

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

OCTOBER 2007

Father Walt's "In the Wilderness Musings"

Dear Parish Family,

A few years ago the Department of Evangelism of the Episcopal Church conducted a survey of thousands of active communicants in a variety of parish churches who were not life-long members of their respective churches, asking them what the main thing was that had attracted them to that church in the first place. What would you guess was the factor cited by the vast majority of the respondents? Was it the fact that they were Episcopalians who, upon moving into town, had sought out the nearest Episcopal Church? Was it the church's convenient location? Was it the beauty of the church building? Was it that they had consulted the Yellow Pages in the phone book?, or the church notices in the local newspaper? Was it that they had heard that the preaching was outstanding; the music uplifting; and the church school program creative and fun? In fact, it was none of these things.

The reason most gave for their first coming to the church where they were now active communicants was , "Somebody who was an active and enthusiastic member of the congregation invited me to come with them one Sunday. And I'm so glad they did, because I, on my own, being basically a shy person probably would never have walked through the door of that church on my own, and never would have become part of a faith community which has come to mean so much to me." "Why did I come to this church in the first place? Reason #1 - **SOMEONE INVITED ME TO COME ONE SUNDAY AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS CHURCH AND WITH THIS PARISH FAMILY, AND, TEN YEARS LATER, HERE I AM TODAY!"**

The head of the Department of Evangelism who conducted this survey suggests that if any of us who are active and enthusiastic members of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness would extend the following invitation to someone who doesn't have a church home, in exactly these words, 80% of those thus invited will accept that invitation and end up becoming active and enthusiastic members of St. John's themselves.

Here it is:

WILL YOU COME WITH ME (a personal invitation)
(There's going to be at least one other person you know in the congregation that morning. You won't be a total stranger. You won't be alone.)

THIS SUNDAY (A specific date - none of this 'we'll have to get together sometime' bit, which we all know rarely, if ever, happens.)

TO THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS? (Not just to any church, but to my church -to a church that means so much to my family and to me that I want to share its life with you.) There's a small matter of 'brand recognition' here!

I'LL PICK YOU UP. (I want to do everything I can to ease your first visit to St John's. As the Greyhound ad puts it so well, you can even "leave the driving to us.")

Many of you have told me just how much being a member of St. John's means to you, and what a warm welcome you have always experienced in this parish's worship and life. Beautiful experiences are meant to be shared. Christian hospitality is meant to be offered. Remember what the survey of the unchurched revealed. 80% of those to whom we extend the invitation will respond favorably to it. Whom will you invite to share the life of our parish family? Whom will you bring with you this Sunday to The Church of St. John in the Wilderness? What time will you pick them up? Share the joy!

Affectionately,

Fr. Walt

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Episcopal Church Women

The ECW met Tuesday, October 2nd and finalized some of their Fall activities:

Dorothy Baker, United Thank Offering Chairman, will collect the boxes and donation envelopes for the Fall Ingathering October 1st through October 28th, the final date for donations.

The women, led by Susan Mollo, will fill the Shoe Boxes for Samaritan's Purse at their November 6th meeting

Christmas Friends collections will start November 25 and end December 15th.

The women are trying to plan a Christmas Luncheon meeting/party for December 2nd. We hope to have more details by November 6th.

The women have noticed that the basket collection for the Roe Jan Food Pantry is in need of help from our Church family. Please remember Thanksgiving is coming up soon.

See you all on November 6th.

With Thanks,
Marg McClurg, President

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Birthdays in October

October 8	Beatrice A, Croteau
October 9	Mary Ann Byers
October 10	Edward C. Peck
October 13	Richard Peck
October 21	Frances Neil

News from the Diocese and Beyond

The Episcopal Bishops Respond to the Primates' Ultimatum

The House of Bishops finished its six-day meeting in New Orleans Tuesday, September 25, delivering a response to the Anglican Primates' Dar es Salaam ultimatum in the form of seven statements and explanations thereof. Carefully crafted to steer between reefs on the right and left, the response passed the House on a voice vote, with some abstentions but just one nay. Four Network bishops had left the meeting before the vote. Our bishop was not one of them.

Here is the Bishops' summary of their response.:

- We reconfirm that resolution B033 of General Convention 2006 (The Election of Bishops) calls upon bishops with jurisdiction and Standing Committees "to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion."
- We pledge as a body not to authorize public rites for the blessing of same-sex unions.
- We commend our Presiding Bishop's plan for episcopal visitors. We deplore incursions into our jurisdictions by uninvited bishops and call for them to end.
- We support the Presiding Bishop in seeking communion-wide consultation in a manner that is in accord with our Constitution and Canons.
- We call for increasing implementation of the listening process across the Communion and for a report on its progress to Lambeth 2008.
- We support the Archbishop of Canterbury in his expressed desire to explore ways for the Bishop of New Hampshire to participate in the Lambeth Conference.
- We call for unequivocal and active commitment to the civil rights, safety, and dignity of gay and lesbian persons.

Our House of Bishops neither capitulated to the Primates nor brushed them off. Critical questions now are: 1) How will the primates and the Archbishop of Canterbury respond to the Episcopal Church's latest attempt at accommodation? 2) What, if anything, will the Network and the Global South Primates do? 3) How will the HoB's response affect the Diocese of Albany?

As one might expect, early returns from the primates have been mixed. Ireland, Mexico, Scotland, and Australia have praised the Bishops' statement. The Archbishops of Nigeria and Kenya have condemned it, and such conservative-evangelical organizations as the Network, Stand Firm, and the American Anglican Council have done so bitterly. Press reactions have been so varied that we wonder if all reporters read the same statement!

The Network and its associated Common Cause Partners met in Pittsburgh after the HoB meeting. The CCP remains intent on forming a conservative-evangelical province in the USA, but poor attendance by active Episcopal bishops suggests that their effort is losing steam.

Bp. Love attended the CCP's meeting, but, as he told the September 29 meeting of Albany's Diocesan Council, Trustees and Standing Committee, "only as an observer." He is not yet ready to decide whether Albany needs to hold a special convention to assess its future. For now, parishes should focus on their own missions and needs, which in our case include bidding "Farewell" to one rector and "Welcome" to another.

Fog still shrouds the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, but it lifted a bit in New Orleans. Perhaps the most hopeful thing that occurred there last week was a two day break during which conservative, liberals, and everyone in between swapped their miters for construction helmets and worked together to help rebuild the shattered city.

Jesus would have approved.

- Marya and Bob Dodd

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Lectionary for October

Sunday, October 7 Proper 22
Psalm 37:1-18 Habakkuk 1:1-13, 2:1-4
 2 Timothy 1:1-14
 Luke 17: 5-10

Sunday, October 14 Proper 23
Psalm 113 Ruth 1: 1-19a
 2 Timothy 2:3-15
 Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 21 Proper 24
Psalm 121 Genesis 32:3-8,22-30
 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
 Luke 18: 1-8a

Sunday, October 28 Proper 25
Psalm 84 Jeremiah 14:1-10, 19-22
 2 Timothy 4: 6-8,16-18

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Holy Days

St. Luke October 18
St. James of Jerusalem October 23
St. Simon and
 St. Jude October 28

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Prayer of St. Francis
(Feast of St. Francis October 4th)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as the understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



LAY MINISTRIES OCTOBER 2007

Date	Altar	Ushers	Lector	Prayers	LEM
10/7 8am	Knox	JC Peck			Koeppel
10 am		J.Peck R. Dodd	M.Zelley	L. Eldridge	M. Dodd
10/14 8am	Langlois	Croteau			Koeppel
10am		D. Baker J. Baker	M. Zelley	L. Eldridge	M.Dodd
10/21 8am	Zelley	Croteau			Koeppel
10am		J. Peck L. Skelton	M. Kay	K. Kay	M. Dodd
10/28 8am	Skelton	O. Garrett			Koeppel
10am		R.Dodd S. Mollo	P.Royal	M. Zelley	M. Dodd

Have
You
Pledged?

