

Hello

This copy of the Voice brings news of our great Community Christmas Pageant and our Annual Meeting on January 21. We hope you'll enjoy it. Let us know if you have more news for our Easter Voice on March 18.

Louise and Dale, Editors

## A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls NY  
**February 2018**

### St. John in the Wilderness Rector's Report for Annual Report January 21, 2018

Again this year I have good news and bad news. 2017 was another good year for St. John in the Wilderness. On the other hand, as in the previous year, there was a lot of bad news in 2017. The cognitive dissonance I feel is validated and expanded upon by Nicholas Kristof in a recent article entitled, Why 2017 Was the Best Year in World History. A surprising title in light of the chaotic politics in the United States. Just a few positive examples from Kristof, "A smaller share of the world's people were hungry, impoverished or illiterate than at any time before. And a smaller proportion of children died than ever before."

It's good to know, in spite of the national news, that many good people around the world are helping other courageous people to rise above circumstances and make progress. Thank God for inspiring this goodness and progress.

This is not to deny the problems, the many problems in this country and in the world – but to put them in perspective and give us hope. And it's important for us as a parish not to be parochial in the negative connotation of that word, but rather aware of the bigger picture as well as aware of challenges and blessings right here in our own congregation and in our own local communities. Kristof quotes F. Scott Fitzgerald who said, "The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two contradictory thoughts at the same time." Kristof suggests these two thoughts, "The world is registering important progress, but it also faces mortal threats. The first belief should empower us to act on the second" he says.

A similar thing can be said about St. John in the Wilderness. This congregation continues to do well and make progress in ministry, worship and taking care of our beautiful grounds and buildings. At the same time we face challenges. Less people participate in church in this country every year. Yet we have surprisingly good participation for a rural congregation. Another challenge is that denominations, churches, Christians and congregations are

experiencing the religious and political disagreements and tensions that the wider country is experiencing.

I'm more aware of this here in this congregation than most. Because people talk to me about contemporary issues from across the spectrum. I will always be committed to the social and economic and environmental justice that emanates directly from the good news of Jesus, from the Old Testament prophets, down through history to contemporary prophets like Martin Luther King Jr. who this country celebrated this week and like Bill McKibben the environmentalist, who in 1989 published the first book about climate change for a general audience.

May we continue to make St. John in the Wilderness a vibrant, creative and caring center of prayer, worship, great music, and generous outreach!

*John+*  
*The Rev. John P. Thompson, Rector*

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## Annual Meeting

Our church Annual Meeting was held on January 21. Karen Flynn is now Senior Warden. Marjorie Hoog was elected as Warden and will serve as Senior Warden in 2019. Zita Kobos was elected to a two year unexpired term. Elen Freeston and Wendy Langlois were elected to three year terms.

The Annual Reports of activities in the church were presented. A pdf copy of the full Annual Reports is available [here](#).

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## From the Desk of the Senior Warden

Hello fellow parishioners,

I am very honored and excited to be serving as your senior warden for 2018. The year is just starting but it looks like we are off to a great start. Thanks to Brian Booms leadership the capital campaign has already raised a large amount of money and is in the process of identifying and prioritizing projects. The yearly calendar is already started with our first event of the year our "Whole lot of Love" dinner on February 10th.

I am looking forward to the cooperation and community spirit that always makes St. John in the Wilderness such a special place to work and worship. We have an amazingly diverse and talented group of parishioners and each of us brings special talents. Together we will accomplish great things.

*Karen Flynn*

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## Thanks from the Treasurer

With the hard work and dedication of our parishioners and church friends, 2017 was a very successful year. We closed the year with an operating surplus.

As we look to 2018, I want to thank the Episcopal Church Women for its \$800 gift toward support of our operations as well as the Candle Fund for providing \$800 to support the cost of candles in our sanctuary.

Thank you to everyone. It's a wonderful community..

*Louise Peterson, Treasurer*

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## Quilts

An exhibit, *Quilts from Community Collections*, will be held in The Gallery, Burke Hall, from March 4 – June 3, 2018. Come and enjoy a wide array of quilting traditions including coverlets, crib quilts, and wall hangings. Please let Lucy Eldridge know if you have a quilt to exhibit. A selection of books about quilts will be available for browsing.

*Lucy Eldridge*

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## Community Christmas Pageant

Thanks to Mibs Zelle and her daughter Laura, we were able to quickly put together our first Annual Community Christmas Pageant on December 16. It was Awesome!! We had a nice group of children and grownups. It will only get better each year. A big “Thank You” to Father Walt Zelle, who was our organist and a “Thank You” to all who helped and participated. We are looking forward to the 2nd Annual Community Christmas Pageant.

*Wendy Langlois*





## 2018 Church Calendar

January 21, Sunday, 11AM, Annual Meeting  
 January 24, Wednesday, 6PM, Our Lady of Hope  
 January 27, Saturday, Friends of Taconic State Park Meeting, Burke Hall, 9-12PM

February 2, Saturday, Friends of Taconic State Park Meeting, Burke Hall, 9-12PM  
 February 10, Saturday, Whole Lot of Love Dinner, Copake Community Hall, 4:30PM  
 February 11, Sunday, 3PM, Winds in the Wilderness Concert  
 February 14, Ash Wednesday, 10AM and 7:30PM

March 4, Sunday, Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday & *Quilts from Community Collections*, The Gallery, Burke Hall, March 4-June 3  
 March 4, Sunday, Christening of Maeve Driscoll  
 March 25, Sunday, Palm Sunday  
 March 29, Thursday, Maundy Thursday, Eucharist, 7:30PM  
 March 30, Good Friday, 10AM and 7:30PM services  
 March 31, Saturday, Easter Egg Hunt, 11AM

April 1, Sunday, Easter, 8AM and 10AM services

May 12, Saturday, 10AM, 5k in support of Taconic Hills and Webutuck BackPack program  
 May 26, Saturday, KOA Bake Sale, 10AM-12 noon, KOA, West Copake, NY

June 8-10, Diocesan Convention

July 14, Saturday, Soiree, 6PM

August 18, Saturday, Copake Falls Day

September 1, Saturday, KOA Bake Sale, 10AM-12 noon, KOA, West Copake  
 September 22, Saturday, 10 AM, 5K, in support of Childhood Cancer

November 3, Saturday, Stewardship Dinner, 6PM  
 November 22, Thanksgiving Day

December 2, Sunday, Winter Walk  
 December 12, Wednesday, Blue Christmas, 6PM  
 December 15, Saturday, 10AM, Community Christmas Pageant  
 December 24, Monday, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7PM  
 December 25, Tuesday, Christmas Service

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### A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness (Episcopal)  
 Copake Falls, New York 12517  
 The Rev. John Thompson, Rector

Karen Flynn (1/19) Warden  
 Marjorie Hoog (1/20) Warden

Vestry

Jane Shannon (1/19)  
Rebecca Garrard (1/19)  
Susan Massarella (1/20)

Zita Kobos (1/20)  
Elen Freeston (1/21)  
Wendy Langlois (1/21)

Richard Peck, Clerk of the Vestry (1/21)  
Louise Peterson, Treasurer (1/19)

*Eucharists*

Sunday, 8:00 AM (spoken)  
Sunday, 10:00 AM (choral)

[www.stjohnw.org](http://www.stjohnw.org)

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