

The Messenger

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

NOVEMBER 2007

Father Walt's "In the Wilderness Musings"

Wasn't Barbara's Retirement Dinner wonderful?!! What a fitting tribute to a priest who was such a loving and sensitive pastor to all of us during the ten years she was rector of our parish church. Hers was a ministry to celebrate and celebrate we did!!

But that celebration didn't just happen There were a number of members of our parish family who gave generously of their time, their talents, and their resources to make it the outstanding event that it was. And. At the risk of omitting names that should not be omitted. I would like to express, as I know you would want me to on your behalf, special thanks to all who played important roles in insuring that this special day for Barbara would be a day she would look back to with affection and appreciation during the days of her retirement:

- To our Senior Warden, Harry Koepfel, who spent long hours investigating possible banquet sites seeking one that would have the space in one room to accommodate all the guests we were expecting in an attractive setting, in a convenient location and at a good price. "The Greens," alone of all the places he checked out scored on all four tests. Thanks to Harry for being his usual super-organized self!
- To Elen Freeston who put her immense creative talents to work in the very attractive design and printing of the invitations, and donated the costs involved as well;
- To Mibs Zelle and Betsy Garrett who organized the very thoughtful letters of appreciation to Barbara that so many of you forwarded to them, and created an album that I am sure Barbara will have an occasion many times to read and re-read and feel again the love we all have for her and for her ministry to and with us;
- To Leslie Strom who is not even a formal communicant of St. John's but who has enjoyed a deep friendship with many in our parish family and with Barbara, donated all the beautiful floral pieces and with the assistance of Mibs, and Betsy, assembled them all utilizing also grapes from Sally Ann Welford's arbor, and gourds from Betsy's garden;
- To Edie Hedrick and the Parish Choir for their very moving choral benediction;
- To Jane Peck, our parish treasurer, who handled all the reservations and the donations received to be included in the parish gift;
- To our ace photographers, Doug Goodhue, for the extensive photographic record of the dinner, and Bob Dodd for the photographic record of the morning's Eucharist where Barbara was honored and in which she participated, giving members of the congregation an opportunity to come up to the altar rail, express their appreciation to Barbara, and receive her blessing;
- To Hank Croteau who authored a resolution honoring Barbara with the title "Rector Emeritus" (which those at the dinner unanimously adopted,) and who then saw to the printing and framing of the certificate;

- and, finally, to all the members of our parish family; as well as others from the community who have worked with Barbara and seen the way her ministry has extended outside the walls of our parish church;

- including her colleagues in ministry from the Roe Jan Ecumenical Clericus and the Mid-Hudson Deanery Clericus of the Episcopal Church;

and, of course, to members of her extended family and close personal friends who traveled long distances to be with Barbara on her special day.

To all of you I've remembered, and to all of you I might have inadvertently omitted, many, many thanks!!

And now we move into a new chapter in our life together as members of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness, as a Search Committee, chaired by Lucy Eldridge, begins the process of seeking a pastor to continue the good work begun by Barbara, and the dedicated priests who have gone before her (one of them, Fr. Byers, of whose tireless and devoted pastoral ministry in this place we were reminded by the wonderful surprise of his widow, Mary Ann's presence at the 10:00 Eucharist last Sunday.) One of the first jobs of this committee will be to develop a questionnaire which will be seeking the feelings of all the members of our parish family about what makes St. John's the special place it is for each of us; what hopes and dreams we have for its futures; and what skills and personal traits we would be looking for in a pastor who will be leading us into the future we envision. In advance of your receipt of the questionnaire, however, I would ask each of you to think about these things, asking yourself particularly what it was that led you to the Church of St. John in the Wilderness in the first place, and what keeps you here. It is the answer to these questions that makes a church "come alive" in the parish profile we will eventually publish, and aids a potential candidate for rector, in deciding if this is the place that God might be calling him or her to. Pray for the Search Committee, and pray for Lucy, its chair. The fruits of its efforts can be the key to the future of our beloved church.

Affectionately, Fr. Walt



A Letter From Rev. Barbara

It is with much love and appreciation that I write this "Thank You" message, my friends from the Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls, Copake, Hillside, Millerton, Ancram, New York City and other environ.

I really don't know where to begin. You have been there for me since I arrived from Alpena, Michigan, and even before. Kent Kay, Charlie Loffman and Carol Tschudi came to visit me and interview me at Trinity Church, Alpena. Then you asked me to visit you in Copake Falls. My mother and I both wanted to come back East even though the people and the church in Alpena were wonderful.

At first we thought we were really going “out in the country.” But, it didn’t take long for us to love the people and awhile longer to love the area. People are wonderful wherever you are - and you are especially wonderful.

You have been there with me in good times, not so good times, and in times of crisis as when my Mom died and Cousin Harry died and, most recently, when my sister-in-law, Ann, died. You have also been there for me when I broke my ankle - and was in rehab for a “much too long time”. You watched my “kids” (the cats Toby and Julie) who I love dearly.

It has been wonderful to be with you for weddings, baptisms, funerals, special church services during Lent, Christmas, etc. and our regular Sunday morning 8:00 o’clock and 10:00 o’clock worship. I thank you for all your hard work during these times and others, especially The Country Fair and Auction. It was hard work, but a lot of fun. I remember especially the year that Jane Peck and I stood in the dumpster to help put in all the ‘retreads’.

I will always carry you in my heart.
Take care and God’s Peace....

Rev. Barbara

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Episcopal Church Women

The ECW met Tuesday, October 2nd and finalized some of their Fall activities:

Dorothy Baker, United Thank Offering Chairman, has been collecting UTO donations. Sunday, October 28th is the final date for these donations..

At the next meeting on Tuesday, November 6th, the ladies will fill the Shoe Boxes for Samaritan’s Purse.

Christmas Friends collections will start November 25 and end December 15th.

The women are planning a Christmas Luncheon meeting/party for December 2nd. The details will be given at our next meeting on November 6th.

The women have noticed that the basket collection for the Roe Jan Food Pantry is in need of help from our Church family. Please remember Thanksgiving is coming up soon.

See you all on November 6th.

With Thanks,
Marg McClurg, President

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Birthdays in November



November 7 Jean B. Peck
 November 12 George Peck
 November 17 Carolyn J. Hicks
 November 30 James Callahan

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Lectionary for November

November 4	Isaiah 1:10-20
Psalm 32	2 Thess, 1:1-12
	Luke 19:1-10
November 11	Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17	2Thess 2:13-3:5
	Luke 20:27-38
November 18	Malachi 3:13-4:2a, 5-6
Psalm 98	2 Thess. 3:6-13
	Luke 21:5-19
November 25	Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46	Colossians 1:11-20
	Luke 23:35-43 or Luke 19:29-38

Holy Days

November 30 St. Andrew

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Lay Ministries - November

Date	Altar	Ushers	Lector	Prayers	LEM
11/4	8 am 10 am	Freeston	Croteau D. Baker J. Baker	Freeston M Kay	L Eldridge Koeppel Chittick
11/11	8 am 10 am	Knox	Garrett S. Mollo J. Peck	P. Royal Zelley	M. Kay Koeppel Chittick
11/18	8am 10am	Langlois	Croteau R. DoddL. Skelton	Freeston	Koeppel P. Royal M. Dodd
11/25	8am 10 am	Zelley	Garrett D. Baker J. Baker	P. Royal	L.Eldridge M. Dodd

Have you sent in your pledge yet?



If after Kirk ye bide a wee,
There's some would like to speak to ye,
If after Kirk ye rise and flee
We all seem cauld and still to ye.
The one that's in the seat with ye
Is stranger here than ye maybe.
All here have got their fears and cares,
Add ye your soul unto our prayers
Be ye our angel unawares.

A Scottish Blessing

Welcome to Coffee Hour!