new registration forms that will be sent to you, so we can keep our data base up to date. Your child's name will not be placed in a balloon unless you fill out a card that will be mailed to you, and will also be available at church.

Remember the time change. Sunday School classes and adult learning circles will take place from 9:15 to 10:15. Worship is at 8:00 and 10:30 A.M.

Looking forward to a fun and rewarding season of learning for all of us.

Trudy Ardizzone, Missioner for Christian Formation.



*Another arrangement from the Spring Tea*

# The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation

Lifelong Christian formation in The Episcopal Church is growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ and is informed by Scripture, Tradition and Reason.

I have called you friends... John 15:14-16

Through The Episcopal Church, God **Invites** all people:

- ◆ Into a prayerful life of worship, continuous learning, intentional outreach, advocacy and service.
- ◆ To hear the Word of God, to honor church teachings, and continually to embrace the joy of Baptism and Eucharist, spreading the Good News of the risen Christ and ministering to all.
- ◆ To respond to the needs of our constantly changing communities, as Jesus calls us, in ways that reflect our diversity and cultures as we seek, wonder and discover together.
- ◆ To hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people, placing ourselves in the stories of our faith, thereby empowering us to proclaim the Gospel message.

...You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit... John 15:14-16

Through The Episcopal Church, God **Inspires** all people:

- ◆ To experience Anglican liturgy, which draws us closer to God, helps us discern God's will and encourages us to share our faith journeys.
- ◆ To study scripture mindful of the context of our societies and cultures, calling us to seek truth anew while remaining fully present in the community of faith.
- ◆ To develop new learning experiences, equipping disciples for life in a world of secular challenges and carefully listening for the words of modern sages who embody the teachings of Christ.
- ◆ To prepare for a sustainable future by calling the community to become guardians of God's creation.

I am giving you these commands that you may love one another. John 15:17

Through The Episcopal Church, God **Transforms** all people:

- ◆ By doing the work Jesus Christ calls us to do, living into the reality that we are all created in the image of God, and carrying out God's work of reconciliation, love, forgiveness, healing, justice and peace.
- ◆ By striving to be a loving and witnessing community, which faithfully confronts the tensions in the church and the world as we struggle to live God's will.
- ◆ By seeking out diverse and expansive ways to empower prophetic action, evangelism, advocacy and collaboration in our contemporary global context.
- ◆ By holding all accountable to lift every voice in order to reconcile oppressed and oppressor to the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lifelong Christian formation in The Episcopal Church is a journey with Christ, in Christ, and to Christ.

*An "A" Resolution presented on behalf of the Standing Commission for Lifelong Christian Education and Formation. For more information: [www.formationcharter.com](http://www.formationcharter.com)*

## Parish Voices: Mary

I wonder about Mary. Actually, I wonder about faith, a lot. What did it take for Mary to accept the word of God at face value? Seeing an angel would have scared me to death. Even Sarah struggled when God promised her she would become pregnant at her advanced age. It seems so absurd, perhaps even a little cruel, to promise a woman what she most wanted at an age when it would be physically impossible. How much more that Mary might conceive a son while still a virgin? I would **be frightened, overwhelmed, even doubtful. I don't know if I could have endured the glances and gossip.** I would have been terrified by what Joseph might think, or do. Faith costs. Trust costs.



*Michaelangelo's Pietà*

I struggle with faith. I get impatient and frustrated. I imagine the worst and it frequently happens. In my really bad moments, I want as much reassurance as I can get. God is amazingly patient with me, more than I am with myself. All my attempts to evade His love are futile. I **don't even know why I run, except that I lack God's perspective. I can't see God's love being perfected in me.** Instead, I see the same old failings and wonder what God can possibly find to love.

Mary was fortunate; she **didn't have to wait long** to see things start to happen. Pregnancy works that way. It quickly becomes clear to a woman that she is in the grips of

something much bigger and more powerful than her individual needs and desires. Love motivates **and drives her. There is no saying "no" to Life. Mary expected and believed in the best. She was so in love with god that she put herself completely in His hands without reservations. What God has begun, God will complete.**

Michelle Pittenger

# *The Bells of Saint Mary's*

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*August and Sep-  
tember, 2009*

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## Harvest

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*Sunday Eucharist*  
8:00 AM and 10:30AM  
*Christian Formation*  
**Each Sunday at 9:15 AM**

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