

The Messenger

The Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls, NY
A Non-Network Parish in the Diocese of Albany



BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Greetings Fellow
Parishioners,

Just to let you know the Building Committee remains dedicated to a seemingly never ending list of repairs and improvements to the physical plant of St. John in the Wilderness. Topping the list of priorities was to provide handicap accessibility to the church proper. With a list of proposals, each with a different plan and not being able to decide which would accommodate our needs, the Vestry deemed it in our best interest to have the building committee contact New York Historic Preservation as the church is listed on the New York State Historical Register. Subsequently, Mr. Kenneth Markunas, representing the State Historical Preservation office met with the committee on August 6, 2009 and filed a report pertaining to this project and it reads in part....

“After examining the church from the exterior and the interior, it was determined that the use of any entry point other than the existing public entry would have substantial negative impacts upon the historic character of the church. There is not a location where a new entry would not come into the church at an inappropriate or awkward angle and

would not leave some form of permanent

SEPTEMBER 2009

“scar”.

He went on further to state...

Existing double entry exterior and interior doors (approx. 30") do not meet the required 36" standard. Doors may be altered to meet the required width but the modification (e.g. attaching another vertical panel from the left door to the right, ‘fixing’ the doors open and having a new interior narthex entry) would be permanent and would diminish the appearance of the doors to an extent. Automatic operating mechanisms have been specified for similar situations, but this is a costly solution and not appropriate for a limited use structure.”

He concluded by adding....

A temporary ramp that could swing or be rolled over to the entry would be the easiest, cheapest and least harmful way to accomplish reasonable disabled entry to the church. The use of such a device would require that someone be at the church to move the ramp into place when the church was open and that the disabled person(s) find this method of access acceptable.

Considering negative feedback from some parishioners regarding making new entry ways and the content of Mr. Markunas’ report, the Vestry voted to abandon all proposals/designs, etc. to construct a handicap ramp that would have to comply with ADA standards. As an alternative plan they also voted to purchase a portable, folding aluminum ramp (42 lb.) that could be used to accommodate wheel

chair accessibility and similar modes of transportation.

Another problem that has been plaguing the church for several years is the toilet in the undercroft. We removed the existing unit to inspect the plumbing and installation to discover that it had been installed wrong back when the undercroft was remodeled several years ago. To rectify the situation, we had to jack hammer the floor up, reinstall the waste lines properly, replace the concrete floor and install a new toilet which was donated by a local plumber, thereby keeping the cost to the church down to a minimum.

The most recent item we are addressing is the discovery of carpenter ants and red squirrels and chipmunks that have taken up residency within the confines of the church. We are in the process of contacting exterminators to rid us of these uninvited guests. However, we still have to seal up the holes where the rodents are gaining access, which is the base flashing on ground level of the building. Secondly, to get rid of the infestation of carpenter ants, the area has to be treated with pesticides, but we still have to address the problem of their primary residency - "The Old Oak Tree". The old oak tree has been a bone of contention for several years for obvious reasons. Not only do we think that it is housing the ants, but it is dangerously forcing itself into the supporting structure of the church - The Foundation. Plus, the lack of sunlight on the roof is promoting the growth of unwanted moss. Not a healthy situation for a fairly new shingled roof. This is not to mention the danger such a large tree imposes on the church proper in the event of high winds or fierce storms. Currently we are obtaining quotes to fell the tree and to have all debris removed from the premises thereby eliminating many of the aforementioned

problems.

Till next time we remain,

Harry Garrett, Jane Peck, Bob Flynn,
Charles Fox and Hank Croteau:
The Building Committee

* * * * *

Father John is Home!

In late August Father John had open heart surgery at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany to repair a damaged heart valve. To everyone's great relief the surgery went well and he was back in the Rectory after only one week. He is feeling much better now and is gaining strength. It is good to have him back with us for worship on Sunday mornings. He will continue to rest and recuperate for several more weeks but we can look forward to having him back full time as our rector soon.

* * * * *



Arthur *We've Lost* Royal, a long
time faithful *a Friend* member St.
John in the Wilderness, died on Saturday,
September 12th after a long struggle with
lung cancer. A memorial service will be
held on October 7, time to be announced.
Before his retirement Art was a Building
Supervisor at the Wassaic Developmental
Center for 36 years. He was a member of
the "Young at Heart Club", the American
Legion, the VFW and he served as a
volunteer at the polls. For 15 years he
worked with the veterans of the Newman

Residence on Route 22. He served several years on Vestry, as an usher, and most recently he recycled bottles giving the proceeds to the church and local missions. A cheerful, welcoming presence in the church, he will be greatly missed.

* * * * *

Episcopal Church Women

Our September 1st meeting wasn't well attended and without a quorum we had to just go back home. We hope our next meeting, October 6th, will have better attendance. We meet at 1:00 pm in Burke Hall. Your input is needed to help us plan all our Fall activities. We would like to discuss the following: UTO, Shoe Box project, Thanksgiving baskets, and Christmas Friends.

Please reserve the date December 13th for our Christmas Luncheon at the Pond. Details will be given at our November 3rd meeting.

Frances Neil has a birthday on October 21st. It would be nice if we could all send her a birthday card. Frances now resides at Pine Haven Nursing Home, 201 Main Street, Philmont, NY 12565.

Thank you for all your help. See you on **October 6, 2009.**

Marge McClurg, President
and Babs Croteau, Vice President

ECW Meeting Dates:
October 6
November 3
December 13

* * * * *

After Anaheim, What?

Bishop Love and Albany's delegates to General Convention returned from Anaheim disheartened by GC 2009's resolutions on human sexuality. One resolution reiterates an existing Episcopal canon that excludes sexual preference as a qualification for discernment for ordination. The other, while not authorizing the blessing of same sex unions, directs dioceses to explore resources for such blessings. What progressives see as solid progress along a decades long crawl toward full inclusion of all baptized persons at every level of Church life, many conservatives, Bp. William Love included, see as the end of the Church as they have known it.

The pessimistic views of our Bishop and five deputies to GC 2009 can be explored on Albany's website. (albanyepiscopaldiocese.org) The Bishop also appears in a videotaped forum and an interview on anglicantv.blip.tv. Finally, Bishop Love intends to visit each deanery in September and early October to discuss Convention and the forthcoming Anglican Covenant. To judge by the first such deanery meeting (Metropolitan Deanery, 8 September), these gatherings promise to be lively.

Atop Bp. Love's agenda at present is the Covenant. Proposed in the 2004 Windsor Report, which attempted to put a brake on the Episcopal Church after it approved the election of V. Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire, the Covenant is in its third draft and is not yet complete. As Father Zelle explained in our last newsletter, the first three parts of the proposed agreement would, if accepted, make our Church confessional - something it has never been. The fourth would inject disciplinary provisions that directly contradict the provincial autonomy that has been a hallmark of Anglicanism since its

birth. When last seen, the fourth part proposed a lesser position in the Anglican Communion for provinces that will not sign the Covenant.

On the basis of a rather offhand comment by +++Rowan Williams to one of their number, the Communion Partners, to which Bishop Love belongs, believe that individual dioceses may sign onto the Covenant even if their province refuses to do so. If true, this would allow a diocese (notionally Albany) to be in full communion with Canterbury while its province was consigned to a lesser position. In an attempt to get confirmation of this, +Love and six other Partners recently visited +++Williams, apparently without the hoped for result.

Does any of this matter to a parish like St. John in the Wilderness? Probably far less than such really pressing concerns as chipmunks and carpenter ants in the chancel, a menacing tree, and too few kids in our Sunday School. Bishop Love has assured us that the Diocese of Albany will not leave the Episcopal Church. I would find that reassuring if the leaders of four other Network dioceses hadn't said the same thing, then tried to leave anyway, claiming that the national Church had left them.

That being said, remember that each of us joined the Episcopal Church by our own decision. We can only leave the same way. A bishop does not have the ability to remove a diocese. The members of parishes can depart but the diocese will go on even if they do. A new bishop will be assigned, as has happened in Fort Worth, Pittsburgh, San Joaquin and Quincy, and the diocese will continue to function.

Our advice? Do needful things for the parish, love God and each other, and leave it to the designated Worry Warts - -

That would be Marya and me! - - to alert you if action is needed.

Bob Dodd

* * * * *

Lectionary Readings

- 9/27 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Esther 7:1-6,9-10;9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50
- 10/4 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Job 1:1,2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4;2:5-12
Mark 10:2-26
- 10/11 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Job 23:1-9;16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31
- 10/18 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1-7,34-41
Psalm 104:1-9,25,37b
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45
- 10/25 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Job 42:1-6,10-17
Psalm 34:1-8,19-22
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

LAY MINISTRIES

Date	Altar	Ushers	Lector	Prayer	LEM
9/20	Mibs	J. Peck R. Dodd	M. Kay	Elen F.	M. Dodd
9/27	Lucy/ Jeanne	Sue Mollo Charles Fox	E. Freeston	M. Kay	M. Anderson
10/4	Elen F.	Hank C. Lucy E.	K. Kay	M. Kay	H. Koepfel
10/11	Jane	R. Dodd M. Dodd	H. Koepfel	E. Freeston	J. Peck
10/18	Wendy	C. Fox H. Croteau	M. Anderson.	Lucy E.	M. Dodd