



A Voice in the Wilderness

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



Lent 2016

Thoughts from the Wilderness

I said last Sunday that Jesus calls us to focus on bearing our own fruit rather than judging others' fruit! Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit priest in Los Angeles is doing just that. He's inspiring. I'm going to tell you about him. Maybe you've heard of his work. He works with gang members in Los Angeles. He's not condemning them and he (and the gang members/former gang members) are bearing good fruit. We might initially think, well God bless him, but I'm not inspired by that; it's too hard and too dangerous for me to contemplate. But not only is Gregory Boyle succeeding but he inspires by his attitude and his insights about doing the work joyfully and *without burning out!* The fruit that he and the people he connects with are bearing is so good that even here on the other side of the country in a rural area, we can savor it and be inspired.

Regarding savoring life and not burning out, Gregory Boyle says, *If the intent is to save people, or even to help people, then ... you're going to be depleted. But if the task is allowing yourself to be reached by people, can you receive people? Can you be anchored in the here and now and practice the sacrament of the present moment? If you can do that, then it's all delight and it's all amazement and it's all awe. We're only saved in the present moment. If we're not saved in the present moment, we're not saved at all. For me, it's never about depletion. It used to be, when I used to think my job was saving lives. But now I think saving lives is for the Coast Guard. Our choice always is the same: save the world or savor it. And I vote for savoring it. And, just because everything is about something else, if you savor the world, somehow – go figure – it's getting saved.*

That's amazing! Gregory Boyle's work seems near the top of the list of 'hard jobs', yet not

only is he succeeding, he's thriving, enjoying it! He seems able to do all this well by putting into practice multiple strands of essential spiritual wisdom: being open to people, staying in the present moment, and savoring the moment and the people and experiences in that moment, rather than worrying (e.g., about saving the person in front of you).

LA's Homeboy Industries is the world's largest gang intervention, rehab and re-entry program. But at the core of its work and ministry are notions of blessing, gift and miracle, says the organization's founder and executive director [Gregory Boyle]. It's clear that these positive notions are essential and sustaining to this challenging ministry as, "gang violence is about the lethal absence of hope... if you don't transform your pain you keep transmitting it" Boyle says. Lives, thousands of them, are in fact transformed at Homeboy Industries. Homeboy Industries has grown from an experimental jobs program with its first commercial ventures, Homeboy Bakery and Homeboy Silkscreen, into a multifaceted industry/ministry with education, job training, drug treatment, therapy, and other businesses like cafés. (At homeboyindustries.org you can read about Homeboy Industries and watch a short video).

Their motto is, *Nothing stops a bullet like a job.* But Father Boyle thinks that's only part of it. "It's about healing. Jobs are a key part of that healing, but only part." He says it's also about healing the souls of gang members, healing bodies, relationships, and communities. Homeboy also provides legal aid and tattoo removal.

How does all this connect with us in the Columbia County area? Well, if hardened gang members can have their lives transformed and even

become friends with former members of enemy gangs (and this is happening), we can all be inspired by that. Greg Boyle says he is dependent on God for this ministry and that a key is that he is not simply giving but receiving and seeing Jesus in these gang members. He says we have to see how we're all connected already before we can succeed at bringing peace and justice. Through these connections and this caring young men and young women are being valued, having their hearts changed, caring about others, getting clean, getting educated and getting good jobs.

If former gang members can reach across the aisle, then we can grow in appreciation and love for those different from us in class or race or politics or

strengths or weaknesses. If Greg Boyle doesn't burn out working with gang members, then we can be sustained by joy and by being open in the present, in our work, ministry, and relationships. Like Greg Boyle, we can savor the world, the joy of the Lord as our strength.

“Sooner or later, we all discover that kindness is the only strength there is.” *Father Greg Boyle.*

*In peace,
John+*

All quotations are from, Alban Weekly/Faith and Leadership Forum, Duke University Feb. 23 & 29, 2016 – including an interview of Gregory Boyle by L. Gregory Jones, theology professor at Duke.

From the Desk of the Senior Warden

The new year came in like a lamb with warmer than usual weather, which was a pleasant change. We had our annual meeting on Sunday, January 17 which saw the election of new member of the vestry: Karen Flynn, Rebecca Garrard, and Jane Shannon. Martha Glantz is the Senior Warden, and Brian Boom is the Junior Warden for 2016. We thank Lucy Eldridge for her service as Senior Warden and Ralph Platt and Robert Dodd whose terms on the vestry ended. The Diocesan convention delegates we elected are Wendy Langlois, Peggy Anderson, and Janet Doherty. Hudson Valley Deanery representative is Janet Doherty and alternate Deanery representative is Wendy Langlois.

On February 13, we organized the second “Whole Lot of Love” Valentine’s Day dinner and thank Tonya Carter who chaired that event as well as all who helped to make the dinner a success. We are also working with the Apogee Center located in Hudson. The Apogee Center is a wellness community committed to serving Columbia County to provide peer support to adults pursuing mental health recovery and empowerment. They will be

meeting twice a month in Burke Hall to work on arts and crafts. And hard as it is to believe, we have already started our planning for the Country Fair and Auction.

As I think back on my years at St. John’s I recall my first Easter in Columbia County in the spring of 2001. We had bought a house in Ancramdale that fall and as was my habit, I looked around for a church for Easter services. I did an internet search and found a few that appealed to me and after doing a little more research decided to attend services at St. John’s.

Not only was I charmed by the physical look of the church, but I felt welcome and at home. That didn’t translate to my getting active right away. That took many years and many Easter or Palm Sundays. One thing stayed constant was the feeling of welcome that met me every time I attended church.

In 2012 I lost my father and not long after I was talking to Father John and told him how my father always asked “did you go to church today?” The answer was generally “no,” and I decided then

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

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

that I would start attending on a regular basis. Of course, St. John's was the only option and that was one of the best decisions of my life.

I quickly got involved in St. John's and realized how much good the church does for the community. Not long after officially joining, I was asked if I'd like to be on the vestry and I said "yes." A lot has happened since then and we've had a lot of successes, including repair of the bell tower and the roof. We still have a lot of projects both small and ambitious and I am confident that we will be successful.

As the Senior Warden I am looking forward to my year and helping Father John and the vestry continue to make St. John's a viable and welcoming center for its parishioners and the community. 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

2016 Country Fair & Auction and Sunday Barbecue

Coming up, an exciting weekend in July at St. John's...save these dates! Saturday, July 9 for the Country Fair & Auction, 10AM and Sunday, July 10 for the Barbecue, 1PM. These are very important dates to St. John's as these events are our major fundraisers to support the operating budget

We are planning and hoping for donations of delicious goodies for the Bake Sale, for shops selling garden items, books, linens, & boutique. And, of course, we are looking forward to great donations of furniture, and household items for the Auction to be auctioned off by our professional auctioneer, Walter Jutkovsky. A flyer asking for furniture donations will be distributed soon to members of the community (and is enclosed in this issue of the Voice). As in the past, we will be asking for volunteers to help before and during the events; a sign-up sheet to volunteer will be posted later this spring.

Last year we added a salad bar to the snack bar, asked the community for donations in early 2015 and created an online catalog of auction donations. We will continue these innovations this year and have several new ideas with expanded children's activities, asking community businesses to support

the events, and a large poster at the end of the driveway to advertise the weekend of July 9 and 10.

When you do your spring cleaning, please keep us in mind, and save those items in good condition bound for a new home. We will be picking up furniture donations this spring, getting it photographed and readying it for the auction. June 30 is the last date for donation acceptance. The church campus gets very busy the week of the Country Fair & Auction and Barbeque with tents both large and small going up and filling up with wonderful donations.

St. John's has held this event for more than 50 years, so please help us have a wonderful event in 2016.

Lucy Eldridge and Jane Peck, co-chairs

Episcopal Church Women

Thank you Tonya for all of your energy and time putting together another successful "whole lotta love dinner". Many thanks to everyone who helped man ticket tables, decorate, cook, serve, clear and clean. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the auction table, especially all of the local businesses. This is a wonderful community event with everyone's help.

The next ECW meeting will be March 6th at the end of coffee hour. See you all there.

Jeanne Van Hoesen

Birthday and Memorial Candle

The Birthday Candle Fund was started in 1952 by the late Isabelle Kirkpatrick, who instituted this fund to give members of the congregation an opportunity to make a gift of thanksgiving to the Church in recognition of God's continuing love and blessings to us. Each of us is invited to add their name to the Birthday List and to make an annual gift. If you wish to be on the Birthday List, please call Babs Croteau and give her your mailing address and the month and date only of your birth, no years please. In return, you will receive a birthday card on your birthday with a donation envelope enclosed, which can either be put in the offering plate or mailed to Beatrice Croteau. If after two years we have not heard from you we will drop you from the list.

The Memorial Candle Fund was started later so that members could make donations for candles on the Altar and in the Sanctuary in memory of loved ones. On April 7, 1974 Helen Pateman donated a brass Memorial Candlestick in memory of her husband, which was to be lit whenever someone made a donation to the Memorial Candle Fund. On June 15, 1975 the second Memorial Candlestick was given by William Pateman in honor of his mother, Helen. Sometime after this the community expressed a desire to donate to our Candle Fund — we have been known for years as the Church with the Candles. Now anyone who wishes to honor friends or relatives on birthdays or anniversaries, give thanks for special events, or make memorial contributions is welcome to do so. The Memorials or Honors, are printed in the Sunday Leaflet, providing we have received them one week prior to the date wanted. Otherwise the Rector will announce from the Altar. Memorials can be requested for the entire year ahead if you wish - - we aim to please. The Sanctuary Candle was started November 1, 1990 and there is a set charge of \$10.00 for this as the candle is lit for one week, Sunday thru Saturday. Only one person may have this at a time.

The birthdays had been printed in the monthly Messenger for several years and now are in the Sunday leaflet with name, month and date. We continue to send to the former members who are now living in nursing homes, etc. We do not include the envelope for them, but some donate anyway.

After Mrs. Kirkpatrick retired as chairperson, Carolyn Benton held the title, then Frances Jordan and your present chairperson took over in 1974. Mrs. Kirkpatrick loved her candles and many of the original birthday members were her own friends and family and they still belong. Those of us who have belonged to the Birthday Candle fund since 1952 are very honored to have new members join us in helping to keep our beautiful St. Johns in candles! All donations are accepted with gratitude. If you have any special requests we will try to accommodate you. We will be glad to answer any questions you may have. We thank you for the time you have taken to read this article and look forward to signing up new members.

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Church purchases defibrillator

Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes over 340 thousand Americans. The majority of these people have no prior symptoms and unfortunately less than 5 percent survive. This is because emergency medical services cannot reach them in time.

When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the electrical system of the heart often becomes chaotic. Because the blood fails to be pumped to the brain, the victim becomes unresponsive and will die unless promptly treated. Starting cardiac compressions is important but alone cannot restore the normal rhythm and pumping function of the heart. The victim's best



chance of survival is to receive a shock from a defibrillator within the first 5 minutes of cardiac arrest. A defibrillator cannot save every person who has a sudden cardiac arrest, but more lives can be saved if victims are reached more quickly.

As many of you know, the church has witnessed several medical emergencies over the years. 911 personnel responded quickly, but usually do not arrive within the 5-minute time frame. Recognizing the need for a “first responder” approach, St John’s has purchased a small AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The AED will enable virtually anyone to treat the most common cause of sudden cardiac death by allowing a shock to be delivered quickly.

Our new AED weighs about 3 pounds, is located within a small purse-like zipper case, and can easily be carried to the victim's side. The defibrillator uses the newest technology to guide the user through each step of CPR and possible defibrillation with a clear calm voice. The defibrillator has a four- year battery, and performs self- checks daily. It is ready for use when the green "ready light" is blinking. Our AED was appropriately placed into use on Valentine's Day of this year! The vestry is presently considering where to best locate the AED in the back of the church, and is working on a training plan.

This is where you can help. It is important to train as many people in the use of CPR and the AED as possible. Obviously the AED will need people to operate it who are comfortable with its use. The American Heart Association offers online "heart-saver" and "friends and family" (hands only) CPR courses for about \$25.00. If you are computer savvy, the online lessons can be completed at home. The courses include interactive exercises and videos and are followed with hands-on practice with a CPR instructor. The website address is cpr.heart.org. For

those who prefer a classroom and practice approach, the vestry is planning to host CPR classes in the near future. You can also contact your local ambulance company to find classes in the area. We continue to pray that our AED will not be needed, but must arm ourselves with the adage that "God helps those who help themselves." Be safe.

Karen Flynn

New book by the Rev. Jim Burns

The Rev. Jim Burns, a member of St. John in the Wilderness and recently retired Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest, Manhattan, NY, has just published a new book entitled, *Daily Meds: Spiritual Rx for the Journey*. There's a pithy reflection on a verse of Scripture for each day of the year. Each month begins with a poem. Jim says, "The 365 meditations are meant to be more invitations than pronouncements." This is a wise and accessible book. Jim will donate 20% of all book sales to parishioners to St. John in the Wilderness. They are \$20 apiece. Let John+ know if you'd like one.

.John

Beyond Copake Falls: The Primates Meeting that Wasn't

You may recall that the 2008 Lambeth Conference was marred by a boycott by members of the conservative-evangelical Global Anglican Futures Conference (GAFCON), and by Archbishop Rowan Williams's decision to exclude New Hampshire's gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson.¹

Hoping to avoid a similar disaster in 2018, Justin Welby, the new Abp. of Canterbury, decided not to schedule another Lambeth Conference until he had met all 38 primates of the Anglican Communion to determine who would attend it and with what agenda. Having done so, he invited them to meet in Lambeth Castle this January. To make the event as informal and apolitical as possible, he advertised it as a gathering rather than an official Primates Meeting.²

That decision was wise. At first, the GAFCON primates refused to attend the meeting if the American and Canadian primates were invited.

To accommodate them, Welby invited Archbishop Foley Beach, leader of the breakaway Anglican Communion in North America (ACNA), to participate. Fortunately, the North American primates accepted this compromise and agreed to attend.



Lambeth Palace

The primates discussed many issues in Canterbury, from poverty to climate change, but the most intense discussion centered on a question of deep concern to conservative evangelical Anglicans here and abroad: How to rein in the maverick Episcopal Church, U.S.A., whose decades long march toward full acceptance of LGBTs had culminated in its acceptance of same sex marriage.

After lengthy discussion and a lopsided vote (in which ++Beach did not participate), the primates issued a communique that included the following statement:

*“It is our unanimous desire to walk together. However given the seriousness of these matters [TEC’s acceptance of same sex marriage] we formally acknowledge this distance by **requiring** that for a period of three years The Episcopal Church no longer represent us on ecumenical and interfaith bodies, **should not** be appointed or elected to any internal standing committee and that while participating in the internal bodies of the Anglican Communion, they **will not** take part in decision making on any issues pertaining to doctrine or polity.” (Bold face mine.)*

After decades of trying to reform our progressive Episcopal Church, it seemed that the GAFCONians and their stateside associates had won a victory. In their view, TEC would have to repent before or during its 2018 General Convention, or more consequences would follow at the next Lambeth Conference, which Abp. Welby now scheduled for 2020.

In the media storm that followed the January meeting, Abp. Welby struggled to interpret the primates’ statement. In his presidential address to the Church of England’s General Synod in February, he said, “The Primates’ Meeting held in Canterbury between 11th and 15th January 2016 occasioned much comment and even more misrepresentation. It has been spun more than Donald Trump, and you would be well advised to set your spin meters to ‘detect’”

Welby emphasized that the primates had neither sanctioned nor punished TEC because they couldn’t. He reminded the Synod that the Anglican Communion is “a collection of autonomous and interdependent churches.” He went on to say that “No meeting of the Communion has any authority to give instructions to individual provinces.” Clearly, the imperatives in the primates’ communique represent wishful thinking by its authors.

The Right Revd. James Tengatenga, chair of the Anglican Consultative Council³, was even more direct than Abp. Welby. During a recent interview at Sewanee, he said, “The primates think they are more



Bishop Tengatenga

important than anyone else. When they attempt to bottle up the fizziness [of the evolution of Anglican doctrine] that is when things explode.”

According to Bishop Tengatenga; “the Episcopal Church cannot be kicked out of the Anglican Communion and will never be kicked out of the Anglican Communion.” Responding to a question, he said that the Americans will be present and voting at the next ACC meeting, “as is their right and responsibility”

So much for TEC’s three-year “time out!”

Bob Dodd

1) Robinson went to Canterbury anyway. He later told a gathering that Marya and I attended, “While the other bishops had tea with the Queen, I had lunch with a hundred queens!”

2) The Primates Meeting, one of four Instruments of Communion, is open only to the heads of the provinces that are in communion with Canterbury. ACNA’s presence at the January gathering signifies that it was not a Primates Meeting.

3) The Anglican Consultative Council, arguably the most influential of the four Instruments of Communion, meets every two or three years “to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion.” Its next meeting, in April, will be held in Lusaka.

ACNA: In or Out?

Conservative-evangelical Anglicans here and abroad rejoiced when ++Foley Beach was invited to the January gathering. Why so? Because they saw it as a step toward recognition of ACNA as a province of the Anglican Communion.

In 2009, GAFCON declared that the organization, a collection of disaffected, generally conservative ex-members of TEC and the Anglican Church of Canada, is a member of the Communion. Abp. Welby has denied this in the past and did so again in his address to the CofE Synod. It included an important, if indirect, reference to ACNA’s prospects: “There is no clear process or precedent for a new Province to join [the Communion],” he said, “except as an agreed spin-off from a previous Province.”

“Agreed” makes it as sure as sundown that we and our Canadian cousins will never be replaced by ACNA as the only bona fide Anglican provinces north of the Rio Grande. That is good news indeed, and potentially important for legal struggles that continue in the Episcopal Dioceses of Fort Worth and South Carolina.

Robert Dodd

From the Columbia Paper:



They have an affection for confections. The Copake Park Community Building was the scene for the third annual Church of St. John in the Wilderness Valentine's Day dinner Saturday, February 13. The dessert table was the picture of Valentine's Day perfection with contributions from many of the parishioners and cakes and specialty items created by Melissa Dipper at the Depot Deli in Copake Falls. Pictured to the side watching the activities are Madeline Nicholson (left), Karen Flynn (center), and Lucy Eldridge. **Photo by David Lee**



Josephine Marie Crawford was christened during the December 10 10:00 am service. On the left, proud grandmother Marjorie Hoog holds Marie following the service. Parents are Chris Crawford and Madeleine Hoog-Crellin

Events – Church of St. John in the Wilderness

March 9, Wednesday, Ecumenical Lenten Soup and Bread Supper and Worship Service, at St. John's, 6:30PM

March 20, Palm Sunday, 8AM and 10AM services

March 24, Maundy Thursday, Eucharist, 7:30PM, preceded by a Seder Meal, 6PM

March 25, Good Friday, 10AM and 7:30PM services

March 26, Saturday, 10:30AM, Easter Egg Hunt, pizza & prizes, 12 noon

March 27, Easter Sunday, 8AM and 10AM services

April 23, Saturday, 5K run for Backpack Program

May 7th, Saturday, 11AM, Friends of Taconic State Park lecture

May 21 & May 22, Saturday & Sunday, Sacred Sites Open House Weekend

May 28, Saturday, KOA Bake Sale, West Copake, 10AM-12noon

June 3, 4 and 5, Friday -Sunday, Diocese of Albany Convention

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.

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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)

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