

How I Found the Farm - 2

If you want a 'good' story - this isn't it. If you are just trying to determine the various ways we have individually found The Farm, then here's how I did.

My Mother, Harriett Neer, is the former national secretary and mostly recently former national president of ECW. She began forwarding musings of Barbara Crafton (including of course Crocchina exploits) to me that she thought would have some personal significance to me.

Thanks for what all of you share with all of us!

Maribeth Caldwell

My very dear friend. Linda, that I met 54 yrs. ago (our parents were close friends), forwarded a couple of emails to me. I then signed up, too, and then met Barbara in San Antonio, when she had the retreat for St. Mark's.
Nancy Lemmons-Grijalva

I found you thru a good friend that knew I was going thru some difficult times as my 39 yr old daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer. I lit many a candle. This was two yrs ago.

Mary Lou Rushiing

Debbie,

I have the best story possible of how I found the Geranium Farm. When I first met Barbara Crafton at a workshop -- Kenyon Summer Conference several years, she told me about the EMos and the website.

Jerry Townsend

Debbie,

This not a clever story - I'm assuming from today's e-mo (one of the best among many many great ones) that you're also researching how the word travels, and would like to know the more pedestrian accounts as well.

The Diocese of Southern VA has an annual conference which I usually attend, at Shrine Mont. When the brochure came out a few years ago, Barbara was announced as the keynoter (this is always a subject of great interest and speculation among those of us who attend). I immediately googled her and signed up for the e-mos, before hearing her speak a few months later. The e-mos became a form of early introduction, and I also shared them with several friends who signed up themselves.

Now Matt is coming to Shrine Mont this year, so the circle of connection continues to grow. And we just had the pleasure of hearing Barbara preach for a whole week here in Richmond at St. Paul's. So the church, in the form of the Diocesan conference, was really the means of my further spiritual growth under Barbara's masterful tutelage. Many thanks to her, and to you all. - Alison G. Love

Dear Debbie: This is a brief story in response to Barbara Crafton's "How I Found the Farm" column earlier today. I found the Geranium Farm primarily through Barbara's presentations at an Advent retreat for members and associates of the Brotherhood of St. Gregory, which took place at St. John's Episcopal Church in South Salem, NY this past December. Barbara was most inspiring, and she mentioned the Geranium Farm a couple of times during her homilies (and again during the shared meal together). I was intrigued, signed on and have enjoyed the various postings ever since.

So that's my story. Not particularly unusual, but I thought you'd like to have this amongst the other responses you're sure to receive.

(Mr.) Nevin C. Brown

Not a great story -- my sister's boss received the e-mails and my sister forwarded some to me.

I've forwarded several to other friends and family.

Sara L. Martin

Recovering Overachiever

Barbara nailed it on the head. A sister in Christ forwarded an Almost Daily eMo to me, explaining that this was a devotional email she received and thought I'd be interested. She added the caveat that she didn't always agree with what Barbara wrote, lol!

But I quickly added myself to the distribution list, and whether I agree or not, I find Barbara to be thought provoking and humorous. Even from a conservative, dog-lover like me!

Patti

.....Geranium Farm.

My best friend from high school and for many decades after that worked as a Secretary for a cluster of Episcopal churches in CT so I imagine that's how she came to know the Farm. She sent a link to me at some point and I was hooked so to speak. Jean died a few years back and though I finally could erase her e-mail address from my computer I continue to read Barbara's bon mots and often think of Jean when I do. I'm not Episcopalian, by the way, but am very active in the United Church of Christ in Middlebury VT.

Joan aka
mimi

.....there was a short item in the Canadian Anglican monthly newspaper about Barbara at the Geranium Farm.....I do enjoy the e-mails! Thanks!

I found out about the Farm and Barbara Crafton because I went to a "quiet day at the cathedral" (in Portland, Maine) during Lent about 3-4 years ago. The leader was a member of the order of St. Helena: Sister Mary Louise, I think. She worked out of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in NYC and was just there for the weekend. The quiet day was divided into a couple of segments with a particular focus for each one. At one she read what was only a short paragraph that had come from one of the Almost Daily eMo's; it had touched her; she thought it might be of value to the rest of us. She mentioned the Geranium Farm website, which I had never heard of before. I then went to the website and signed up to get the eMo's. Right now, I find the insights from what I read here far, far more valuable than anything that is going on in the church I regularly attend.

Kathy Kolb

Forwarded from a friend. So long ago I don't remember who it was from. Barbara will write something – like the thoughts about horses –and so I forwarded it to someone who has horses and cares about spirituality. Have no idea if she's now a subscriber. That's how it works. I think that's how it's always worked – for thousands of years. What I connect with is Barbara's grounding spirituality in down to earth stuff. Peace,

Warren

how I found the farm . . .

not very exciting, but probably a path that many took. i went to a retreat at holy cross monastery and barbara was the facilitator. when i came home i went to amazon to look for her books and somehow the farm showed itself (maybe i googled her for books) and i signed on.

and have never regretted doing so--i pass her emos on endlessly and get much enjoyment from both the spiritual journey and the cats!

Melanie

2 years ago at a Lenten retreat with Barbara at Holy Cross, many people kept mentioning it. Many of the e-mos, I have passed on to others, when it seemed to fit-to a gardner or a bird watcher or....so many! A good way to introduce others to Christ in a manner that they may begin to know His Love

Peace

Betty Lou

You mean it wasn't always there?

Sorry, I don't have a good story, but it has been a spiritual home for while now and I've shared it with family and friends. But I don't know how I got there the first time.

Beth Appel

A member of my Cursillo group recommended it several years ago, and I have become a faithful fan. I have a folder with printed copies of those messages that I need to read over and over again, and I often forward copies that I think are pertinent to my friends.

Thanks for the inspiration! Bette Loyd

Debbie,

I found the Geranium Farm after spending a Saturday last year with Barbara at a retreat at St. James, Greenville, S.C. She mentioned it during the day, and I looked it up the following Monday. Her Almost Daily eMo's and Joanna Depue's newsletters have been a blessing in my life. God's Peace to you and to all at the Geranium Farm.

Linda

Actually it's probably a fairly common story - but the preamble might not be:

At a Cursillo staff training weekend, we were sharing our favorite authors. I was telling the story about how I stopped in the Borders (before it became a big chain) in Novi, Michigan and saw a book with a picture of a female priest on the cover. I picked up the book solely to determine if she was one of "ours" (even though I lived successively in two conservative dioceses where women were not eligible for the priesthood, I was curious about this ordained women thing). Satisfied that she is an Episcopal priest, I tried to put the book back on the shelf. Several times. Finally, I gave up and bought the book. The Sewing Room became a fixture on my nightstand, although at this point I have owned several copies, all of which have gone missing to various friends. (Not to worry, my sister lives near Metuchen and gave me a copy inscribed by BCC with the admonition not to give it away.)

Anyway, long story short, Jackie W (from Epiphany, Guntersville, Al) told me about the eMo's which I found after a little googling.

Thanks, Jackie.

And, of course, Barbara.

Bob Bennett

Good Shepherd, Decatur, Al

Debbie, my name is Martha Graham and I live in Jasper, Alabama. My mother told me about the Geranium farm, and I just want ya'll to know I am a very BIG fan!! I love the Almost Daily E-MOS; I have been Episcopal all of my life, and I am now reading one of Barbara's books, Every Woman's Serenity. Please tell Buddy Stallings "Hey" from Martha Morris Graham, Lacey's daughter. I was a member of St. James in Jackson, Mississippi, and he also married my husband and!! Thank you!

Martha Morris Graham

Hi, I found it through a forward from my friend Diane Kessler, from in EFM. After a couple of forwards, I decided that I wanted my own subscription. I've since forwarded many emails from Geranium Farm.

Kit Graham

Debbie---the simple answer is that Bishop Pierre Whalon, Bishop in Charge Of the Convocation of American Episcopal Churches in Europe mentioned Something to me about one of Barbara's almost dailies.

The more meaningful answer is that when he mentioned Barbara as a source Of almost daily stimulation and insight, I was immediately hooked!

In the late 1980's and early 1990's my Rector, Bill Harper, put me on the Diocese of NY Commission on Ministry,, where I first met Barbara. I was immediately drawn to her because her core question about each of the candidates was "Is there any reason why this person must become a Priest?" rather than "Is there any reason why this person should not become a Priest?" As the neophyte on the Commission, this seemed to me the more appropriate way to approach the individual's candidacy, both in a period when the Diocese was overstocked on Priests and in general, since as a layman I viewed our charge to be to identify folk who would be marvelous priests.

So hearing that Barbara's thoughts were available on e-mail, almost daily, I couldn't wait to sign up.

I have archived the e-mos from the day I signed up, and dip back in from time to time, searching for a special thought or insight. That is not an easy process. Has there ever been an attempt to catalogue them by subject matter? That would be a great boon for those of us who are so committed to listening to Barbara's exceptional voice.

Conner Fay

