

---

*Hello all.*

*A Voice in the Wilderness is now being delivered by email. During this Lenten season we hope you enjoy it. Please forward to your friends who care about the church and the Roe Jan area. Here's a [signup link](#) where anyone can add their name and subscribe to our newsletter.*

---

# A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls NY  
April 2017

## Thoughts from the Wilderness

*Sermon for March 19, 2017*

Jesus crosses ethnic, religious and gender boundaries in today's gospel ([John 4:5-42](#)). In his longest conversation in the Gospels he reaches out to a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Jews did not like Samaritans not only for their religious syncretism but because of their racial and ethnic diversity resulting from intermarriage among different ethnic groups.

And this is a paradoxical story. Jesus, the source of living water, that is of the Spirit, of the love and the power of God – *he himself is thirsty and tired*. Jesus and the woman at the well need each other! He is thirsty and has no bucket. He makes himself vulnerable by asking her for a drink of water.

She is already vulnerable in that Jesus as a Jewish man at the time is in an advantaged position. His disciples who had just returned from grocery shopping in the city, were, "astonished that he was speaking with a woman!" But at least they didn't say what was on their minds which was, to the woman, "What do you want?" and to Jesus, "Why are you speaking with her?"

Jesus does talk about the importance of Jewish tradition and spirituality – but he relativizes both Jewish and Samaritan understandings by saying, "The hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth... God is spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." Meaning for one thing that particular religious traditions are normally less important than a living, direct, heart-to-heart, spirit to spirit, relationship with



God! Meaning for another that, we should make most of our religious traditions, and even more obviously our gender and ethnic and racial and class distinctions less important and nonhierarchical!

The woman at the well became an evangelist no less than Jesus' male disciples – demonstrating gender equality and the value of female leadership.

So *today*, with the living water of God's love in our hearts, let's reach across gender, ethnic, racial, and class boundaries forming relationships of equality, vulnerability, trust, and respect and – as Jesus says, let's also cross boundaries by worshiping together with people who are religiously diverse.

This is the reality Jesus understands, and lives and shows to his disciples, to the woman at the well – and to all of us today. Jesus is reaching across barriers and boundaries and building and widening community – and that's what he calls us to.

Reality, truth and facts are important. According to the New York Times last month, “between 1975 and 2015 no Americans were killed by persons from any of the seven nations named in the [original] travel ban. In the same period 1.34 million Americans have been lost to guns including murder, accidents, and suicide. That's a number close to all American lives lost in war since the Revolutionary war.” And it adds, “With their access to firearms, husbands in America are far more deadly than Islamic terrorists.”

So, let us rather advocate for and be hospitable to refugees and immigrants escaping danger. Let us reach across boundaries to people of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and gender identities. Let's do it in love with the help of God's love – that's what we're called to by God. Amen.

*In peace, John+*

Artwork credit: He Qi (China, 1951 - )

---

## From the Desk of the Senior Warden

### *Hunger, Near and Far*

My column in the most recent issue of *A Voice in the Wilderness* had an inward focus – looking at our church's beautiful, historic buildings and landscape and asking that we reflect upon the care and sustainability of these wonderful resources; I will revisit this important topic in forthcoming columns. For this Lent 2017 issue of our newsletter, I want to take an outward look, and specifically focus on the theme of hunger, both in our church's neighborhood and across the globe.

I have fortunately never in my life experienced hunger, and I suspect, and hope, that those reading this column have not either. Yet, all around us, near and far, there is a desperate, urgent need for food on a daily basis, often in a life and death situation. In our own church's neighborhood, we have various ways that we can and do



help, from providing soups at ecumenical lunches to contributing non-perishable food items to the Roe Jan Food Basket every Sunday. Our congregation routinely fills a basket for the Roe Jan effort every week, and for many of us bringing something for the basket has become a regular, gratifying practice each Sunday.

Further afield, there are recent reports in the news about devastating famines in Africa. For example, on March 10, 2017, in a report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there was this from Stephen O'Brien, the U.N.'s humanitarian chief regarding the threat to 20 million people in four countries: "We are facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the creation of the United Nations. Without collective and coordinated global efforts, people will simply starve to death."



The Episcopal Church of the United States has provided resources for people to take action on this humanitarian tragedy in Africa. For example, with respect to South Sudan, where 4.9 million people are at risk, you can contact your elected U.S. representatives to urge action at the [Episcopal Church's advocacy website](#). You can donate through Episcopal Relief & Development to the [South Sudan Fund](#).

*"Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."* -  
Proverbs 31: 8-9

*Brian Boom*

Photo credits:

Roe Jan Food Basket in front of altar at St. John in the Wilderness: Brian Boom

South Sudan Fund: [Episcopal Relief and Development South Sudan Fund](#)

---

## Helping Families

One of the actions on which St. John's works is to give families support ... we pray for families when they are facing difficulties, we honor families when they reach milestones, such as anniversaries or children's accomplishments, and we rejoice when families are made whole.

Many families in our region are facing increased deportation orders with the result that the bread winner is deported and the rest of the family is left behind. Hudson has recently become a sanctuary city, and along with that, various actions are being taken to support those affected by deportations.

One of the ways we at St. John's could help families is to provide funds such as rent money which is no longer available when the bread winner is deported and/or donate foodstuffs to families in need. Let's find ways to help keep families going, not only in our church, but in our neighboring towns and cities and in the process, we can live out the gospel of Matthew 25:40, "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

*Lucy Eldridge*

---

## News from the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Winter is a great time to begin planning for St. John's happenings throughout the year and beyond. The Anniversary Committee met in February and made more plans to move ahead with celebrations for our 165th Anniversary year. Here are the plans for Commemoration Sunday on June 25, and the Anniversary Gala on July 29th at this point.

On Sunday morning, we will gather at the Copake Iron Works for a parade (the founders of our church, Lemuel Pomeroy and Isaac Chesbrough were also the founders of the Iron Works). We will set out to walk (or, in some cases grab a ride in vintage cars), from the Iron Works to the church, followed by a blessing at the Pomeroy gravesite. We will then have the 10:00 service with a sermon by Fr. John Thompson commemorating the 165th Anniversary. After church we will hold a community picnic (with a blessing by Fr. Walt Zelle and with band music played by friends of Amanda Clark), chaired by Karen Flynn. After the picnic a celebratory Winds in the Wilderness concert will take place. This will be a fun day of welcoming the community to St. John's, helping us to remember our historic past, to be grateful for our robust present, and to look forward to St. John's future as an important and vital community institution.

To keep the 165th Anniversary celebrations going with its emphasis on welcoming the community to our church, we will hold a gala on Saturday, July 29 in the evening. So, please save the date! Marjorie Hoog will chair the gala, benefit of St. John's operating budget, with Martha Glantz as her "deputy."

The Capital Campaign committee also met in February with David Eldridge, a development officer, who will help with the planning and implementation of the campaign. Brian Boom is chair of the Capital Campaign with Lucy Eldridge as assistant chair. A meeting is scheduled for April 2 for further planning. Work continues with a campus-wide assessment study to determine needs for the church. Berkshire Engineering, Inc. of Lee, Massachusetts, has come to the church for a walk through; their input will be incorporated into the assessment study. Please stay tuned for more details.

*Brian Boom and Lucy Eldridge*

---

## Art Show in Burke Hall

On March 25, an art show opened on the walls of Burke Hall, featuring artwork by three members of the parish. The show will remain in place through the spring.



Lucy Eldridge has drawn all her life, starting when she was 12 years old and took art classes at the Cleveland Museum of Art. She was a studio art and art history major at Mills College and later took courses at Boston University. The natural world has always been a great interest to her and a source for her art work.

Amanda Clark is a licensed veterinary technician; graduating from Northwestern Connecticut Community College in 2007. She moved to Copake in November of 2007 and loves pattering in her small garden and going for walks with her dog; she has 2 cats companions as well. She recently has been doing painting as a means for emotional and spiritual release/expression but has always had fun with small artsy-crafty projects





### Richard Peck

My art pursuits have always been very important to me. I made room for art courses in school. After graduating and moving into my work life, I studied Graphic Design at the School of Visual Arts in New York and at Salem State University. I was a member of the Salem Arts Association as it was just forming. I served there as Gallery Coordinator for volunteers and sales.

I am fascinated by many methods that are all printmaking at their source. I am also continually amazed at the way the same image can be reproduced and have such a different effect whether printed in the same manner or through a different printing technique. My Koi Pond series was an effort to use the same composition to discover the differences in some printmaking techniques. I stumbled on the “white-line” printing technique in a conversation with an artist at the Salem Arts Association, and had to research it and try it out for myself. Instantly, I fell in love with it. For me, printmaking is an endless place of exploration and enjoyment.

---

### **Calendar through June 2017**

April 9, Palm Sunday, 8AM and 10AM services

April 13, Maundy Thursday, Eucharist, 7:30PM

April 14, Good Friday, 10AM and 7:30PM services

April 15, Saturday, 11AM, Easter Egg Hunt

April 16, Easter Sunday, 8AM and 10AM services

May 6, Saturday, 11AM, Lecture, Friends of Taconic State Park & Away to Garden in sanctuary

May 7, Sunday, 10AM Service, Honoring Walt Zelle as Honorary Canon of Trinity Cathedral, NJ

May 14, Sunday, 11AM, Arthur Royal Railing Dedication

May 20, May 21, Sacred Sites Open House Weekend  
May 20, Jazz Vespers, 4:30PM  
May 27, Saturday, KOA Bake Sale, West Copake, 10AM-12noon, Funeral Dorothy Tudge, 3PM  
May 28, Sunday, 11AM, Arthur Royal Railing Dedication  
June 9, 10, 11, Diocese of Albany convention  
June 25, last day of Sunday School  
June 25, Commemoration Sunday, celebration of St. John's 165th Anniversary, Winds in the Wilderness Celebratory Concert, 3PM

---

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

Newsletter of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness (Episcopal)  
Copake Falls, New York 112517  
The Rev. John Thompson, Rector

Brian Boom (1/18) Warden  
Karen Flynn (1/19) Warden

#### *Vestry*

Tonya Carter (1/18)  
Rebecca Garrard (1/19)  
Catherine Kaputa (1/20)  
Susan Mollo (1/20)  
Jane Shannon (1/19)  
Madeleine Tramm (1/18)

Richard Peck, Clerk of the Vestry (1/21)  
Louise Peterson, Treasurer (1/19)

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

Louise and Dale Peterson [newsletter@stjohnw.org](mailto:newsletter@stjohnw.org)

#### *Eucharists*

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

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

518 329-3674

261 State Route 344, PO Box 180 [Directions](#)  
Copake Falls, NY 12517



Friend us on Facebook



Church Website



Email to the Voice's editor

---

**Our mailing address is PO Box 180,  
Copake Falls, NY 12517-0180**

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)  
Subscribe [here](#)

