

# A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness  
Copake Falls, New York  
July 2011

## It's Summer – Time for the Country Fair and Auction

### Thoughts from the Wilderness

Demetrios Katos, interim dean at Hellenic College in Brookline, Massachusetts makes some good points in his essay, “Holy imitation” in the latest issue of *The Christian Century*. He says that perhaps the most brazen of St. Paul’s many bold statements is his admonition that the Corinthian Christians take Paul “as their model” (1 Cor. 4:16). Brazen (to us anyway) because, “Our culture values originality, not slavish imitation. Wouldn’t you rather take the road less traveled than another’s beaten path?”

Yet often the desire for originality does not succeed in this culture due to the unrelenting exposure that we can have to mass media and advertising/marketing – all of which promote conformity (often under the guise of being unique or ‘cool’). Manipulation, deception, and even brainwashing are standard procedure in advertising --with one goal: making money. Not all things produced, advertised and sold are bad. But I think you’ll agree that advertising is not the strongest link in the ethical chain.

Nonetheless many people manage to be creative and original. God created us in his image, so we we’re created to be creative. The desire for and expression of creativity are both gifts from God to us. Still we need another gift from God, discernment (a fruit of the Spirit we need to pray for and a creative gift in itself) in order to be genuinely creative rather than destructive or simply idiosyncratic.

But what about Paul’s admonition that his fellow Christians imitate him? Well it wasn’t as

bold a thing to say then as it might be now. “No such unease about imitation existed in Paul’s day. His contemporaries prized imitation in all domains – even in speech, writing and art. The people hearing Paul’s letter in Corinth would have taken for granted that conventions are beautiful and that the subtlest manipulation of them can generate fresh ideas. There’s no question that Paul’s demand for imitation resonated with his readers at that time” (Katos).



Maybe they were too given to imitation back then, but there is a difference between “holy imitation” and unthinking conformity. Just as there is fruitful and unfruitful uniqueness, there can be fruitful and unfruitful imitation. Immediately before he tells the Corinthians to imitate him, Paul gives them (and us) some ideas about what he means. He says, “When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly.” It seems that Paul is not being egotistical in recommending imitation but rather is asking his fellow Christians to be courageous in showing kindness even when it’s hard. He’s not an arrogant Donald Trump telling others to be like him.

One of the great things about the Episcopal Church’s new Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints book of saints days and feast days –is that it’s added a large number of fascinating, very different people from Christian history to our church calendar. Holy people we are called to imitate. Not slavishly of course. But their courage or their mercy or their artistic creativity in the service of good –can inspire us to be courageous or merciful or creative in our own ways, at home or at work (bolstered by God in prayer).

Richard Upjohn, the architect of St. John in the Wilderness, is now on our church calendar for December 16. The beauty of our church (thanks to Richard Upjohn) can inspire all of us in worship and in creativity.

Or we can be inspired by the courage and passion of William Lloyd Garrison and Maria Stewart both newly on our calendar on the same day in December. Garrison was in the forefront of the abolitionist movement in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

And he published strong anti-slavery essays by freeborn African-American, Maria Stewart (starting in 1831). She was also involved with the beginnings of what became Howard University.

May we ourselves inspire others with our creativity and our love as well as our wise emulation of other holy people.

*In peace, John+*

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## Country Fair and Auction July 9, 2011

The annual Country Fair and Auction is fast approaching. We have started to photograph the auction items and will be creating a catalogue that will be posted on the St. John's website. If you have items which you intend to contribute to the auction, please let us know so they can be photographed for the catalogue. The boutique will have a jewelry section and the pieces are going to be placed in separate ziplock bags so it would be appreciated if you could get anything of this type to me soon so that I can get things packaged.

The sign up sheets are hanging in the narthex and on the board in Burke Hall. If you have not yet signed up, please do. For those of you whose tables have been eliminated, there are certainly areas of need. Floaters are good because they can step in as relief and make the day less arduous for us all. The boutique and garden shops

will both need additional help and the auction can always use people to keep an eye on the already purchased and the yet to be bid upon items. If you are looking for a mission, please call me. If you have small items that do not qualify as auction items but could be put together in a "lot" box, give me a call and I will explain how we might turn them into auction items.



Burke Hall is now open for drop off of auction items on Saturday from 10 to 3 and will be open afternoons all week the week before the auction. If it makes more sense, things can be brought in after the tent is erected.

Reservations are being taken for the Pork Barbecue and it is very helpful to Karen if they are made early as it gives her an idea of how much food will have to be ordered.

If you need me for anything, call 329-1401. Thank you for your help. Elen J. Freeston

*Elen J. Freeston, Chairwoman*

### **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)

Next issue: September 18. Submissions due September 4

## Susan Mollo attends WTC tribute during Fleet Week

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, I was a guest on board the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Willow during the Parade of Ships kicking off Fleet Week in New York City. The Coast Guard invited ten volunteers from the World Trade Center Tribute Center to sail with them.

We boarded the ship at 5:30 a.m., had breakfast and learned some of the Willow's history and mission. Willow conducts yearly domestic ice breaking in support of maritime shipping. During the search and recovery effort for John F. Kennedy, Jr., Willow worked with the U.S. Navy and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration vessels and personnel. Willow's hard work and effort succeeded in finding the wreckage.

At 8:00 a.m. we took our place, second in line after the U.S.S. New York. Three fire boats spraying water greeted us as we passed the Statue of Liberty. All hands were on deck and, on command, saluted the World Trade Center site. We continued our sail up the Hudson River to 125<sup>th</sup>



Street. The ships turned around heading back down the river which gave us an opportunity to see the rest of the ships as they sailed past. The U.S.S. Iwo Jima was a magnificent sight with hundreds of uniformed sailors on deck.

It was a very emotional day for me as I remember watching the Parade of Ships from my office on the 72<sup>nd</sup> floor of the World Trade Center. The day was extra special since my dad, John Massarella, served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. I proudly wore a photo of him on a lanyard around my neck. The following day we received a tour of the U.S.S. New York, built with steel from the World Trade Center.

Being able to take part in Fleet Week was a once in a lifetime experience.

The World Trade Center Tribute Center offers tours daily at the World Trade Center site. I am a docent and have the opportunity to share my 9/11 experience. This wonderful organization has helped me tremendously in the healing

process. For more information, please call me at 329-0395.

*Susan Mollo*

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## News from the Stewardship Committee

Good news came to us this spring with a letter from the Sacred Sites Program of the New York Landmarks Conservancy saying that we were awarded a grant of \$3500 to help reconstruct the Bell Tower. More good news has just been received from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announcing an award of \$1,000 in support of the Raise the Bell Tower Fund. An

additional grant is pending and we are hopeful for positive results.

We held a wonderful Community Rectory Dinner on May 14th as a kickoff dinner for the public phase of the Campaign. We are very grateful for all the generous donations! Parishioners and friends of the church attended (26 in all) with many others donating funds. Guests enjoyed a festive atmosphere on the rectory porch with lovely music for the flute played by Sharon Powers, Music Director of Winds in the Wilderness Chamber Music Series, and Elizabeth Valden,

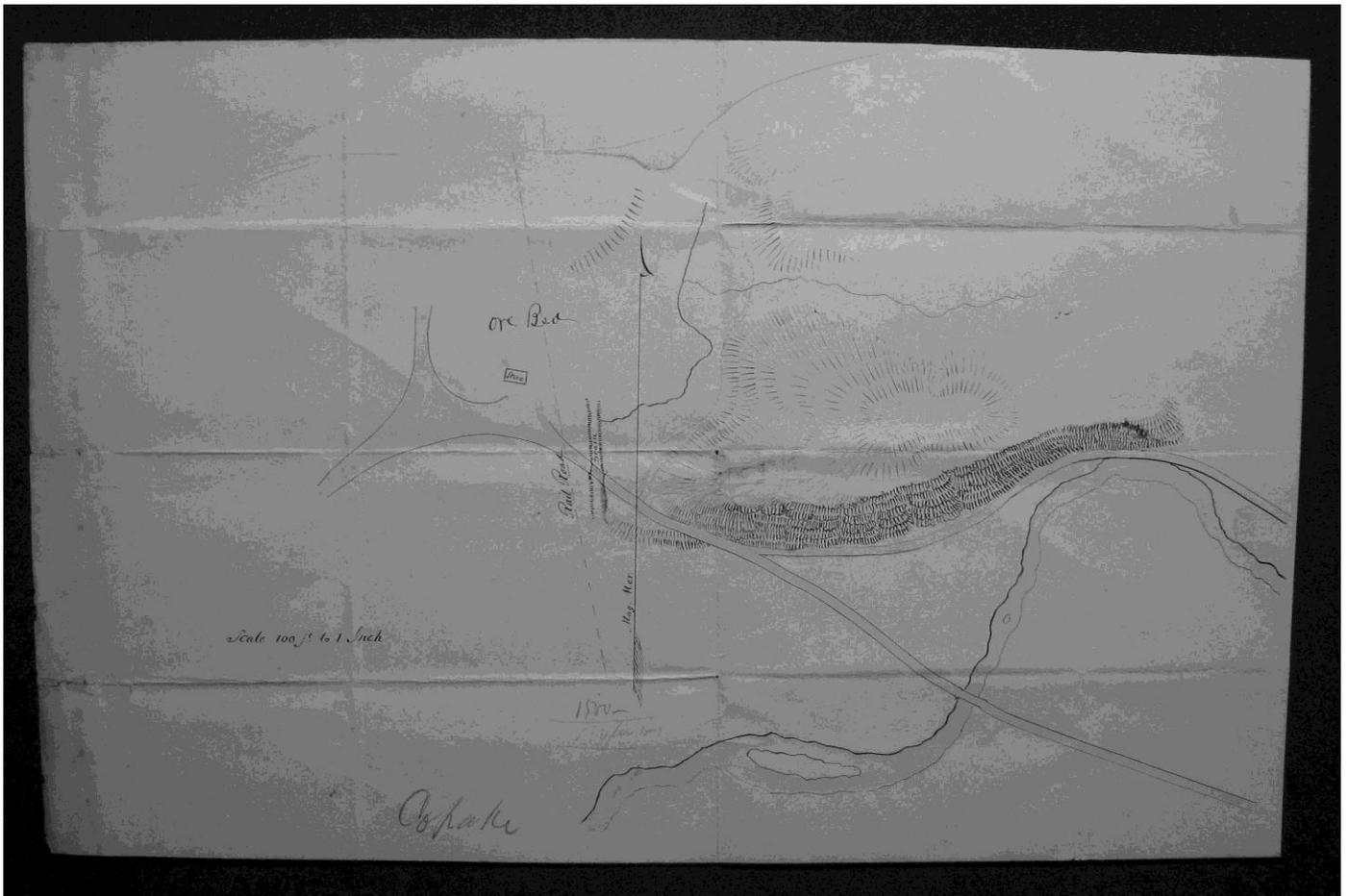
Connie Valden's grand daughter. We then proceeded to both the dining room and living room in the rectory for a delicious dinner which also included remarks on Upjohn's architecture by Dale Peterson and a cider toast to Upjohn and all our generous donors. We had great volunteers who decorated, cooked, served, and cleaned up. As of June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Raise the Bell Tower Fund stands at \$21,000. This happily marks the halfway point of the estimated cost of the project of \$42,125.

Research has recently been conducted on our historic Upjohn church by Dale and Louise Peterson and Lucy Eldridge at both the Avery Library at Columbia and at the Manuscript and Archives Division of the New York Public Library. We were intrigued to discover the original "Bill of Timber" created by Upjohn's office for our church at the New York Public Library. The "Bill of Timber" is a hand-written document in ink on blue paper and contains dimensions of wood for the entire church structure including the "Bell Turret,"

Narthex, Robing Room, and Nave (see photo). Also, in the Upjohn collection at NYPL is a drawing of a "Land Map" showing the site where St. John's would be built. The map shows the railroad, the stream, road, an "ore-Bed", now privately owned, and the hill with a penciled in rectangle showing where St. John's would be sited (see photo).

We are now planning a Harvest Dinner for Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> in celebration of the summer's bounty from our local farms, food and wine businesses. Proceeds from this dinner will benefit the Raise the Bell Tower Fund. The Harvest Dinner will be held outdoors on the church grounds and all members of the parish and community will be invited to attend. So, please, **SAVE THE DATE of September 17<sup>th</sup>**.

*Lucy Eldridge*



*Land Map from the Upjohn Archives at the New York Public Library*

Office Copy

E. 13.

Upjohn & Co Architects Bill of Timbers  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 1856. For a church to be built at Copake, Columbia Co. N.Y.

	Quantity	Spec.	Length	Inches	Width
10	Posts (of roof principals)		15' 0"	10"	8"
10	" (recurring arch pieces)		7' 9"	10"	8"
4	" on corners of gables		15' 0"	6"	6"
5	Sill beams		8' 6"	10"	8"
10	Principals & Rafters		21' 0"	10"	8"
24	Purlines		12' 0"	8"	6"
106 pieces	Plates		106 ft run	10"	4"
145 "	Sills		145 ft run	10"	6"
53 "	Ridge Plank		53 ft run	12"	8"
50 "	Common Rafters		22' 6"	4"	3"
4	Rafters of Gables		21' 6"	6"	6"
10	Window posts (side)		14' 6"	6"	4"
2	" " (front window)		20' 0"	6"	4"
4	Posts (for Gables)		23' 0"	6"	4"
10	Arch pieces of roof		11' 6"	24"	4"
10	" " " "		8' 3"	21"	4"
10	" " " "		9' 0"	21"	4"
10	" " " "		8' 6"	18"	4"
540 ft run	Girts		540 ft run	6"	4"

Bell Tower

2	Posts		40' 0"	8"	6"
2	"		19' 0"	6"	6"
2	"		13' 0"	6"	6"
2	Braces		9' 0"	6"	6"
2	"		4' 9"	6"	6"
4	"		3' 0"	6"	4"
2	Girts		5' 6"	6"	6"
2	"		4' 0"	6"	6"
2	Cross braces		5' 6"	6"	4"
6	Rafters		6' 3"	9"	4"

Add 86 Braces - 6" x 6" x 4"

Bill Timber Copake  
Common Office Copy

## **Building and Grounds June 2011**

As you can well imagine, because of the financial restraints we all are experiencing, projects within the realm of the Building and Grounds Committee are virtually at a standstill. However, we are still addressing whatever issues, problems that might surface so we can keep repair/maintenance costs at a minimum.

The Vestry is still hard at work soliciting grants from various sources to fund the Bell Tower reconstruction project. This will involve the removal of the Bell Tower, intact, to be able produce a set of drawings to duplicate it exactly as it was originally built. These drawings will then go out to bid to replicate the Tower based on the specifications we supply and to reinstall it on the Church. But, first things first, we need to have the necessary funds available to proceed with the project. Currently in the Bell Tower account we have about \$22,000 which is about one half of our estimated projected cost.

The Building and Grounds Committee will hold a meeting in the near future to discuss procedures and come up with a "Game Plan" to follow when funding actually comes available. We want to be prepared when that moment arrives. Contact has been made by Lucy Eldridge and the Petersons with the Avery Collections at Columbia University but they were not able to come up with the exact plans of the church. I also contacted the

Archivist for the New York Diocese and he informed me pretty much the same information. He also suggested we research other churches with similar construction which might be of some help. We will keep you informed as to the progress we are making.

Bob Callahan, one of our committee members, has done a remarkable job in sprucing up the Narthex, patching plaster, painting, new poster boards, etc. and a storage cabinet for a portable ramp. I understand he is going to tackle similar projects in the Sacristy.

As usual another committee member, Harry Garrett, has been busy cleaning up the Church property from all the winter damage with tree limbs and debris scattered all over. Harry we can't thank you enough for all you do to keep our property looking "ship shape".

Another major project we are going to have to address in the near future is the rapidly deteriorating condition of the Rectory front porch. The committee is well aware of it and it is next on our list following the Bell Tower.

Once again, if you spot any problems that require our attention please do not hesitate to call me at 851-9040.

*Respectfully, Your Building Committee  
Hank Croteau, Bob Flynn, Jane Peck, Harry  
Garrett, Charles Fox, Bob Callahan*

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## **Beyond Copake Falls**

News from the wider Church diminishes as spring turns to summer, though not as much as it seemed when I was a child. (I assumed, as did most kids who were suddenly free of Junior Choir or Sunday School, that God took the warm months off just like everyone else.) Even Albany's diocesan convention, which often produces some pre-Fourth fireworks, was quieter than usual.

## **The Anglican Communion Covenant**

All eyes are on the Covenant as it makes slow progress through dioceses and provinces, some of them deliberating with great care and others announcing "yea" or "nay" with little ceremony or thought. Albany is among a handful of Episcopal dioceses that have endorsed the Covenant. However, most dioceses that are on record have said "no," leading one blogger to predict that the document will arrive at next summer's General Convention "on a gurney or in a coffin."

What would follow from our Church's rejection of the Covenant depends on how other provinces vote. The Church of England's decision is crucial and, with very few returns to date, hard to predict. Because a "nay" would be devastating for the Archbishop of Canterbury, some dioceses, perhaps even a majority, may vote "yea" out of loyalty to him.

One thing is certain: Boosted by Abp. Williams as a way to bring the 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion together – an "instrument of unity" – the Covenant is anything but. Pass or fail, its future is not promising.

### **Cons and Non-Cons: A Reflection**

When Marya and I arrived at Convention early Saturday morning, our first reaction on entering Tibbetts Auditorium was, "Where is everybody?" The center third of the hall, where those with voting rights sit, had many vacant seats. The side sections were nearly empty.

A gray, rainy morning dampened the mood of what Bp. Love calls our "family reunion," but it probably had little effect on attendance: Most delegates register long before the meeting. The lack of controversial (read "divisive") issues was more important. The 2004 convention drew a big crowd for a spirited fight over the Anglican Communion Network. So did two anti-gay canons that were passed in 2007. Although last year's big issue, the Covenant, was important, it did not fill Tibbetts: Thirty parishes were absent from the 2010 Convention.

The principal reasons for a recent drop in convention attendance are cost and inconvenience. Sending a priest and three lay deputies for the whole weekend can cost \$700 - \$800, including transportation. A "commuter" pass for Saturday alone costs just \$55, but because business is transacted on Friday night too, the lower fee means reduced access to the polls.

Whether the diocesan convention is worth the money and a long drive to Speculator (e.g.

almost three hours from Copake Falls, even longer from Watertown) depends on your taste for workshops, multiple religious services, the Bishop's address, and speeches by visitors, many of whom come to the convention to criticize our Episcopal Church.



Clearly, the choice also has a political dimension. Those who are in harmony with the Bishop on matters of theology, policy, and practice will attend. Those who are not will stay home. Of the

180 or so mainstream Episcopalians on the Albany Via Media e-mail list, only a dozen attended this summer's convention. The rectors, vestries, and lay deputations of at least two progressive churches also stayed away to protest what they regard as a "poll tax."

Is there a good alternative to a three day convention in Speculator? There is. Before convention moved to Speculator more than a decade ago, it met for one day at either our Cathedral of all Saints or a conference center elsewhere in the diocese. The business meeting was just that, as is true in many other dioceses. And when the meeting was held in the see city, it was within an hour's drive of most Albany Episcopalians. Few people needed overnight accommodations, none for more than one night.

I believe the diocesan business meeting should be separated from the "family reunion" and returned to Albany, preferably to the Cathedral of All Saints. Bishop Love has resisted even considering this possibility, but sagging attendance at Camp of the Woods and the financial burden that the decline places on the diocese may make a change of venue more attractive.

A one-day convention in Albany would save parishes, individuals, and the diocese much money. By making convention more attractive to moderate and progressive Episcopalians, it would also open Albany's political process to *all* members of the diocesan family. That is "a consummation devoutly to be wished."

*Robert T. Dodd*

## News from the Wilderness

Sue Godejohn, Pauline's daughter, will be visiting from Mesa, Arizona from July 2<sup>nd</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>.

We welcome Emerson Judith Hope Garrard, born 5/16/11.



*Everly, Rebecca, Rosanne and Emerson*

## Events in the Wilderness

July 9 – Country Fair and Auction

July 10, 1:00 pm – Pork Barbecue

July 23 & 24. – Barbecue to benefit SJW. Large (and hungry!) music festival crowds anticipated in the park for swimming. Contact Bob Callahan to help with this fundraiser!

August 6 – Community Bike & Hike Day  
“Blessing of the Bikes.”

Tag and Bake Sale

August 20 – Copake Falls Day events at St John:

All day. Art show in Burke Hall.

8:30 am. Margaret Roach garden lecture

1:00 pm. Play: Belle of Amherst

3:00 pm. Concert

Sept 3 – Bake Sale at West Copake KOA

Sept 17 –Raise the Bell Tower Harvest Dinner

Also, watch for the date for the next Jazz Vespers!

## 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

Wendy Langlois, Sr. Warden

Elen Freeston, Jr. Warden

### *Vestry*

Marilyn Kay, Clerk of the Vestry

Jane Peck, Treasurer

Robert Callahan

Charles Fox

Henry Croteau

Rebecca Garrard

Karen Flynn

Steve Savarese

### *Eucharists*

Sunday, 8:00 AM (spoken)

Sunday, 10:00 AM (choral)

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

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