

A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls, New York. September 2016.

Thoughts from the Wilderness

I'm glad my work involves sharing (and trying to live) good news. This good news: God's love for all revealed in creation and embodied in Jesus. As we open ourselves to God's Spirit we experience this love – and this inspires hope for the future. Hope is something we all need. Hope contrasts with despair and it also contrasts with cynicism.

Despair literally means without hope. Cynicism is, “an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest; skepticism: *public cynicism about politics*” (Oxford Dictionary). Or, “An attitude of scornful or jaded negativity, especially a general distrust of the integrity or professed motives of others: *the public cynicism aroused by governmental scandals*” (American Heritage Dictionary). And these two definitions of cynicism from the Macmillan Dictionary, “1) The belief that people care only about themselves and are not sincere or honest. And 2) The belief that things will not be successful or useful.”

If we believe that *people are motivated purely by self-interest*, or we have *an attitude of scornful or jaded negativity*, or we believe *people are not sincere or honest* or believe *that things will not be successful or useful* – then we are cynical. And each of these attitudes undermines hope. One might say, look at the bad news in the world or look at the world of politics – there's very good reason to be cynical. Indeed, the primary examples of cynicism in the first two definitions above are about politics.

It's true, we are not called to be Pollyannas or to be gullible. But we're also not called to be cynical or despairing. (Cynicism and despair are related – if we are cynical: generally negative or distrustful and/or believe things generally will not succeed –

then we are basically giving up hope – which is despair).

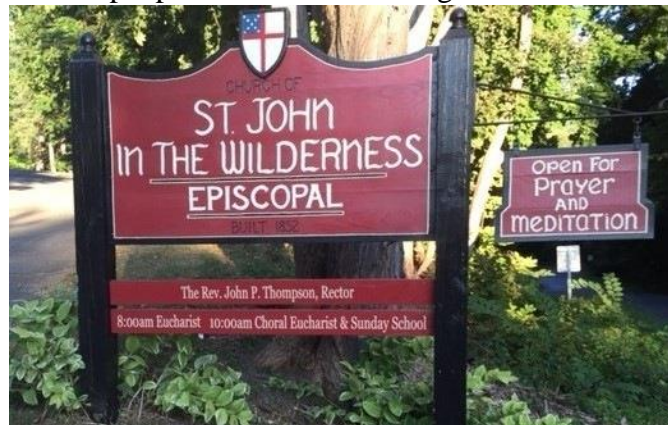
If we are not called to be gullible or cynical, what are we called to? We are called to discernment. As Christians or spiritual people, we are called to prayerful discernment. Discernment is hopeful and is a gift of the Spirit (1st Corinthians 12:10). Discernment is, “The capacity to perceive and interpret the religious and moral significance of experience in order

to make an appropriate response to God; an evaluative judgment of a particular situation” (The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics, p. 158). Though all don't believe in God, all are called to discern right from wrong and to rely on their conscience. For example, Article 18 in the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, “refers to ‘the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion’” (the Westminster Dictionary, p. 116).

All cognizant people are given the capacity to make moral decisions, i.e., are given a conscience. Our consciences are formed (for good or ill) by the people and experiences in our upbringing and lives and they are formed by our own decisions to form them. Presumably Christians and other spiritual people who open themselves to the inspiration of God will grow in wisely forming and strengthening their consciences and in their abilities to discern when making decisions. God can help us with discernment and also can give us the strength to make good decisions even when they are difficult.

Let's then be hopeful and use our life experience, including prayer, worship, Scripture and many other sources of wisdom, as we discern right from wrong in making decisions -- remembering that this



process is a joyful, invigorating opportunity not an anxious effort to be perfect.

Here is an application. As we are called to be discerning, not cynical or gullible, let us look for and pray for wisdom as we prepare to vote this November. Lacy Broemel, Manager for Communications and Operations, in the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations writes on the Episcopal Church website, “that Episcopal Church policy recognizes voting and political participation as an act of Christian stewardship.” And Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said in March 2016, “If we who are Christians participate in the political process and in the public discourse as we are called to do — the New Testament tells us that we are to participate in

the life of the polis, in the life of our society — the principle on which Christians must vote is the principle, Does this look like love of neighbor?”

And let’s pray for people in authority, including elected officials and those running for office as recommended (updating the term, king) in the 1st Timothy reading from Sunday, September 18: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity” (1st Timothy 2:1,2).

*In peace,
John+*

From the Desk of the Senior Warden

Labor Day typically marks the unofficial end of summer and at St. John’s it also marked the passing of one of our long serving and much loved parishioners, Edie Froggatt. Her life was celebrated on Labor Day and all will miss her. We also celebrated the birthday of Jane Peck another long serving and much loved parishioner.

Summer here is never boring and this summer was no exception. Many helped with the Country Fair & Auction held on July 9; thanks to all including this year’s co-chairs, Lucy Eldridge and Jane Peck. On Sunday our popular Pork BBQ was well attended and again thanks to all including Karen and Bob Flynn, Bob Callahan and Susan Mollo. Copake Falls Day once again saw St John’s an integral part of the day with our salad bar that had many delicious salads contributed by the congregation. Finally, we held our bake sale at the KOA campgrounds on Saturday September 3, which was another success. And now we are looking forward to the third annual Harvest Fest chaired by Tonya Carter on Sunday, October 9.

For the last issue of the Wilderness I wrote about our new rescue dog, Cora who is thriving in

her new home. We are working with a trainer and it is fun to see how she reacts. On her walks, I ask her to “look at me” and she does that the first couple of times and then balks. And that makes me ask why we don’t always do what we are asked to do.

As Christians we have a pretty clear idea of how we are supposed to behave as individuals and toward others. First we can rely on the Ten Commandments and if those aren’t enough we have these simple words from Jesus: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31) Speaking only for myself, I know it’s not that easy. As we move into the fall, I encourage all of us to do unto others, as we would want them to do unto us. With the bitter political season, it is easy to get caught up in the rhetoric and demonizing those who don’t agree with us. Our challenge is to be the best we can be to ourselves and to others.

Please let me know if you have questions or something that you believe we should be addressing. My email address is mjglantz@earthlink.net.

Martha Glantz

A Voice in the Wilderness

Editors: Louise and Dale Peterson

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

Remaining publication date for 2016: November 20

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

Your 2017 pledge

By early October, members and friends of the church will receive a letter about your pledge for 2017. Please consider your pledge thoughtfully and prayerfully. Think about your place in this community of faith and how the church reaches out to the community. Consider how you can help the church do even more. Look for the letter soon. And join us for a special Stewardship Dinner at 6:00 pm on Saturday, November 5

Dale Peterson

Jacob Stickle Memorial 5k

St. John in the Wilderness continues to care deeply about charitable causes within our community. This spring's 5k fundraiser raised approximately \$3,875 for the backpack program, which feeds local children in need. Within the last 2 years, St. John's has raised over \$10,000 for the Regional Food Bank of Northeast New York. This September, St. John's will join the Go Gold movement which supports childhood cancer research. On September 18th at 11:15 a.m., we will host the Jacob Stickle Memorial 5K to raise money for childhood cancer charities. Jacob was a student at Webutuck and Taconic Hills Schools before he died in 2012 at the age of 9. Please consider joining us for this worthy event. It will be a family affair, with both runners and walkers welcome. There will be no entry fee, but donations are appreciated and participants are encouraged to seek sponsors. All money raised will go towards childhood cancer charities. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check out to the American Childhood Cancer Organization or the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley. Donations can be sent to the church at PO Box 180, Copake Falls, NY 12517 or placed in the offering

For additional information please contact vestry member Rebecca Garrard by phone at (845) 797-9210 or email at garrar26@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Rebecca Garrard

Country Fair & Auction 2016

As we said at the recent wrap-up meeting of this year's auction, St. John's Country Fair &

Auction and Pork Barbecue is really a community-wide endeavor. We would like to heartily thank our many participants in this year's auction, who all helped once again, to pull off this many faceted event. Our appreciation goes to many members of the community who generously donated very nice furniture, household items, art, jewelry, garden plants, garden furnishings, books and linens.

We are grateful for the many local business partners in the community who supported the CF&A this year, including: (cash donations), Ed Herrington, Herrington Fuels, HGS Home Chef, Mt. Washington House, Brad Peck, Inc., Peck and Peck Funeral Homes and (gifts in kind), Copake Front Porch Market, and the Pond Restaurant.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who repaired furniture, picked up and stored furniture, and delivered furniture to the church. Hats off to those who set up the tents, moved items during the auction, cooked and sold items at the Snack and Salad Bars, the Boutique Table, Jewelry Table, Linen and Garden Shops, Books in the church, the Raffle, and the Bake Shop. Our appreciation to those who dealt with recording bids and manned the payment tables. Delicious salads were donated for sale as well as yummy baked goods. Kids who came to the auction had lots of fun creating craft items in Burke Hall.

The Auction online catalog featured photographs and descriptions of 100 items; the auction was advertised on the website AuctionZip. We appreciated the efforts of auctioneer Walter Jutkofsky and we thank him very much. The auction gives important support to the operating budget of the church and the profit this year was \$7,393.87.

Lucy Eldridge and Jane Peck, co-chairs

Winds in the Wilderness

Winds in the Wilderness Concerts at St. John's has reached an important milestone: 25 concerts have now been given by the group, and the 7th year of performances has just been completed. Special recognition goes to Sharon Powers, artistic director, the Board of Winds in the Wilderness and Mibs Zelle, treasurer and Elen Freeston, graphic design and production work. Winds in the Wilderness has benefited from private donations and grants from the Decentralization Program of the NY

State Council on the Arts administered through the Community Arts Program by the Columbia County Council on the Arts. The 25th concert, held on August 31, was a wonderful musical event, displaying a high level of musicianship. The program ranged from a Bach Violin Concerto to a jazz piece by Thelonius Monk. Congratulations to Winds in the Wilderness!

Lucy Eldridge

Building Report

This summer a new metal railing has been installed on the pathway to Burke Hall. This sturdy handrail will help all who have mobility challenges – and that’s almost everyone during our cold winter



month. The railing was the idea of Pauline Royal who has generously donated to its construction in memory of her late husband, Arthur. We’re very grateful.

Also this summer, a new sign was installed to replace the old sign that was weather damaged. Bob Callahan made the sign and installed. There’s a picture on page 1.. Thanks Bob.

Soon you will see new signs also on Route 22. They are the current Episcopal Church design and will be more visible and attractive than the current signs. Watch for them!

Dale Peterson

Sunday School Report

Throughout the summer months, the Sunday School kids and friends have been working on our garden. The dry weather has made it a challenge but some vegetables are starting to mature and are ready

to pick. We have tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, chard and cucumbers. We have a small variety of herbs too. It’s been wonderful seeing the kids – Joe, Ryan, Julian, Everly, and Emerson. We have met new friends too, Ann and Amos; they are from Ithaca NY. They were camping locally. It was a pleasure meeting the whole family!

Our Garden theme is “Feed My Sheep.” This theme sprang from this year’s Diocesan Convention at Speculator NY. I attended a talk given by a woman from Northern Ireland; who is associated with the mission organization CMS Ireland (Church Mission Society) – a 200 year old society. She had recently returned from missionary work in Miridi, South Sudan. She had lived there for about 12 years. Her name is Linda Abwa and her words were both enlightening and very inspirational. As their website explains, “Mission isn’t just about what happens “overseas”. Mission is something for everywhere – local and global, home and abroad”. With that thought in mind, and still carrying that inspiration in my heart, I thought our Sunday School Garden could be both mine and the children’s “Mission”. That Mission being to feed both our church family and our neighbors. I’m hoping to work and harvest vegetables into September, as long as the frost holds off! Our harvest is going to be small this year, but I’m hoping to build it up over time.



My plan (or our Mission) is to bring the picked veggies down to Coffee Hour to offer to anyone interested. I’m going to set up a small donation bucket (definitely not required) but any money we might make will be donated to either the Backpack Program or a similar community program.

Sunday School classes will be starting September 18, 2016. As usual, class will be held during the 10 am Sunday Service in the undercroft. There won’t be class the first Sunday of each month. This can give children the opportunity to be a part of the service with their family. I’m looking forward to great year ahead!

Wendy Langlois

Edie Froggatt 1922-2016

Mom was born in New York City in 1922. One of nine children, she frequently reflected on fond memories of her childhood. Born of humble beginnings, they were rich in love and closeness their entire lives. Every day at Mom's house brought an opportunity for socializing with a cup of tea. She always thoroughly enjoyed having visitors. A hearty, friendly greeting was always assured. And then there was the telephone. More often than not, Mom's phone was busy when we tried to reach her. She would always keep tabs on relatives some distance away. And when you called Mom on the phone, she would make your day with an upbeat energy filled, "How are you dear?". Lauded as our family matriarch, she was the one who was always sure to keep us closely knit, by creating and sustaining precious memories by capturing every moment in photos with her *instamatic* camera.



Every season brought a special treat with Mom. At Christmas, we gathered around her generous dining room table for a delicious meal, followed by extended family joining us for dessert. Wonderful family memories were always recalled.

The grandchildren's summers spent with Nana were special. Trips to the Ore Bed and creek,

playing games, putting on plays, ice cream and all the pleasantries of summer in the country were included in the experience. Summer also brought the entire family together for Mom's famous family picnics, song sheets were mandatory.

Mom was always up for lending a helping hand in her community. Her endless enthusiasm for social interaction rendered benefit to the Eastern Stars, the Roe Jan Young at Hearts, the Episcopal Church Women of Saint John in the Wilderness, the Copake Fair Auxiliary, the Copake Grange and the Copake Republican Club.

A list of all the wonderful qualities we will cherish about Mom extend far beyond what can be written here. Mom was baker of the best banana bread, wizard with knitting needle and yarn, a deeply caring soul, with a witty sense of humor and a million dollar smile. She was known for all these things and so much more, especially her enduring love for family. Mom and Dad's song was "Always", a song she never grew tired of hearing or singing, and neither will we.

We wish to express heartfelt thanks to friends and family during these recent months. Your love and support will never be forgotten

Love "Always"

Jane and Barbara

Fond Memories of Rev. Peter Turner

Rev. Peter Turner, who served as Interim Minister at St. John in the Wilderness from 1997 to 1998, died on Saturday, June 11th at his home in Merrimac, Massachusetts. He was 81.

Pete, as I came to know him, was born in Wisconsin, graduated from prep school in Chattanooga, TN and from Williams College in 1955. He spent two years in the Army in Germany, and then began a career in the pharmaceutical industry in New Jersey.

He heard a call to the ministry when in his early 40's, and attended seminary at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City on Long Island. After ordination to the priesthood, he served several parishes in the Hudson Valley before coming to SJW in June 1997.

I first met Pete 19 years ago, when he handled the funeral of Diana Wilson's mother Martha, a long-time member of the church, in June 1997.

I moved to Copake that August, and wound up helping him produce the weekly Sunday bulletins:

the church had no secretary at that time, and I was able to use the office computer enough to crank out the paperwork.

Pete and his wife Georgine lived in Delmar at the time, and they would come to Copake Falls to spend Saturday night in the rectory for the Sunday services. He would return, alone, early every Wednesday for the 10am healing service. I would show up at the church office before 10am and rough out the bulletin, and then attend the service. As I recall, Peggy Anderson and Charlie Loughman tended to be “regulars” at that time. There were also a few others.

After the service we would finish the bulletin and print it, and then usually go to lunch together. As a result of these adventures Pete and I became good friends; in later years Diana and I kept in touch with the Turners and visited usually once or twice a year.

Pete was Interim Minister at St. John in the Wilderness for one year, just before Rev. Barbara Morgan came to Copake Falls. He subsequently served at St. Luke's in Catskill, later moving to Rockland County as rector of Grace Church in Monroe for several years. His last posting was at Church of the Good Shepherd in Greenwood Lake.

Pete was very athletic, frequently running in marathons and also doing some serious biking. Over the years he and I shared several memorable bike rides in the Copake area and beyond.

Pete suffered a freak accident while hiking about five years ago – he spent a cold January night alone in the woods, injured, and wearing a light-weight jacket with no cell phone, largely the result of a “perfect storm” of mis-communication.

He and Georgine were living in a cottage in Sterling Forest, just above the New Jersey border. One January afternoon he went for a walk in the woods, anticipating Georgine's return from work shortly. Instead, a co-worker of hers had tickets to a show in the city (a professional tax accountant, Georgine was working in Manhattan at that time). She left a message for Pete on the answering machine and went to the show.

Meanwhile, Pete took a serious tumble down a small ravine on his walk, hitting his head and suffering traumatic brain injury. When Georgine returned home late that evening, she saw “no Pete/no car.” She assumed that he was spending the night with his brother in nearby Tuxedo, as he occasionally did, sometimes without notifying her. As it was close to midnight, she chose not to disturb them with a late phone call.

The reality emerged the next morning, when emergency workers were notified; they soon found Pete's car and then discovered him further down the trail, where he was rescued. He spent several months in the intensive care unit in the hospital, followed by several more months in a rehab facility to regain some basic functions. He in fact had been affected pretty severely, and never really recovered.

After the rehab process, Georgine chose to return to her ancestral homestead, a renovated farmhouse in Merrimac, Mass. (she had to leave work after Pete's accident, and as she told Diana, “Peter is my retirement.”)

They established a relationship with a local adult day care facility, which Pete attended several times a week (this was Georgine's only chance to shop and run errands, as there was no way Pete could ever be left alone at home).

Early in June, Pete's decline became terminal, as he ceased eating, and when Diana called Georgine that Friday, she reported “Pete's dying.” He passed the next day.

Peter Turner was perhaps the gentlest person I ever met. He tried to find a kind word for everyone, and when encountering a really challenging environment stated “they're doing the best they can.” He had a wry and soft sense of humor, was kind and patient, and for many years stood as my best friend.

The world needs more people like Peter Turner. He will be missed.

Douglas Goodhue



Georgine and Peter Turner, 1999

Beyond Copake Falls

“Summertime, and the living is easy...” Well, at least quiet. The harvest of news from The Episcopal Church and the wider Communion has trickled in for the last few months.

Matters Legal.

A camp board on which Marya, our son, and I served for many years used to report “Progress” in its minutes next to issues on which it had in fact accomplished nothing.

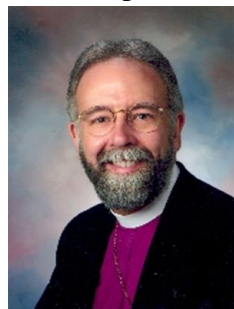
In that “progress” category are the ongoing struggles of two Episcopal dioceses to recover property and rights lost to breakaway groups. On April 19, the Fort Worth Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on an appeal of a decision by the District Court to leave the Diocese of Fort Worth’s property with former Bp. Jack Iker’s breakaway churches. A decision, expected “in coming months,” will likely be appealed again, however it goes.

The South Carolina Supreme Court continues to withhold its opinion on the true (TEC-aligned) diocese’s appeal of a lower court’s decision to allow Mark Lawrence’s Diocese of South Carolina to prevail over the TEC-faithful Diocese in SC. (Lest the in/of distinction seem like a niggle, recall that Lawrence’s takeover involved not only 40 parishes but the cathedral and his residence.)

A year has passed since the Supreme Court heard oral arguments, prompting a TEC-faithful website to ask, “What the heck is going on with the SC Supreme Court?” What indeed? The delay seems to be due to changes in the makeup of the court, including retirement of its Chief Justice, but no one outside the court is sure. In the long meantime: “Progress!”

For several years, Provisional Bishop Charles von Rosenberg has led South Carolina’s faithful Episcopalians as new parishes bloomed and membership increased.

Bishop von Rosenberg will be succeeded next month by +Gladstone “Skip” Adams, the recently retired bishop of Central New York. Bp. Adams has just the combination of leadership skills, steadiness, and compassion that the Diocese in South Carolina will need as it strives to recover its proper name and property.



Adams

Bishop Skip, a good friend of progressive and moderate Episcopalians in the Diocese of Albany, addressed the last annual meeting of Albany Via Media that Marya and I attended. Under the DEPO program, he has pastored three Albany parishes (Christ, Hudson; St. Andrew’s, Albany; St. John’s, Essex). Whether those relationships will continue



Duncan-Probe

under Central New York’s new bishop, +DeDe Duncan-Probe, is not now clear.

From the Church of England

“The Bishop of Grantham is a partnered gay man!” Marya exclaimed one day last week. My first thought was that I had missed something important on *Downtown Abbey*. But +Nicholas Chamberlain is indeed the Church of England’s first openly gay, partnered bishop. Archbishop Justin Welby, who knew of his status beforehand, both endorsed his appointment and, with other church leaders, took part in his consecration last November.



Chamberlain

If Bp. Chamberlain was consecrated almost a year ago, why is he headline news today? Because his sexual affinity and marital status were not public knowledge until now. They were reported in *The Guardian* on September 4, shortly after he announced them himself. .

It is hardly surprising that GAFCON and other conservative-evangelical organization in the UK and abroad have cried foul. It does seem like Abp. Welby has scored on an end run while his Church continues to fight for small yardage on the issue of same sex marriage. No doubt he’ll take some heat, but as our former Presiding Bishop told a Province II gathering a few years ago, “It’s easier to ask for forgiveness than it is to seek permission.”

Now this is *progress*, no quotation marks needed!

Bob Dodd

Events – Church of St. John in the Wilderness

September 18, Sunday, 11:15 AM, 5k Run & Walk, benefit, local childhood cancer organizations

September 25, Sunday, Parish Picnic, 11AM

October 9, Sunday, Harvest Fest, 1-4PM

November 5, Saturday, Potluck Stewardship Dinner, 6PM

November 12, Saturday, FTSP, lichen talk by James Lenderner, 9AM-12PM, Burke Hall

December 4, Copake Falls Winter Walk, Winter Market, 1-3PM, Handbell Concert by the Salisbury Congregational Church choir, 3:30PM

December 14, Wednesday, Blue Christmas, 6PM

December 24, Saturday, Christmas Eve Service, Carols and Eucharist, 7PM

December 25, Sunday, Christmas Day Service, 8AM and 10AM

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.

A Voice in the Wilderness

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

The Rev. John Thompson, Rector

Martha Glantz (1/17) Warden

Brian Boom (1/18)

Vestry

Tonya Carter (1/18) Jane Shannon (1/19)

Karen Flynn (1/19) Regina Shea (1/17)

Rebecca Garrard (1/19) Madeleine Tramm (1/18)

Richard Peck, Clerk of the Vestry (1/21)

Louise Peterson, Treasurer (1/19)

Eucharists

Sunday, 8:00 AM (spoken)

Sunday, 10:00 AM (choral)

www.stjohnw.org

www.facebook.com/stjohnwilderness

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