

How I Found the Farm - 1

Dear Debbie,

"I wanted to share with you that I learned of the Geranium Farm when I Googled Barbara Crafton's name. Many years ago, she came to lead a Lenten workshop in Castine, Maine and I was fortunate to be there. My husband and I were honored to have dinner with her and her husband at our home that evening. I was deeply moved by Barbara's use of language. Her style was warm and inviting and I found her workshop to be the best part of that Lenten season. Now I still use her books and meditations in my own studies and I quote from her frequently in my preaching. I am the Senior Pastor at the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Bar Harbor, Maine. I am glad I stumbled upon the Geranium Farm and all its benefits. Thanks for asking." - Sandra Reed

"My story, but not so interesting The weekend the Pope died I was on a retreat at Holy Cross in NY with various ladies and our Deacon Colleen. I found a small paperback collection of Barbara's eMOS. I bought it and was so taken with them that I signed up!

For three years almost I have enjoyed reading everything from the farm. I have forwarded many an email to friends and family! Thank you for making me think!" - R. Honey

Dear Debbie,

"I shall pass on my story of how I heard of the Geranium Farm. In Spring 2004 I was in the process of becoming an Episcopalian, and I took a day trip into New York City, primarily to visit the Episcopal Resource Center on 2nd Avenue where I wanted to look at various editions of The Book of Common Prayer. I also knew that St Barts on Park Avenue wasn't too far away, and thought I would see it. It was in their foyer that I came upon their bookstall, and started looking at their books. I must have said to a woman that I was going to be received into the Episcopal Church in May, and did she have any books to recommend. Immediately she told me about Barbara Cawthorne Crafton and the Geranium Farm emos. And, that was the beginning of reading the daily emos, and later buying many of BCC's books. Finally, this past Saturday I got to meet and hear Barbara at the Community of Saint John the Baptist in Mendham, New Jersey where she was doing a seminar on "Forgiveness." I am mighty glad that this dear lady in the St Bart's bookstall introduced me to Barbara almost four years ago. This nameless lady is indeed one of the quiet, listening saints who touches one's life in a very profound way!

Blessings, to you, Debbie,

- Ruth

I don't have a good story about how I found Geranium Farm. I just discovered it after buying, reading and loving a couple of Barbara's books.

No story. Just glad I did!

Steven in NYC

I found the farm because I had a conversation with Barbara husband at general convention in Minneapolis.

Nice guy

Michele Morgan

How it all began . . .

First, my church book store recommended that I pick up her book of Lenten Devotions to use with the pastoral care dept at the hospital, then I found her almost daily emos and that linked me with the farm. Thanks be to God. It is one of several daily devotions, including forward day by day and upper room. These help make the stress of dealing with families in crisis somehow more of a mission than a job. Thanks again.

Caroline R. Swilley

Pastoral Care Department

Rather a sad story, I'm afraid.

My wife, Sue, died suddenly of a brain aneurysm last October at age 52 (I'm the same age). Part of the aftermath was going through her email to see who I ought to notify that I might not otherwise know about. There were some old high school friends and other people I knew about but didn't have email addresses for, and I notified those people.

Sue was a subscriber to Geranium farm, and I read through a few of the emails and enjoyed what you folks write. So I signed up myself - in some ways just because I wanted to, but also because it provides another link to my wife.

Regards,

Dave Paisley

I attend Finger Lakes Conference and had Barbara for a class. She put me on the list. I do forward it to people from time to time and I always enjoy it. I also light candles from time to time. Thanks for asking. Deacon Barbara Ann Jensen, St. Barnabas, Monmouth Junction

I have no clue – but I'm certainly glad I did. It's been quite a while. Madelyn

My friend Lyn Cosby here in Birmingham , Alabama forwarded a meditation to me and I was hooked! That was a couple of years ago and so I subscribed. I love it and feel like I know Barbara. Blessings
from an Alabama Methodist, Shirley

A couple friends in N.Y., both of whom are priests (Episcopalians of course), forwarded something to me and I knew that what you were sending out, I wanted to receive on a regular basis. So that's how I found you. I also have forwarded some of your messages to others I know will be interested. Thanks for what you do !! Phyllis Nodaros - Sarasota, Florida

From my Godmother. Now why I think this is special – I am 48 years old and I have been blessed with this special relationship so many years, no matter the miles or time apart. Jeannie was there for my baptism and confirmation and also for the baptism of my only child in the same church, at the same font, by the same priest. Jeannie has a keen insight into people and thought that I might enjoy Barbara's writings. Which I do. Oh yeah, and did I mention ... we are all (Jeannie, myself, and Sami-Lou) house staff for pampered pussies. Rebecca

I found the Farm courtesy of a friend, Rise Shamansky. I've since passed on word of it to other friends. Why do I keep coming back? Several reasons. Confirmation. Enlightenment. Laughter. All those things for which one keeps returning to old friends.
Cheers!

Debbie,

A very good friend forwarded an article on day after we had come to know each other better. That day and every time I find that the EMos speak to me. I have since forwarded them to many people and have formed closer connections with those who are already readers. It is often the solace or inspiration for my day!
Sally Scheid

...a dear friend forwarded me a copy of one of the Almost Daily Emo's - thinking I would enjoy it. And I did. And I have been forwarding it to others as time goes on!

I am very involved in my church - The United Church of Canada - and really enjoy yet another take on the Bible readings Barbara uses - they seem to follow our lectionary. And maybe many churches follow that same lectionary - I don't know! Thanks for asking!

Cheers,
Sue Smarkala

This is in response to Barbara's Almost Dailey eMo. I was introduced to the Farm by Mary Howe, wife of Bishop Barry Howe who is bishop of West Missouri . We were at a luncheon and I was seated at the same table as Mary. She mentioned the Geranium Farm and as soon as I got back to my computer, I visited the site and have been a regular visitor ever since. Thanks! Elizabeth Wilkinson

Am responding to the requests to let you know how we found out about Geranium Farm, HodgePodge, etc. My oldest best friend, Tomi in Tamps, Fla. (we've been friends since we were 18 months old in Virginia and going to the same Episcopal church there) and I then told the entire Daughters of the King chapter here in Las Cruces and anybody else I could find. Everyone loves it and we all learn so much and enjoy everything coming along. Thanks - Dee in Las Cruces

Hi Debbie:

Well I knew of Barbara when she was at St Clemens and I have also seen her small books of emos but I got into the email Geranium Farm because someone who worked at the diocese of Montana office would send the Thursday of Friday ones to all the priests in the diocese for sermon helps. So I joined up myself and I am glad I did. The Rev. Kathy Boeschstein now in CO.

Debbie,

I remember EXACTLY how I found the Farm.

I was tapped to lead my parish's Faith Alive weekend (04 or 05 time frame, I think) as the chair and was feeling a bit overwhelmed and knew that I wasn't giving 100% of the work, time and the weekend over to God. So I went in search of EPISCOPAL prayer and spirituality resources online at the main website. At that time there wasn't a dearth of information on the ever-evolving site but the Geranium Farm was there. So I visited the site, signed up and was hooked. Its still among the list but there are more choices than the three that were there a couple years ago:

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/8020_61063_ENG_HTM.htm

I immediately fell in love with Barbara's writing style, and the way she wove baking, cooking, gardening & the goings-on at the Farm into stories of Faith and thought-provoking questions for The Journey.

I've since forwarded many an eMo to my fellow E-friends, enjoyed meeting fellow farmers at Gen Con 2006 in Ohio and searching through the Farm cookbook for a great new recipe to try. And am challenged by Barbara's recent eMo's to be a better steward of God's creation.

May God continue to bless the Farm and its many, many workers,
God's Love & Peace,

Laura Walker

I found Geranium Farm after reading an article by Barbara in *The Lutheran Magazine*. I no longer know what it was about but it is unusual for me to be moved enough by an article to research the credits! I have certainly been responsible for passing it on to some half-dozen others though.

Sheryl

Debbie,

In response to Barbara's question about how regular readers found her site, I found it through a friend in St. Louis, Nicki Gillis. Nicki is the spiritual director at the Church of St. Michael & St. George, and so organizes our annual Women's Retreat. Barbara was the leader of the retreat a couple of years ago, and Nicki helped all of us get to the website after the retreat. I enjoy keeping up with Barbara's activities and reading her daily entries.

Betsy Douglass

St. Louis, MO.

That's easy - Barbara and Q were at Adelynrood in Byfield for a weekend and I was one of the volunteers that weekend - lucky me!

After that I learned that a good friend had been on the email list for ages and that some close friends in Brookline, MA, for whom I dog sit, had known Q for years.

Small world. Thanks for asking. A.L. Amherst, MA

Barbara substituted for Fr. Pollock at St. John's in Somerville, I loved her immediately, bought her book, and the rest was history.

Hi – I'm following Barbara's instructions: letting you know how I found the Farm. Of course, a friend forwarded a meditation one day – and I followed the link at the bottom of the email and signed right up. I also read Joanna Depue's contributions.

Demographics: I'm a sixty-year-old woman who lives in Seattle . No husband, two grown children, four grandchildren (HOORAY). I'm a nearly life-long Congregationalist, a member of University Congregational United Church of Christ here.

I have found the daily emos to be a good quick break in my day. I only have access to a computer at work so have not really explored the Farm site. Periodically I too forward the emails to friends. Like Barbara said, you just never know when certain words will speak to another.

Thanks so much, Rebecca

A friend recommended it.