



A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness
Copake Falls, New York
September 2014

Fall 2014

Thoughts from the Wilderness

“Cultivate an attitude of gratitude” is one of the slogans that people in 12 step recovery programs use. For someone recovering from alcohol or drug addiction, being grateful can be a life or death choice. That is, for an addict to wallow in ingratitude or resentment can lead to a relapse, which can lead to death. Of course gratitude is a good attitude for *everyone* to have when possible, as it opens us to far more than sobriety. An attitude of gratitude brings us joy, peace, and better relationships. Most basically, gratitude puts us more in touch with reality. The reality that one’s very life is a gift from God. This basic gratitude to God for life fosters within us gratitude for all of God’s blessings and is contagious, inspiring gratitude in others.

It’s not necessarily easy to maintain an attitude of gratitude in the face of the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune that we all face sooner or later. But the sooner we are able to get back to gratitude after suffering, the happier we will be. And gratitude can help us put suffering in perspective and get through it quicker. The more consistently we are in that place of gratitude because of God’s many blessings and in spite of suffering, the more successful we are at life.

I’ve often spoken about the importance of gratitude in this column. For example, I’ve highlighted this scripture: *Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights*, James 1:17. Meister Eckhart said, “If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is ‘thank you,’ it will be enough.” So God is the source of our lives and every blessing. If we simply say thank you to God and maintain that attitude (with God’s help, which we are also grateful for), then we’ve done most of our work! We’ll then be energized, see things as they really are, and respond to God, people, and events with gratitude and love.

As we grow in gratitude, our awareness of how others bless us also increases. If you haven’t done so, please read (or reread) my Rector’s Report from our Annual Meeting in January for my thorough and heartfelt expressions of gratitude to individuals and all who are members and friends of St. John In the Wilderness. Since then I have and we have more to be grateful for.

Thank you and peace, *John+*

This article is reprinted from the September 2011 Voice



Salads a big success!

Thanks to everyone who contributed a salad to the "Gourmet Salad Bar" on Copake Falls Day. It was a huge success! We sold out in an hour and a half, and made over \$700. We had to turn away many disappointed customers! We could have easily sold twice as much! Thanks too to everyone who helped serve the salads. It was a fun event!

Mibs Zelle

ECW has plans

The September meeting of ECW scheduled for the 7th of September will be rescheduled for the 14th, same time & same place as usual. We will be holding a bakeless bake sale on the 21st of September.

The December Christmas luncheon will be December 14th. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Jeanne VanHoesen

Successful Summer Soiree

This letter was published in the Columbia Paper after the success of our Sparkling Summer Soiree:

To the Editor,

Warm thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our Summer Sparkling Soiree last Saturday, July 19, at St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls. Whether you offered your time, talent, goods and services or financial support, your generosity was greatly appreciated.

Our event served as a benefit for the Upjohn Preservation Fund, created to help us maintain our historic Carpenter Gothic church, completed in 1852. The current priority is to replace the church roof before winter arrives. The festivities included a delightful Jazz in the Wilderness concert performed by John Meyers and Pete Toigo followed by a reception of local refreshments, wines and a silent auction of unique and interesting items.

We thank the generous support of members of the community along with the following businesses:

Bash Bish Bicycle
Berkshire Pottery
Church Street Deli
Camphill Village
Copake Front Porch Market
Country Gardeners Florist
Crossroads Food Shop
Depot Deli
Gina's K-9 Bed & Breakfast
Hillrock Estate Distillery
Hillsdale General Store
Hillsdale Market IGA
Jen Crosby Housekeeping & Personal Services
Jazz in the Wilderness Musicians John Meyers and Pete Toigo
Julie Gale's At the Kitchen Table
Margherita Lamanno Photography
Mediterra Collection Jewelers
Millbrook Winery
Moore & More Printing
Mt. Kisco Wines & Spirits
Olde Hudson
Pigasso Farms
Ruge's GMC Sales and Service
Sol Flower Farm CSA
Swiss Hutte
Undermountain Golf Course

Special thanks to the Pomeroy Foundation for their generosity in offering a milestone grant of \$12,500 once we reach \$10,000 in contributions.

The event will take place again next year and we look forward to another special summer evening with friends and support from our wonderful surrounding community.

Thank you,
Christine Parker

Chair, Summer Sparkling Soiree
Upjohn Preservation Fund
St. John in the Wilderness
Copake Falls

A Voice in the Wilderness

Editors: Louise and Dale Peterson

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

Upcoming issue date for 2014: November 23

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

Portrait of Kent and Marilyn Kay

Both Kent and Marilyn were born in New York City, Kent at Third and 55th, and Marilyn at 78th between First and York. They have shared many other experiences in life, going way back when they knew each other in elementary school when they cheered on their respective teams. Kent graduated from Stuyvesant High School and Marilyn from Bryant High School and then Hunter College. They were married in 1956 when Marilyn joined Kent in Ithaca, New York where he was just finishing up his degree in veterinary medicine at Cornell. Marilyn was the sole bread-winner for the Kays that year as she taught physical education in Ovid, NY. Kent first practiced as a vet in Interlaken, then in Pawling, and in 1965 the Kays moved to Millerton where they have lived ever since. In Millerton Kent set up a "mixed" practice initially emphasizing dairy work together with small animals, and later devoting the majority of his time caring for horses (hunters and jumpers).

They raised their family of four boys in Millerton (Christopher, now living in Brooklyn, Timothy in Millerton, Eugene in Minneapolis, and Clinton in Boulder). All the boys helped out in the veterinary clinic, feeding the animals and cleaning kennels, beginning in first grade. Marilyn was the "chief cook and bottle washer," or "jack of all trades," of the practice, later becoming office



manager. With the family settled in Millerton, the Kays started looking for a church, and were welcomed so warmly by the parish of St. John's, that they decided it was the right church for them. Members of the church choir for many years, they have both served on the vestry and as warden, and on search committees. Kent served on the Building & Grounds committee and successfully worked to get St. John's on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. Marilyn has been clerk of the vestry from 1994-97, and then clerk from 2000 on. She was also President of the ECW, and taught Sunday school. They have fond memories of going off on trips with the Sunday School children led by Fr. Byers including Montreal, Williamsburg, and Toronto.

They enjoy their six grand-children, Alex, 21 years old, Alycia, 18, Emily, 23, Jessica, 21 and twins Gabrielle and Genevieve, 9. Kent does beautiful work as a re-finisher of furniture, and continues to create pen and ink drawings. Marilyn likes to garden, canes furniture, paints and wallpapers, and likes to play tennis (she is part of a Ladder League with friends, playing for fun). Both have been strong members of their community over the years, and certainly, have made important contributions to St. John's, always with hard work mixed in with a lively sense of fun.

Lucy Eldridge

Benefit Brunch with Jim Wann October 26, 2014

A benefit brunch at the Greens Restaurant, Copake Country Club, will be held on October 26, 12:30-2:30pm. Fr. John will be the honored guest as we celebrate his 5 plus years of inspiring service to St. John's. The benefit will raise funds for the church's operating budget and for the Taconic Hills Backpack Program of the Northeast New York

Food Bank. Jim Wann, a parish member, Broadway composer and singer, will perform at the brunch in the lovely patio room at the Greens. Invitations will be mailed shortly to the parish and friends of St. John's. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon.

Lucy Eldridge

A Star is Born

Joseph Bahr, a member of Wendy's Sunday School class, made his acting debut on Thursday, July 31st, at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. Joe attended the Mac-Haydn Musical Theater Workshop 2014 and played "mouse" and "grand duke" in Cinderella. Joe's bright eyes and infectious smile lit up the stage in both roles. It was obvious he



was enjoying himself. Friends who attended his performances on Thursday and Friday were very proud of him as were his mom, Amy, his dad, Dave, and his brother, Ryan. Joe and his family live in Queens, NY and spend their summers at Camp Waubeeka in Copake.

Congratulations, Joe!

Susan Mollo

Pledge Campaign for 2015

The pledge campaign for 2015 will start this year in late September. St. John's stewardship committee met on Sunday August 31 and set a goal to increase pledge amounts and pledgers by 10%. We will have various members of the parish give brief talks after Sunday services to high-light the ongoing pledge drive.

Our goal is to have all pledge cards in by **Saturday November 8**, the date set for the annual stewardship dinner. Pledges to St. John's go toward the day to day expenses of the church.

With these pledge commitments in hand, the finance committee will then begin work on the church's budget for 2015.

St. John's is a thriving, loving community; help us to increase our activities in the ever-growing circle of our efforts. When we are generous as pledgers, St. John's can then be even more generous to others. Help us reach our 10% goal of increasing pledge amounts and pledgers. Your pledges will be gratefully received.

Lucy Eldridge, Stewardship Committee

Roof Project

We are very close to our goal of \$35,000 to \$40,000 for replacing the roof on the church. The church received a matching gift of \$10,000 from the Pomeroy Foundation and more than \$12,000 raised in the Summer Sparking Soiree. These gifts are supplemented by funds remaining from the Bell Tower restoration.

Great thanks go to Christine Parker and Pete

Krane for their wonderful leadership on the Soiree. More than 50 people attended the concert by Winds in the Wilderness and the reception under the tent. It was a beautiful summer evening with great food and drink and excellent company.

If you haven't yet contributed to the roof replacement, please do! We are in need of \$5,000 more to cover this much needed project.

We remember

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; let light perpetual shine upon them.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP pg. 505)

A Memorial Eucharist for Florence Hauptman (who passed away in December, 2013), Kent Kay's mother, was held on Saturday, August 2nd at St. John in the Wilderness.

A Committal Service for Clare Carman (who passed away on July 23) was held at St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls on Saturday, August 2nd.

Funeral services for Barbara Krufchinski (who passed away on June 3rd) were held on Friday June 6,

A Service of Remembrance for William I. Miller (who passed away February 1) was held Saturday February 8, 2014 at the Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness.

2014 at Peck and Peck Funeral Home in Copake, NY.

A Funeral Service for Jean Kahil, a member of St. John in the Wilderness and of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Newtown, PA, was held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Newtown, PA on Sunday, June 22, 2014.

Larry Lamendola, Rose Ann Van De Water's brother, passed away on Monday, June 2, 2014. A Funeral mass was held on June 7, 2014 at St. Mary's Church, Marlboro, NY.

Funeral services for Connie Hewlett (who passed away March 17), Hope Hewlett's mother and Jaclynn Boyd's grandmother, were held on March 21, at the Allen Funeral Home, Pleasant Valley, New York.

A Service of Remembrance for Anne W. Zittel (who passed away January 7) was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at Christ Church Episcopal, Hudson, NY.



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.

Events for September, October, November and December

Sunday, September 14. ECW meeting after church.

Saturday, September 27. 5k Fundraiser for the
Taconic Hills Backpack Program.

Sunday, October 12. Harvest Fest starting at 1 pm

Sunday, October 26. Benefit for St. John with Jim
Wann at the Greens Restaurant. 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Saturday, November 8. Stewardship Potluck Dinner,
Burke Hall.

Sunday, November 9, Winds in the Wilderness
concert, 3 pm

Sunday, December 7. Winter Walk. Holiday
Bazaar, 1:00 - 4:00 pm Salisbury Congregational
Church Handbell Choir, 3:30 pm

Wednesday, December 17. Blue Christmas. 6:00
pm

Wednesday, December 24. Christmas Eve Service.
7:00 pm Carols. 7:30 pm Service.

Thursday, December 25. Christmas Day Service.
10:00 am.

Sunday, December 28. Winds in the Wilderness
Concert. 3:00 pm

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Newsletter of the
Church of St. John in the Wilderness
(Episcopal)
Copake Falls, New York

The Rev. John Thompson, Rector

Rebecca Garrard (2015) Warden

Lucy Eldridge (16) Warden

Vestry

Robert Dodd (16) Dale Peterson (15)

Brian Boom (17) Regina Shea (17)

Martha Glantz (16) Jeanne Van Hoesen (15)

Marilyn Kay, Clerk of the Vestry

Louise Peterson, Treasurer

Eucharists

Sunday, 8:00 AM (spoken)

Sunday, 10:00 AM (choral)

www.stjohnw.org

www.facebook.com/stjohnwilderness

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