

# The Messenger

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

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Advent 2007

## Father Walt's "In the Wilderness Musings"



HAPPY NEW YEAR! This greeting might seem to be a bit premature, and in the secular calendar it would be. In the church calendar, however, it's right on the mark, for the First Sunday of Advent (December 2<sup>nd</sup> this year) is the church's "New Year's Day", beginning a new liturgical year. The Church Year traces the life of Christ, and as a worshiping community, we get to experience the life of Christ vicariously as we re-present the Sacred Story in song, and readings; in symbols, in colors, and in liturgical drama.

The Season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. And ends the day before Christmas. The liturgical color may be either violet (the color of penitence, and of preparation for a major feast) or blue (recently adopted by many churches to make clear that Advent is not, like Lent, a penitential season).

The primary symbol of Advent is the "Advent Wreath". A large one containing three violet and one rose candle, or four blue candles, is placed in the Sanctuary of the Church, and a smaller one families are encouraged to place on their dinner tables during Advent. One candle is lit on the first Sunday in Advent, saying the collect for that Sunday; two on the second; three on the third, etc. each with the collect for that Sunday.

The word "Advent" literally means a "coming" or an "arrival". In this season we talk about the three comings of Christ: his first coming to the manger in Bethlehem at Christmas; his present coming into our lives through our reception of His spiritual Body and Blood in Holy Communion; and his Presence in prayer and meditation, and the reading of His Word; and His future coming at the End of Time to "judge both the living and the dead." (So in a sense Advent is both the beginning and the end of the story.)

The major figure of the Advent Season is John the Baptist, our patron saint, as he foretells the Savior's birth at Christmas, but also calls for repentance and preparation and speaks eloquently about the last Judgement.

The hymns during Advent reflect the major themes of the season: John the Baptist's call for preparation and repentance (e.g. "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry, announces that the Lord is nigh...") and the second coming of Christ (e.g. "Lo, He comes with clouds descending...")

Other things that will be different in our worship beginning Advent 1 2007, will be that we will move from Cycle C to Cycle A in our three year Eucharistic Lectionary(i.e. the set reading for each Sunday) The Gospel readings in year A come mostly from Matthew; year B from Mark; and year C from Luke. Readings from Johns’s Gospel are interspersed throughout the three years. The three year cycle insures that preachers don’t have to preach on the same readings year after year after year, and congregations don’t have to listen to the same readings and preaching as well.

The next thing that will be different beginning Advent 1 2007 is that by vote of our Church’s General Convention, we will no longer be using the Lectionary found at the back of our Prayer Book (which was peculiar to Anglicans amongst churches using fixed lectionaries) but will be utilizing the “Revised Common Lectionary”, which is the one used by Roman Catholics and most mainline Protestant Churches. My wife and I have given the new RCL Lectern book of Readings and the new RCL Book of the Gospels, for our use in Eucharistic Celebrations. The Sunday Service Leaflets’ Lectionary inserts which the congregation will be utilizing will also be according to the Revised Common Lectionary.

Other small changes in our Sunday Eucharistic liturgies in Advent will be the substitution of the Kyrie for the Gloria; the use of Eucharistic Prayer “A” (rather than “B” that we used on Sundays after Pentecost), and new musical settings for the Sanctus and Agnus Dei.

Advent is a season of hope; of joyful anticipation; of repentance and new beginnings’ of preparation for the celebration of the Savior’s birth in Bethlehem; and for his Birth in our hearts and lives today believing, in the words of the beloved Christmas Carol: “where meek hearts will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.”) So I guess I’ll be closing with a reversal of the usual greeting, and wish you all a “Happy New Year and a Merry Christmas.” IN future editions of The Messenger, I will continue my ‘musings’ about other Seasons of the Church year. Stay tuned”

Affectionately,  
Fr. Walt

### **Search Committee News**

The Search Committee has met twice this fall to begin the process of finding a new rector for St. John’s. The full membership of the search Committee is the following: Marya Dodd, Lucy Eldridge (chair), Karen Flynn, John Haight, Harry Koeppel, Wendy Langlois, Mibs Zelle, and Walt Zelle (advisor).

In addition, a sub-committee (John Haight, Mibs Zelle as co-chairs, Wendy Langlois and Tonya Carter) has been formed to develop a self-study questionnaire to be sent

to all members of the parish. The questionnaire was disseminated on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at the 8 AM and 10 AM services,

Once received, please fill it out and return it no later than Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The information gathered from the self-study will be the basis of forming a position profile for candidates for rector of St. John’s. The self-study will give us both demographic data of the parish members and future direction for the Church of St. John in the Wilderness.

Lucy Eldridge, Chairman



## Church School

The Church School kids are going to have a busy December. We are going to create a Jesse Tree to put up in Burke Hall in place of a Christmas Tree. We

are now making the ornaments.

We will be making home-baked goods for shut-ins. If anyone has an individual they would like to add to our list, please let us know.

We are also planning our Epiphany Play. The play will take place during the 10 AM service on January 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be putting up a sign-oup sheet at Church asking people to help us fill the various parts of shepherds, angels, kings, etc. We have four people in Church School - so we do need help! Any questions or inquiries, please contact Wendy Langlois @ 329-0262 or [jlwl@fairpoint.net](mailto:jlwl@fairpoint.net)

We ask that parishioners save their Christmas cards for the Church School. We use them for projects. Thank you!

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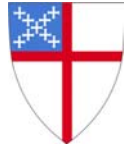


December 22  
December 30

Florence Hauptman  
Rev. Barbara Morgan

## House of Deputies President

## to Visit Albany!



At the invitation of Albany Via Media, Bonnie Anderson, the President of the Episcopal Church's House of Deputies will visit St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Albany on Saturday, January 19. She will preach at a Eucharist at 1 PM. Following the Eucharist she will join the congregation for a social hour and then a discussion and question and answer period. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the mission of the Episcopal Church and what the national church is doing to solve the problems within the Anglican Communion that we have heard so much about. Join us for what promises to be a very interesting afternoon.

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## Feeding Sheep

by Ann Weems

He said, "Feed my sheep."  
There were no conditions:  
Least of all, Feed my sheep if they deserve it.  
Feed my sheep if you feel like it.  
Feed my sheep if you have any leftovers.  
Feed my sheep if the mood strikes you.  
if the economy's OK...  
if you're not too busy..  
No conditions...just, "Feed my sheep."  
Could it be that God's Kingdom will come  
when each lamb is fed?  
We who have agreed to keep covenant  
are called to feed sheep  
Even when it means the grazing will be  
done on our own front lawns.

## Lectionary for Advent and Christmas

### First Sunday of Advent - 12/2/2007

Psalm 122            Isaiah 2:1-5  
                               Romans 13:11-14  
                               Matthew 24:36-44

### Second Sunday of Advent - 12/9/2007

Psalm 72:1-7,18-19    Isaiah 11:1-10  
                               Romans 15:4-13  
                               Matthew 3:1-12

### Third Sunday of Advent - 12/16/2007

Psalm 146:4-9        Isaiah 35:1-10  
                               James 5:7-10  
                               Matthew 11:2-11

### Fourth Sunday of Advent- 12/23/2007

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18    Isaiah 7:10-16  
                               Romans 1:1-7  
                               Matthew 1:18-25

### Christmas Eve - December 24, 2007

Psalm 96              Isaiah 9:2-7  
                               Titus 2:11-14  
                               Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

### 1 Christmas - December 30, 2007

Psalm 147             Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3  
                               Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7  
                               John 1:1-18

### The Epiphany - January 6, 2008

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14    Isaiah 60:1-6  
                               Ephesians 3:1-12  
                               Matthew 2:1-12

### 1 Epiphany - January 13, 2008

Psalm 29              Isaiah 42:1-9  
                               Acts 10:34-43  
                               Matthew 3:13-17

### 2 Epiphany - January 20, 2008

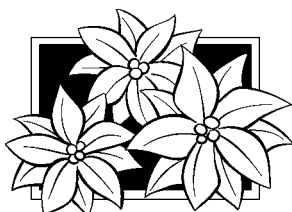
Psalm 40:1-12        Isaiah 49:1-7  
                               1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
                               John 1:29-42

### 3 Epiphany - January 27, 2008

Psalm 27:1, 5-13     Isaiah 9:1-4  
                               1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
                               Matthew 4:12-23

### Last Epiphany - February 3, 2008

Psalm 2                Exodus 24:12-18  
                               2 Peter 1:16-21  
                               Matthew 17:1-9



## Order Christmas Flowers and Greens and Candles

**POINSETTIAS** to decorate the Church no later than **Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**.  
 Send or give a check

for flowers to Jane Knox, P.O. Box 396, Copake, NY 12516 (329-6760) or  
 for candles to Babs Croteau, 4412 Route 23, Claverack, NY 12513.

Please state whether these are *In Memory of...* or *In Honor of...*

## Lay Ministries - December

Date	Altar	Ushers	Lector	Prayers	LEM
12/2 8 am	Skelton	Croteau			Koepfel
10 am		S. Mollo R. Dodd	Freeston	L. Eldridge	J. Peck
12/9 8 am	Freeston	Garrett			Koepfel
10 am		D. Baker J. Baker	P. Royal	M. Kay	J. Peck
12/16 8am	Knox	Croteau			Koepfel
10am		R. Dodd C. Fox	M. Kay	P. Royal	M. Dodd
12/23 8am	Langlois	Garrett			Koepfel
10 am		J. Peck L. Eldridge	P. Royal Freeston	K. Kay	Chittick
12/24 7:30 PM		C Fox R. Dodd Croteau	M. Dodd	M. Kay	Anderson
12/30 8am	Zelley	Garrett			Koepfel
10 am		D. Baker J. Baker	Freeston	L. Eldridge	M. Dodd

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT  
LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK  
HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.

