

# The Messenger

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

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## The Country Fair and Auction and Barbecue

Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12

We have been very fortunate this year to have the entire contents of a home in North Hillsdale donated to our Country Fair and Auction! A crew of 11 parishioners cleaned out the house on Saturday, May 16, and delivered six truckloads of furniture, lamps, kitchen supplies, porch furniture, etc. to a barn owned by Elen and David Chittick. Thanks to all who participated!

Our work is just beginning. It's time now to start looking through YOUR attic, garage, and spare rooms for items to be sold or auctioned at the Fair. Please remember that all items must be CLEAN and in WORKING ORDER. If you donate items that have parts be sure that all of the parts are included. Over the years we have had to use expensive dumpster space to get rid of items that were not suitable. We DO NOT take large appliances or clothing. We cannot emphasize enough that we can accept only clean and saleable items.

The sign-up sheet for jobs at the fair is in the narthex. Please sign-up for assignments as you can. We need everyone's help to make this a success. There are lots of places you can help:

- setting up a table
- working a table
- helping with the Auction
- assisting at the Snack Bar
- serving and helping with the Barbecue on Sunday

and, of course,

- Cleaning-up after the Barbecue on Sunday

The Crafters meet every Tuesday at 6 PM in Burke Hall to make and prepare items for the Craft Table. Please join us - we could use your creative spirit! Plus, we have lots of fun.

**IMPORTANT THIS YEAR** - We will have to move all of the items from the barn to the church on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. Since the bulk of the furniture is being stored in Ancram, we need to have everything on site a day early. Friday will be a very busy day spent sorting and pricing. Burke Hall will be closed as of Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> for donations. Tables will be marked for drop-offs. I will let you know drop-off times and dates closer to the event. If you can spare some time during these hours to accept and inspect donations, that would be appreciated.

Raffle tickets will be sold by the ECW at Copake Community Day , June 20. If you need

more tickets or would like to set up shop at the IGA, etc. please let Babs Croteau know. We cannot thank you enough for all your help and support thus far. Since this is our first year chairing the event we appreciate your input and advice.

If you need any further information, please call one of us.

Susan Mollo (329-0395)

Lucy Eldridge (329-0530) Co-Chairs of the Country Fair and Auction

### **An Anglican Covenant: ?**

One of the recommendations of the framers of the Windsor Report was the formulation of an “Anglican Covenant” which would set forth the “bedrock” doctrinal affirmations that members of the “Anglican Communion” might be expected to subscribe to if they were legitimately to describe themselves as Anglican Christians in Communion with other Anglican Christians throughout the world. The draft “Covenant” is expected to come before the upcoming General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Anaheim, California, this summer. However, it is reported that the Presiding Bishop and the leadership of the Episcopal Church favor putting off voting on whether this Covenant should be subscribed to until the next General Convention when this province of the Anglican Communion will have had time to study it, disseminate it among the clergy and communicants of this church for their discussion and input, and formulate a response. A group of Bishops, including our own Diocesan, Bishop Love, have stated their intention to sign on to the Covenant immediately whether or not the general Convention chooses to put it up for a vote this year.

Some members of our Diocesan Family might be tempted to ask, “Why would anyone object to subscribing to a

statement of basic beliefs which might serve to unify the Churches of the Anglican Communion? The first objection is that by setting forth a standard of “orthodoxy” to which the various provinces which comprise the Anglican Communion would have to subscribe in order to be considered authentically “Anglican” would put us in the very un-Anglican position of being a “confessional church.”

The Roman Catholic Church has always been a “confessional church” holding the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas (i.e. Thomistic Theology) as the standard of orthodoxy and thus the litmus test against which all the formulations of Catholic theologians must be measured along with the “infallible teachings” of the Papacy. This, of course, gets them into the kind of pickle they find themselves in, for example, when Aristotle’s theory of “Natural Law” which Aquinas espoused, forces Popes and Catholic theologians to continue in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to condemn the use of birth control devices and lobby against the distribution of condoms in countries where AIDS is rampant.

Other Reformation Churches are identified as “Confessional Churches” because they have statements of orthodox belief, e.g. the Lutheran “Augsburg Confession” and the Calvinist Reformed Church’s “Westminster Confession.” In the English Reformation there was no such instrument involved. The closest to it were the “Thirty Nine Articles” which spelled out

where we differed from the Roman Catholic Church from which we had separated.

It is significant, I believe, that the Thirty Nine Articles” have been relegated to the “Historical Section” at the back of our Prayer book, and probably the vast majority of Anglican Christians don’t even know that they exist. Anglicans over the years have been wary of setting up “written in concrete theological statements of orthodoxy, believing that truth is most likely to arise from the free interchange of ideas, and thus, until recently, we have been content to allow a very wide roof under which theological diversity is welcome and honored. What has principally united Anglicans over the centuries has been the way we worship. (“Lex orate, Lex credente” - the rule of worship is the rule of faith) What has united us more than anything is the Book of Common Prayer.

To say that we are not a confessional church with a set in concrete standard of orthodoxy does not mean that we have no statements of agreement to which most Anglicans over the years since they were formulated have generally subscribed. The major one is **The Lambeth Quadrilateral**, an instrument which was formulated to describe what would be the “bottom line” for Anglicans in any ecumenical discussions. They were:

1. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as containing all things necessary to salvation.
2. The Apostles and Nicene Creeds as the summary statements of the Christian Faith.
3. The “Two Gospel Sacraments”: Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.
4. The three-fold ministry of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

This is all we would ask of other

Christian bodies who would enter into Communion with us, so why can’t we be content to allow these to be the “Bottom line” for us Anglicans to be in communion with each other?

The third problem with providing a “Covenant Statement” of Anglican Orthodoxy has to do with the source of authority in the Church and Anglican polity. What, for example, is the nature of the Anglican Communion? It is this author’s understanding that the Anglican Communion is a confederation of autonomous national churches or “provinces”. For a long time in our Church’s history there has been no such thing as the concept of an “Anglican Communion”. Each notional church was, as it still remains, a “law unto itself”.

The highest authority in the Episcopal Church, for example, is the General Convention, and the chief prelate is the Presiding Bishop. We are democratically governed in the formulation of canons, the revisions of our Prayer books and Hymnals, etc. Other provinces of the Anglican Communion may not be governed in the same way, but they share with us in being a “Law unto themselves.” On short, Anglicanism is not an hierarchical church. No other ecclesiastical body, be it the Lambeth Council, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the meetings of the primates, or the Anglican Consultative Council has any authority over any of the constituent provinces. And this includes drawing up a standard of orthodoxy called an “Anglican Covenant” to which an autonomous national church would be forced to subscribe in order to be in communion with other churches in the “Anglican Communion.”

I, like most priests of the Episcopal Church, was a convert to this Church. I was drawn to this church by two things - the

richness and reverence of its worship, and the open-mindedness and toleration of differences while maintaining the sense that we are in communion with each other because in our Baptisms we have become one with Christ and thus with each other. I still believe that these are our greatest strengths and I would hate to see them compromised.

Father Walt Zelle

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## How is Father John?

At the Sunday Eucharist each week the parish is given an update on Father John's progress, but many of us don't hear the news because we live far away or are unable to attend the worship service. This note is for those folks.

Father John is still at Whittier Rehab Center in Ghent and is making very good progress with walking. Bob and I, having just returned from a vacation trip to the Southwest, stopped in to see him and were impressed with how well he looks and how well he walks now - an impressive improvement in just a few weeks. However, he has been told that he must have a mitral valve replacement, something that he knew might be the case. That is more serious surgery and more recovery time for him. He tires easily and really needs to get this taken care of. At this point we do not know when the surgery will take place.

Please keep John in your prayers. He has had a very difficult time this winter and spring and needs to know we are praying for him. When we know the date of the surgery it will be announced and we will gather at the church as we did when he had the

aneurysm surgery to pray and keep vigil for him.

Marya Dodd

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## ECW

Good News! Our beloved President, Marge McClurg, is home and recovering nicely. The women met on May 5 and discussed selling raffle tickets. Raffle prizes and tickets are at Ginny Boughton's house. Babs Croteau has additional tickets. We will be selling tickets at Copake Falls Day Yard Sale on May 22nd and at Copake Day on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are always needed.

Our next meeting will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 PM in Burke Hal. All women are invited and we look forward to seeing you then.

Babs Croteau, Vice President

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## Buildings and Grounds

Based on the calendar, we are approaching the onslaught of Summer and all the great amenities that go along with it. However, Spring is still here and it is the time of year to examine our surroundings (Buildings and grounds) to see what items should be brought to our attention for improvements, repairs, etc.

The number one item on our list was the roof of the Parish Office which required stripping the old shingles, installing waterproof underlayment (ice and water shield), installing new “life” shingles, new flashing and ridge cap. The Building Committee had decided to do the job “in house” to save money - so the job was scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>. Under the guidance of Bob Flynn, we had Harry Garrett, Kent Kay, Jane Peck and myself as we tackled the job and very nearly completed it that same day. Bob and Harry came back to put the finishing touches on it on the 20<sup>th</sup>. However, I have to give credit where credit is due. The Buildings and grounds Committee is deeply indebted to Bob Flynn for all the equipment, tools, and leadership he provided to a group

of novice helpers. Thanks, Bob, for a job well done!

At this writing we are still waiting for our Electric Contractor to complete the electric pole transfer and also to correct a recently discovered problem with overhead wires to the light poles opposite the Church entrance. Hopefully, this will be completed in the near future.

We still remain cognizant to the need of preventive maintenance on our structures and mechanicals contained therein for which we are responsible.

Hank Croteau, Chairman

## Lay Ministries

| Date | Altar       | Ushers               | Lector      | Prayer   | LEM         |
|------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 5/17 | Elen        | C.Fox<br>Croteau     | P. Royal    | Elen F.  | H. Koepfel  |
| 5/24 | Jane        | R. Dodd<br>S. Mollo  | M. Kay      | K. Kay   | M. Dodd     |
| 5/31 | Wendy       | J. Peck<br>C. Fox    | Mibs        | Lucy E.  | P. Royal    |
| 6/7  | Mibs        | Croteau<br>J. Baker  | D. Baker    | Mibs Z.  | M. Anderson |
| 6/14 | Lucy/Jeanne | R. Dodd<br>C. Fox    | E. Freeston | P. Royal | J. Peck     |
| 6/21 | Elen        | S. Mollo<br>J. Peck  | R. Dodd     | Lucy E.  | M. Dodd     |
| 6/28 | Jane        | J. Baker<br>D. Baker | K.Kay       | M. Kay   | H. Koepfel  |

Please keep this chart and check it weekly. Updated versions will appear in the bulletins. If you know that you are unavailable for a date get a substitute if you are already assigned. Inform Marya Dodd (325-1492) ahead of time so you won't be assigned a job that day.