

A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness
Copake Falls, New York
March 2015

Easter 2015

Thoughts from the Wilderness

The ancient Greek aphorism, *know thyself*, is well known because it's essential wisdom, it rings true. When put into practice it makes us more real, more humble, more human. Jesus knew himself. He knew who he was. He knew who his Father was. He knew that he was called and that he had the gifts to fulfill his mission. So he was very confident and very humble at the same time. He had a good balance. And Jesus calls us, God calls us to be open to the same Spirit that animated him. We have and are animated by the Spirit from our very beginning, since we are created by God. Still, baptism and many other blessings from God can further free the Spirit already within us.

Prayer is a primary way to get in touch with the Spirit within. Jesus prayed and he calls us to pray. God's Spirit is the source of all genuine wisdom. And God's Spirit works in many ways to reveal God's wisdom and love to each of us. From worship to a walk in the woods to reading the inspired wisdom of countless others, from all of these sources and more, we grow in wisdom. And the essential, primary wisdom of self-knowledge is furthered through all of these sources. Hopefully we will be lifelong learners – of wisdom.

Self-knowledge is wisdom that we each can be best at. If we are committed to knowing ourselves then we will ultimately know our selves better than anyone else can know us. No one else can enter our minds or hearts. We, on the other hand, cannot escape our minds or hearts. As Jackson Browne said, *No matter how fast I run, I can never seem to get away from me.* Which suggests that self-knowledge can be a blessing or a cause of pain or both. But choosing to know thyself is the best option, as the alternatives are delusion, confusion, projection, etc.



None of us is perfectly wise or has perfect self-knowledge. Rather we are, if committed, on a lifetime journey of growth in wisdom and self-knowledge. God helps us.

As we learn to know ourselves better, acknowledging our strengths and weaknesses – first of all to ourselves, we become better, more helpful human beings (helpful to ourselves and others). That is if we are committed to wisdom and not simply to skill development disconnected from wisdom which can be used for good or for ill.

Growth in wisdom requires openness to the input and wisdom of others and many life experiences. But ultimately, knowing ourselves as persons growing in wisdom and open to God, gives us increasing confidence to make good decisions – whether others like our decisions or not. Jesus had that confidence balanced by an earthy humility which enabled him to be simple, direct, and profound – bringing wisdom and healing to those in need, and incisive challenge to the arrogant and self-righteous.

We are all called to speak the truth in love, and we can do that better when we know ourselves. Self-knowledge can increase our faith and confidence in ourselves and in our ability to live and speak the truth, both when it's popular and when it's not. Benedictine monk and teacher of centering prayer Laurence Freeman says,

“Our faith in Jesus is built not upon what is said about him so much as what he has said about himself, built upon his own self-knowledge. That is where his authority lies, just as our own faith in ourselves, ... is built

much more upon what we know about ourselves than what others may say about us. (The Ego on Our Spiritual Journey).

May God help us to grow in self-knowledge and to live increasingly authentic lives.

John+

From the Desk of the Senior Warden

“Spring forward,” the phrase that reminds us to move our clocks one hour ahead for daylight savings time, also helps to high-light the good news that spring is on the way. It is great to look forward to all kinds of things in our lives. It is especially heartening to anticipate the coming spring after the harsh and snowy winter here in the northeast.

At St. John’s we have already participated in the early beginnings of spring with a Lenten ecumenical soup supper and service at St. John’s on March 4th. New this year has been a series of 3 community soup suppers open to the parish and community. We have enjoyed delicious home-cooked suppers and fellowship with our neighbors and parish members. Work will continue this spring on various building projects and on the outdoor lights. And, on the church calendar among other interesting events, on May 16th our wonderful church choir at St. John’s will present a concert “Sacred Songs,” to raise funds toward the repair and cleaning of the church organ.

The gardens surrounding the church and rectory will soon be in bloom. Of course, we look forward, as in other springs, to the cheerful display of daffodils gracing the hillside in front of the church. Several of the plantings to bloom this season are appropriate for a church setting. A new planting of the perennial Hellebore in the rectory garden is aptly referred to as Lenten Rose. The spurs of the petals of the perennial Aquilegia, (Columbine), planted in the garden behind the rectory, are said to resemble

the dove, long a symbol of the Holy Spirit. In the poem, “Columbine,” the naturalist, John Burroughs wrote:

*Above a lichened niche it clung,
Or did it leap from out a seam?--
Some hidden fire had found a tongue
And burst to light with vivid gleam.
It thrilled the eye, it cheered the place,
And gave the ledge a living grace.*

Indeed, as spring comes to us this year, we have much to look forward to and hence appreciate here at St. John in the Wilderness. *Lucy Eldridge*

Auction donations needed

Our annual Country Fair and Auction is in July – but you can help St. John’s most important yearly fundraiser right now. We need quality items for the auction – indoor and outdoor furniture, lighting fixtures and art work. Do you have something to contribute? Does your neighbor? Help grow the success of our major summer event – and make space in your attic too. Contact either Elen Freeston at 518 329-1401 or Louise Peterson at SJWFairandAuction@gmail.com

*Elen Freeston and Louise Peterson
Co-Chairs*

Edee Hedrick: Thirty years at St John’s

As part of Sacred Sites weekend, on Saturday May 16 at 3:00 pm our choir will hold a Choral Concert to celebrate two anniversaries: Edee Hedrick’s thirty years as organist at St John’s and the twenty year anniversary of our organ.

This year Edee Hedrick celebrates 30 years as organist for St John in the Wilderness! It would be hard for most of us to imagine our 10 o’clock service

A Voice in the Wilderness

Editors: Louise and Dale Peterson

Please send submissions including news of church members to peterlouise@gmail.com

Issue dates for 2015 -- May 31, September 13, November 22

Please submit reports, articles and news items at least one week prior to the issue date. Thanks!

without the organ and the choir lending the “joyful noise” to the fabric of our Sunday morning. Edee began her career at St John’s in 1985. Father Byer’s secretary Ursula Marshall was a client and friend of Edee’s husband Jim. Ursula mentioned that the church was searching for an organist, and Jim volunteered the information that Edee could play the piano. Edee agreed to “give the organ a try”, even though she considered herself to be primarily a pianist. Edee practiced on the organ that was the predecessor of our present pipe organ. Soon she began to rehearse with the choir, which boasted such noteworthy singers as Nanny Mann, Carolyn Benton, Connie Valden, Getty Brauer, Marion Fetcher and Harry Garrett. Under Edee’s leadership the choir grew, expanded its repertoire, and began singing in four-part harmony.

Edee has had an interesting and varied career. Born in Norwich Connecticut, and brought up in the Congregational Church, she was used to a strongly musical religious service. Edee recalls learning hymns before the prayers as a child. She went on to attend the New England Conservatory of Music. In addition to raising her children, she has had many varied and interesting jobs. Edee has worked for public television, packaged books for the *Questar* program, worked as a home health care aide, volunteers for *NYSSMA*, and has long been an accompanist for drama productions for the Ichabod Crane School. She has lent her talents to many musical productions throughout the years including; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *the Wizard of Oz*, *Oklahoma*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Annie*. Edee is pleased to have worked with a very talented drama teacher, Gail Helfer, who directs professional theater productions for the school district. I am sure that Gail is also grateful for Edee’s talents in playing the very ambitious musical scores.

Edee was also instrumental (no pun intended) in the selection of our pipe organ. Several donors established an organ fund when it became apparent that the previous organ was failing. Edee joined a committee with several people including Rita Koepfel to search for the perfect new organ. Rosenberry and Clapper of Kinderhook were selected to build our organ, which was custom built for St John’s. The keyboard has a “piano touch” that was customized to Edee’s specifications and therefore she feels a special kinship with the organ which Edee and Jim work to keep in great condition. Our pipe organ is 20 years old this year. It is very

much a part of our church and our traditions. Much the same can be said for our talented organist. We are all grateful for her ministry. *Karen Flynn*

Susan Mollo honored

Susan Mollo, a docent at the World Trade Center Tribute Center, recently received a Certificate of Appreciation and a pin commemorating her 50th tour of the World Trade Center Memorial. All docents have a direct connection to the September 11th terrorist attack. Tours are conducted by two docents, so each tour is different. Docents share their personal story of September 11, as well as the history of the World Trade Center and future plants. If you are interested in taking a tour, please contact Susan at smollo@hotmail.com.

A Spring Quiet Day with The Rev. Barbara Crafton

May 2, 2015

Sponsored by the E.C.W.



Barbara Crafton is an Episcopal priest, spiritual director and author. She was rector of St. Clement's Church in Manhattan's Theatre district and a chaplain on the waterfront of NYC, and served both historic Trinity Church, Wall Street and St. John's Church in Greenwich Village. She was a chaplain at Ground Zero during the recovery effort after the WTC bombing and recently spent a year in Italy at the American Church in Florence. An actress, director and producer, she combines the lively arts and the life of faith. Her books, articles and radio scripts have won many awards. Barbara resides in Metuchen, NJ.

The day will focus on “Forgiveness—what it is and what it isn't.” Barbara says, “Most of us have had some trouble forgiving at one time or another...maybe even right now. Is there someone in your life whom you cannot forgive? Have you ever known someone (or maybe even been someone) who could not seem to get over an offense suffered at the hands of another? When you think about forgiving someone who has harmed you or someone you love, are you still too angry even to consider it? Even if it

was a long, long time ago? You remember Jesus' forgiveness from the cross, and feel a keen sense of your own inadequacy. In this retreat we will explore the concept of forgiveness in a way that frees us and fills us with hope."

Our day will begin at 9 AM with coffee and registration.

At 9:30 Barbara will give her first talk.
From 10:30 to 11:00 there will be quiet time.
11:00 to 12:00 will be the second talk.
12:00-12:30 another period of quiet time.

12:30 to 1:30- lunch
1:30 to 2:30 – third talk
2:30 – sharing and farewell prayer.

Please call either Mibs Zelley (329-2851) or Jeanne Van Hoesen (329-2620), to reserve a place, and to indicate what dish you'll bring to share for lunch.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear a truly marvelous priest. I'm hoping many of you will be able to join us for the day. *Mibs Zelley*

Beyond Copake Falls

On December 31, 1971, Marya and I stood in Westminster Abbey with a handful of men and women of various ages, colors, and nationalities to celebrate Watch Night. As the priest urged us to sing loudly because the BBC was "broadcasting the service throughout the Anglican world," we had a strong sense of swimming through history, a feeling of oneness with all peoples. It was, for two Presbyterians, a first taste of the Anglican idea of open minds and wide arms that would draw Marya to, and me back to, The Episcopal Church.

The warm memory of that Watch Night contrasts sharply with our pain at the traumas that our Church and the Anglican Communion have experienced in the twelve years since +V. Gene Robinson was consecrated as Bishop of New Hampshire. As this note shows, aftershocks from that seismic decision continue to rumble through both institutions.

The Lambeth Walk

Among the Archbishop of Canterbury's duties are convening and presiding over Lambeth Conferences. First held in 1876, the Communion-wide conferences have been held at roughly ten year intervals since then. If Lambeth 15 is to be held on schedule in 2018, invitations to it must be sent by 2016, and planning for the huge, complex gathering should be under way now.

Recently, Archbishop Justin Welby announced that he will not call a Lambeth Conference until he has visited all 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion to determine who will attend it and with what items for its agenda. His

caution is understandable: The 2008 Conference laid bare a widening rift between provinces aligned with Canterbury and conservative provinces, largely in Africa and Asia, that were infuriated by the



Archbishop Welby

Episcopal Church's 2003 consecration of +Robinson, and other supposed violations of orthodoxy. Many such primates boycotted Lambeth 14 and formed a new organization, the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. CA held a rival conference in Jerusalem a month before Lambeth 14. That meeting, the first Global Anglican Futures Conference

(GAFCON), yielded a manifesto, the Jerusalem Declaration, that: 1) flatly condemns same sex relationships and practices; and 2) rejects "the authority of those churches and leaders who have denied the orthodox faith in word or deed."

The Jerusalem Declaration is a declaration of independence. That the Church of England is on the cusp of approving same sex marriages is sure to increase the distance between Anglican provinces that are in communion with Canterbury and those that are not. Despite strenuous efforts to placate conservative-evangelical Anglicans, +++ Rowan Williams could not hold the Anglican Communion together. It remains to be seen whether Abp. Welby

can mend it or at least keep the West and South from drifting farther apart.

“I’m Anglican and you’re not!”

The rift in the Anglican Communion has practical implications for The Episcopal Church. In 2003, responding to Bp. Robinson’s ordination, several American dioceses, Albany among them, formed a dissident organization, the Anglican Communion Network. Some dioceses, including Pittsburgh, San Joaquin, Fort Worth, Quincy, and South Carolina, left the Episcopal Church, setting off legal battles over the ownership of land, buildings, and even, in some cases, symbols and titles.

Abbreviating a long, very expensive story, most state courts have agreed with ECUSA that it is a *hierarchical church*: Parishes are subordinate to their dioceses, dioceses to the Church. The opposite view, that parishes and dioceses are independent, has failed to move these courts, whose message to the departed is, “Go with God, but leave the silver behind.”

Unfortunately, there are two important exceptions. A South Carolina court has endorsed deposed bishop Mark Lawrence’s seizure of diocesan property and effects, going to the extreme of forbidding the continuing Episcopal diocese from calling itself “The Diocese of South Carolina” and using its time-honored symbols. Now much reduced in size but vigorous and growing, the mainstream “Episcopal Diocese in South Carolina” is pressing forward under its new bishop, +Charles von Rosenberg and hoping for relief in the U.S. Supreme Court.

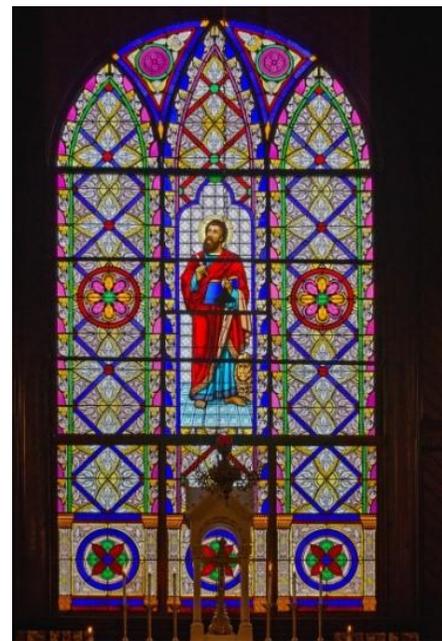
Fort Worth, like South Carolina, is home to two dioceses that profess to be Anglican. The larger, a breakaway group led by ex-bishop Jack Iker, has claimed diocesan property on the premise that ECUSA is not hierarchical. Although other Texas courts found in ECUSA’s favor, three judges of the Texas Supreme Court reversed that decision, leaving the continuing Diocese of Fort Worth with no

recourse but to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Alas, the Supremes decided last November not to consider ECUSA’s appeal.

The court’s non-decision decision has left ECUSA and the legitimate Diocese of Fort Worth hanging. If the full Texas Supreme Court hears the Fort Worth case, its judgment – either way -- will likely be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which may or may not consider it.

These prolonged legal struggles hurt both dissidents and ECUSA financially while making canon law a very promising field for graduating lawyers. However, the end game will be important. Not only are large amounts of property involved (e.g about \$800 million in South Carolina) but a final judgment against ECUSA would redefine its relationship with its members. Other disaffected dioceses or parishes would be tempted to leave the Church, confident that they could pocket the silver while doing so. Our hierarchical Episcopal Church would become, with one judicial stroke (or an unsurprising 5-4 vote), legally congregational!

Bob Dodd



St. Mark’s, Charleston

Weekly events

Sunday

8:00 am Spoken Eucharist.
10:00 am Choral Eucharist.
Sunday school at 10:00 am.

Wednesday

3:00 pm Divine Reading / Contemplative Prayer Group

Church Calendar -- Palm Sunday through June 2015

March 29, Palm Sunday, 8AM and 10AM services

April 2, Maundy Thursday, Eucharist, 7:30PM, preceded by a Seder Meal, 6PM

April 3, Good Friday, 10AM and 7:30PM services

April 4, Saturday, Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30AM, pizza & prizes, 12 noon.

April 5, Easter Sunday, 8 and 10AM services

April 12, Sunday, Winds in the Wilderness concert, 3PM

May 2, Saturday, ECW Retreat with the Rev. Barbara Crafton

May 9, Saturday, Friends of Taconic State Park, Native Trees Lecture, 11AM, Workshop, Burke Hall, 1- 4PM

May 16 - 17, Sacred Sites Open House Weekend,

- Community Plant Sale & Swap, Saturday, May 16th - 1-3PM,
- *Sacred Songs*. Choral concert by the St John in the Wilderness choir, to celebrate Edee Hedrick's 30 years as organist and choir director and the twenty year anniversary of our organ.

May 17, Sunday, Winds in the Wilderness concert, 3PM

May 23, Saturday, Memorial Day Weekend Bake Sale, KOA, West Copake, 10AM-12noon

June 5 and 6, Friday – Sunday, Diocese of Albany Convention

June 6, Saturday, FTSP, Broken Arrow Nursery, Andy Brand, 11AM, Workshop, Burke Hall, 1-4PM

June 14, Sunday, Sunday School Recognition Sunday & Bless This Garden, Potluck Church Picnic

June 21, Sunday, visit by Bishop William Love

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Newsletter of the
Church of St. John in the Wilderness
(Episcopal)

The Rev. John Thompson, Rector

Lucy Eldridge Warden 1/16

Martha Glantz Warden 1/17

Vestry

Brian Boom 1/17

Ralph Platt 1/16

Tonya Carter 1/18

Regina Shea 1/17

Robert Dodd 1/16

Madeleine Tramm 1/18

Marilyn Kay, Clerk of the Vestry

Louise Peterson, Treasurer

Eucharists

Sunday, 8:00 AM (spoken)

Sunday, 10:00 AM (choral)

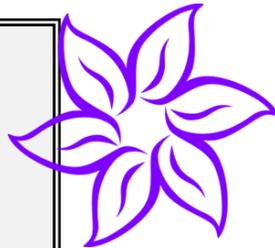
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Easter 2015 supplement

Editor's note: Here are items that weren't included the Voice when published on March 22. They are being added as a supplement to this month's Voice.

ECW Report

The ECW had another successful "Whole Lotta Love" dinner this year. We would like to give special thanks to everyone in the parish who helped to set up, cook, serve, and stayed to clean up, we could not do this without you. We were blessed to have several local businesses contribute to the chinese auction. These included:

O's Hillsdale diner
Front Porch Market
Stewart's
Gina's k-9 B&B
Schokolad chocolate factory
Hillsdale IGA
Roe Jan Auto
Bert's Inn
Mirror Mirror consignment
Depot Deli

We are looking forward to May 2nd when we will hold a retreat. The retreat is open to all women of the parish. Looking beyond May we will be part of the parish's annual Country Fair and Auction. I will be heading up the gourmet bake table,. It's not too early for all of our wonderful bakers to start thinking about what they would like to contribute. Let me know so I can start a list. Thank you. Our next meeting is June 7th. See you there.

Jeanne VanHoesen

A Week in July under the big tent

Summer is just around the corner and July is a busy time at St. John in the Wilderness. We will kick off a week full of activities with the Country Fair and Auction on Saturday, July 11th. Solicitations for auction items have already been distributed. On Sunday, July 12th, we will host our annual pork barbecue. Everyone is invited! Wednesday evening, there will be a family outdoor movie night. The week will wrap up with the Sparkling Summer Soiree on Saturday evening, July 18th.

Mark these dates on your calendar now and join us in July.

Louise Peterson

MX Morningstar Farm

For those who attended coffee hour on March 22, here is contact information:

www.mxmorningstarfarm.com

518 329-7994

Jess Camp: Jess@mxmorningstarfarm.com

Holy Week at St. John's

March 29, Palm Sunday, 8AM and 10AM services

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April 3, Good Friday, 10AM and 7:30PM services

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