

# A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness  
Copake Falls, New York  
September 2015

## Autumn 2015

### Thoughts from the Wilderness

Worry or projecting negative scenarios into the future doesn't help. On some level I think we all know this. For some reason that knowledge doesn't prevent a lot of us from worrying anyway. So what's going on? Well of course bad or unpleasant things do continue to happen. Not only to us or our loved ones but throughout the world. But worrying doesn't help prevent them. And a lot of good things happen. With God's grace we are actively involved with some of those good things. We are not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Rom. 12: 21)

Here are some things that can help:

Keeping the focus on today, on the present helps. *One day at a time* is a primary slogan of 12 step programs, with the goal of worry reduction.

Listening to Jesus helps. He says 5 times in Matthew Ch. 6 not to worry!

"Therefore I tell you, *do not worry* about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And *can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?* And *why do you worry about clothing?* Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive

today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

*Therefore do not worry*, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."



And like the 12 steps slogan, *One day at a time*, Jesus concludes this chapter with, '*So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.*'"

Jesus says to focus our concern on today, on now – *Today's trouble is enough for today*. He suggests every day has some trouble. But that it's manageable as we allow God to help us through and help us put it (trouble) in the perspective of God's many daily blessings – shrinking trouble's significance (in our minds and hearts where both peace and worry reside). Daily blessings like the beautiful summer weather we've been having rather consistently. Though to be honest, some days (I pray few in number for us) are not manageable – serious illness, the death of a loved one, or an unexpected tragedy can be overwhelming. But God can bring healing directly and through others. And God renews our hope for the future.

*I just took a break and watched an episode of Nova, "Bigger than T. rex" about a recent*

*archaeological find in Morocco which enabled paleontologists to physically and digitally piece together for the first time a Spinosaurus, which lived 100 million years ago. It was the biggest predator ever to walk the planet though it spent most of its time (they think) in the ancient ocean where it got most of its food. Spinosaurus is the world's first aquatic dinosaur.*

Now Spinosaurus would be something to worry about were we in its territory. But of course it's extinct, so there's nothing to worry about. May God help us to make most of our worries (like dinosaurs) a thing of the past. Or extinct.

How? Again, by living in the present, in today. By trusting God for the future (and the past). What I try to do on a daily basis to increase my trust

in God, reduce worry, stay focused on today, and experience the fruit of the spirit – e.g., love, joy, peace – is pray Morning or Evening Prayer and do 40-45 minutes of Centering Prayer (the quiet contemplative prayer we practice at the Wednesday afternoon prayer group). Morning and Evening Prayer are filled with great prayers and much scripture, including the Psalms. These two spiritual practices definitely help me with these goals (worry reduction, etc.). Of course I'm not perfect at trusting God or at not worrying. Nor am I perfect at always getting in my Morning or Evening Prayer and my Centering – but I'm pretty good at it with God's help. These are my spiritual practices; there are others.

*In peace,  
John+*

## **From the Desk of the Senior Warden**

My mother used to sing the phrase, “many hands make light work,” when she wanted my sisters and myself to do household chores. Back then, I never really liked to hear the phrase, but it does ring true now, and we at St. John in the Wilderness certainly act on that song in big and small ways.

This summer we staged a successful and busy week, July 11-18 with the Country Fair and Auction, Pork Barbeque, Movie Night and the Summer Sparkling Soiree. We also offered our facilities during Copake Falls Day on August 15, with a garden lecture and workshop, and a play. Also, St. John's held its own Jazz Vespers, and a salad bar. Many people helped out with these great events in a myriad of ways.

It is also true that many of us contribute to behind the scenes activities in small and steady ways. These contributions include the printing and folding of the weekly bulletin, , bringing canned goods to fill the Roe Jan Food Pantry basket, weekly flowers for the altar and window sills, work in the church

gardens and cemetery, serving on the Vestry, scheduling and performing tasks of the lay ministry, leadership of Sunday School, handling church finances, organizing ECW activities and serving on Buildings and Grounds, singing in the Choir, contributing to and getting out the Voice, etc. Another example of small but important efforts would be using ceramic mugs (donated by a parishioner), rather than paper cups during coffee hour as a way to follow through on our commitment to the Genesis Covenant as mentioned in the last issue of the Voice.

We will greet the fall season with the opening of Sunday School on September 13. Sunday School will return to the newly refurbished Undercroft (hats off to the team who ably accomplished that project!). A parish picnic will be held on Sunday, September 27. St. John's will continue to support the Backpack Programs for the Taconic Hills and Webutuck Schools with a 5K run on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Our annual Stewardship effort regarding a pledge campaign will begin in late

### **A Voice in the Wilderness**

Editors: Louise and Dale Peterson

Please send submissions including news of church members to [peterlouise@gmail.com](mailto:peterlouise@gmail.com)

Remaining issue date for 2015: November 22

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

September with the annual stewardship dinner on November 7

All of these church and community activities add up to a busy and productive church life. We are leading a life of faith in action at St. John's. Indeed, we try at St. John's to live out our faith as this selection from the Communion service in the Book of Common Prayer asks us to do:

"...And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever."

*Lucy Eldridge*

## **Frank Froggatt Honored for World War II Service**

Frank Froggatt, Edie Froggatt's late husband, was honored twice this year for his service during World War II. On March 23 in Hudson and on June 11 at Copake Town Hall Frank was honored by both the US military and local government with special citations and multiple medals. These medals were awarded very belatedly as Frank Froggatt didn't or wasn't able to bring them back to the states at the time.

Among the many medals awarded posthumously to Frank were the Purple Heart, the Medal of Honor, the Good Conduct Award, and the New York State Senate Liberty Award. These ceremonies with the well-deserved honors for Frank Froggatt were very special for Edie Froggatt and the rest of Frank and Edie's family and friends, many of whom attended these events.

*John+*

## **County Fair & Auction Report**

This year's Country Fair and Auction was a great success, all because of the hard work and support of everyone in the parish. We started work early, while snow was still on the ground. The first step was to get great furniture donations. You helped us put up posters and spread the word all over the county. We got a tremendous community response. Our "fleet" of pickup trucks and trailers picked up furniture from Chatham to Germantown, from Hillsdale to Ancram.

The furniture was stored in barns and garages of church members, waiting for auction day. Because the donated items were already in hand, we were able to photograph them and post an online catalog, which we advertised in local newspapers. That publicity (and, of course, perfect weather) brought out an excellent crowd.

The numbers tell the story: we doubled last year's auction receipts! Other Country Fair events added to the success – our popular snack bar and salad bar, kid's activities and book sale in the church. Under the tent we had garden items, linens, baked goods, the boutique, jewelry and something special. On Sunday, we had our delicious annual pork barbecue. Everyone in the parish contributed to this year's success and everyone deserves a big THANK YOU.

*Elen Freeston and Louise Peterson  
Co-Chairs*

## **Summer Soirée Report**

The second Summer Sparkling Soiree was held on Saturday, July 18. All proceeds from the event help preserve our historic church and rectory, designed by Richard Upjohn and built in 1852.

Even a mid-event downpour didn't dampen the spirit of all who attended. The evening started with a wonderful concert in the church by Jim Wann and Carver Blanchard. After the concert the guests strolled up to a tent decorated with sparkling lights and beautiful flowers.

In addition to delicious local food prepared by Louise Peterson and Lucy Eldridge, many local business contributed generously to the event including: Hillsdale IGA Market, Herondale Farm, Copake Front Porch Market, Depot Deli, Chaseholm Farm and Pine Plains Fine Wines and Spirits.

Guests also had the opportunity to bid on many great items and we especially want to thank the following for their donations: Bash Bish Bicycle, Charlotte Taylor, Copake Veterinary Hospital, Copake Wine Works, Dr. Geraldine Kluge, Haldora, Hillrock Distillery, Hillsdale General Store, Passiflora, Pigasso Farms, Pure Mountain Olive Oil, Robert Haldane Landscape Design and Installation, Ruge's GMC, Sol Flower Farm CSA and VCA All Caring Animal Hospital.

Thanks to all for supporting a great event and to those who helped to make it happen! We raised over \$6,000 which will go to repair of the rectory front porch.

*Martha Glantz*

## **Pledge drive is coming**

By early October, members and friends of the church will receive a letter requesting a pledge for 2016. 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 7

*Dale Peterson*  
*2015 Pledge campaign chair*

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## **Beyond Copake Falls**

### **GC Speaks; Bishop. Love responds**

“All may; some should; none must.” Marya, my EFM-educated wife, tells me this Episcopal formula first referred to personal confession, but this summer’s General Convention extended it to same sex marriage. In most Episcopal dioceses, including all that surround ours, any Episcopal priest may marry Jane and Judy or Tim and Tom. His/her diocesan may not say no.

Unfortunately, General Convention, which took pains to protect conservative priests in progressive dioceses, left veto power in the hands of conservative bishops. According to Bp. Love’s pastoral letter on the subject, available on the diocesan website, Albany’s policy on same sex marriage remains “None may; none should; all must not.” Although +Love proposes to help couples find willing priests and venues in other dioceses, he writes, “Whatever provision is ultimately decided upon will not violate Diocese of Albany Canons 16.1 and 16.2.” These canons, which were pushed through in 2008 in anticipation of General Convention’s decision, forbid Albany clergy from participating in a same sex wedding *anywhere* and *in any capacity* (16.1); and forbid parishes from holding weddings in their churches or on their grounds, both of which are regarded as diocesan property (16.2).

Although Facebook and articles in the *Times-Union* have given voice to many opponents of +Love’s position, General Convention empowered him and six other Communion Partner bishops who lean toward like-minded primates in Africa and Latin

America and away from Canterbury and the Episcopal Church. And Canon 16 gives +Love legal cover to resist the Church, *even though exercise of his rights of conscience deprives other priests of theirs.*

What recourse do moderate and progressive Episcopalians have? Four strong parishes, Christ Church (Hudson), St. Andrew’s (Albany), St. John’s (Essex), and St. Luke’s (Saranac Lake) are now counseled and nurtured by the bishops of Central New York and Vermont through Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight. DEPO has served these parishes well but at a high price: monthly payment of each parish’s full diocesan assessment, a requirement for no other Albany parishes.

DEPO does nothing for mainstream Episcopalians whose parishes are too poor or of mixed mind to request it. Some individual parishioners, including several prominent members of the Cathedral of All Saints, now worship in the welcoming, inclusive Diocese of Vermont. Other worshippers vote with their wallets. They use “Parishioner Choice” to deny support to the diocese just as Albany’s Parish Choice option permits parishes to withhold support from the Episcopal Church.

“Every valley shall be lifted up, *and every mountain and hill be made low.*” (Isaiah 40:4. Italics mine.) Bishop Ball remarked recently that time will settle the issue of same sex marriage as it settled that of women’s ordination while he was Albany’s diocesan. Perhaps so, but that is cold comfort for

loving couples who must go to Dutchess County, Rutland, or Utica to marry while we wait for generational changes to wear down the theological and social hillock that is today's Diocese of Albany.

### Breaking News.

As I was about to post this article to *The Voice*, Marya directed me to something worth your attention. On Albany Via Media's Facebook page, you'll find a very thoughtful letter to Bishop Love



St. Andrew's, Albany

from the vestry and members of St.

Andrew's, Albany. It lays out in detail the damage that the bishop's stance has done to couples and the faith

community as a whole, and it

suggests a compromise: Allow St. Andrew's and the other DEPO parishes included, to conduct same sex marriages.

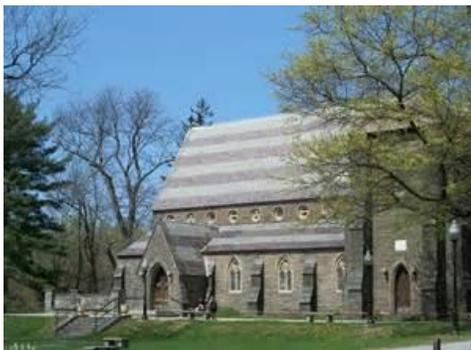
Marya and I see this as a weak alternative to +Love's present position but perhaps the best we can hope for from the Diocese of Albany.

Will +Love respond? Stay tuned...

### Chilton Lectures.

You can tell autumn is here when Bruce Chilton+ announces his Fall-Advent Lecture Series.

Dr. Chilton, who has retired as rector of St. John the Evangelist in Barryville, will continue to teach and lead The Institute of Advanced Theology at



Chapel of the Holy Innocents  
Bard College

Bard. Marya and I, fans and friends of this brilliant theologian and engaging teacher, look forward to "Resurrection: The Case of Jesus," which will be presented in the Bard chapel at 12:30 p.m. on five Fridays: October 16, 23, and 30, and November 6 and 13. Each lecture, about 45 minutes long, will be followed by a Q and A with an ecumenical audience of students, clergy, and lay persons.

"Lively" barely describes these sessions with Chilton, one of which ended with a prayer by an imam!

Bruce+ has provided the following description of the fall series:

*"Issues concerning the possibility of afterlife have provoked perennial controversy, especially since the Enlightenment. Because Jesus is the most famous case of the claim a person rose from the dead, partisans have drawn up sides between those who insist his Resurrection was physical and those who argue it was an hallucinogenic metaphor. Most of that discussion has been conducted in the abstract, without regard to specific texts. Our discussion will reverse that emphasis, and develop a properly exegetical [critically interpretive] understanding of how the Resurrection was experienced and interpreted before asking whether it might attract belief."*

Box lunches (\$10) will be available at noon in the Bard Chapel. Please reserve your lunch for each Friday by 9:00 p.m. Wednesday by calling 845-758-7279 or e-mailing [iatatbard@gmail.com](mailto:iatatbard@gmail.com)

Bob Dodd

## Fall Events 2015 – Church of St. John in the Wilderness

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Saturday, Sept 26, 10 am.

5k run to benefit backpack programs in local schools. Contact Rebecca Garrard at [\(845\)797-9210](tel:8457979210) or [garrar26@gmail.com](mailto:garrar26@gmail.com)

Sunday, Sept 27, 11:00 am. Parish picnic

Saturday, Nov 7. 6:00 pm. Stewardship dinner

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### Weekly events

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#### 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

Lucy Eldridge (January 2016) Warden  
Martha Glantz (1/17)

#### *Vestry*

Brian Boom (1/17)      Ralph Platt (1/16)  
Tonya Carter (1/18)      Regina Shea (1/17)  
Robert Dodd (1/16)      Madeleine Tramm (1/18)

Marilyn Kay, Clerk of the Vestry  
Louise Peterson, Treasurer

#### *Eucharists*

Sunday, 8:00 AM (spoken)  
Sunday, 10:00 AM (choral)

[www.stjohnw.org](http://www.stjohnw.org)

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