

## THE CHURCH BELL

The steeple chimes with its church-bell rhymes,  
A wedding day to bless.  
There's not a spot in the parking lot:  
A healthy crowd, no less.

Will couples come when the echoes numb  
From vows they hallowed there?  
Each marriage needs what the pulpit feeds  
With Heaven's loving care.

The church bell chimes with its merry rhymes,  
A christening to cheer.  
There's not a space in the parking place:  
So many souls are here.

But who will go, as the children grow?  
God wants His lambs to thrive:  
Each home and brood need the Maker's food  
For spirits to survive.

The sad bell tolls, with a dirge it rolls,  
On grieving hearts of friends.  
It seems too loud for the tearful crowd,  
As one more story ends.

That faithful bell has much to tell.  
Its beckoning rings true  
That all should seek God's face each week,  
Until our journey's through.

— *David L. Hatton, 2/11/2016*