

How I Found the Farm - 4

Debbie, My story isn't very interesting, but y'all asked! I was going through some tough times, questioning my faith, etc. My priest recommended two things: Read Psalm 139 every day for a month, and check out the Geranium Farm. Both have led me in directions I never thought to go.

That's it. Not a lot to say, but a lot to live!

Pam Griffin

Hi,

No special story here; a friend emailed me a photo. I noticed it was an eMo from the Geranium Farm and I was curious about what the Geranium Farm was so checked it out. I've signed up and have been receiving the eMo's ever since. It's been a few years and I still love getting the eMo's. Thanks to all of you who make the Geranium Farm and the eMo's possible!

Sincerely,

Nan St. Michael
Lincoln City, OR

A friend told me about Barbara...she had heard BC speak and then had signed up for the E Mos. I then looked you up on the web and signed up...that was years ago

Now I am on my second time through BC's "Finding Time For Serenity" and have enjoyed other of her books too.

Faith Lang

Barbara Crafton held a retreat last year at my church. Relatively new to the area and the church, I was not yet comfortable enough to attend. However, she preached the 7:30 service that Sunday, and that is the service that I attend. I enjoyed her so much that I googled her when I got home. I found the farm and have been enjoying it and the almost daily emos, more or less church, and Father Matthew ever since.

Shea Carroll
Pinehurst, NC

It's not an interesting or unique story, but I had to check in as one of multitudes who were informed about eMos through the infectious enthusiasm of Susan Lassen, previously of Cold Spring Harbor, NY. Incredible numbers of parishioners at St. John's, her church here, are subscribers who endlessly discuss the eMos and the whole Geranium family. It's a wonderful, wonderful addition to and inspiration in our lives. We're so grateful to all of you who support the functioning of the Farm.

In addition there are the countless friends and friends-of-friends who don't have computers, but receive printouts from fans like me. It's a sort of "Amazing Grace".

Many thanks to all you farmers,

Barbara Keates

I am happy to share with you that I live in the Desert in Arizona and did not have to experience a Hurricane to find you as one of your responders had and shared her "Thank You".

I was raised in a very Legalistic Baptist home and have been studying for many years working on silencing my Monkey Brain Chatter. I decided in 2008 that I should devote study leading up to Easter as my Purpose Driven Plan. The Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways and explorefaith.org has me journaling, learning and sharing. One of the weekly emails that isn't a part of their Lenten study led me to your website. I read it and chose to read further in the Archives and subscribed. The emails that I have received from your site so far have been helpful and informative and I've forwarded to a couple of my friends.

Thank you for your website and the variety of articles available to read in your Archives.

God Bless and Take Good Care,

Melody

Hi, Debbie,

I bet your inbox is bursting ;) My story isn't exciting; the same good friend who loaned me her copy of *The Sewing Room* told me about the Farm and the eMo's. That was a few years ago. I have now been an Anglican missionary in northwest China for nearly three years, and the eMo is my tonic and my spiritual lifeline!!

Peace,
Sarah

This is not an amazing story but I saw Barbara at a conference/retreat (no idea who she was!) and everyone was talking about her books and website so I decided to check it out!

Debbie,

I'm an Australian, and I was introduced to Barbara's emos by a British friend who thought I'd like Barbara's writings, which I do. I have since quite often passed them on to my circle of efriends, which has resulted in instructive enjoyment here and there and also a few more subscriptions.

I don't often visit the website, but I'm always happy to see an emo in my In-box.

You may be mildly interested to know that I come from a somewhat different Christian culture than Barbara does, so it has been a blessing to me to embrace what I can of Barbara's, and peacefully leave the rest.

I have embraced a great deal, to my pleasure and profit.

Adele Palmer

Three years ago, on Christmas Eve, a now-retired Episcopal priest "Father Jim" left a copy of Barbara's "Heavy Church Fair Linen" eMo in the sacristy. I was then a member of altar guild. If memory serves me, I read it

sometime during the second of the night's three services when I was "in the back" setting up for the next service. The night would be long, so long that I would be the last to leave and the first to arrive -- in that order -- on

Christmas morning. No matter: my work and role were understood. I became a regular reader of Barbara's writings. And Father Jim and I still keep up with each other.

MaryAnne Batchelor

Midlothian VA

PS: Many thanks to Barbara for coming to Richmond last week. It's good to now be able to "hear" the voice of the writings.

The way I found the farm is probably pretty common place. I belong to a book club and all of the ladies are also parishioners at St. James Church, Marietta, GA. One of them was and is a regular on the Almost Daily eMo list and she spoke about the content of an eMo in one of our book discussions. Later she forwarded the eMo in question to me. This was several years ago and I have been a faithful reader of eMos ever since, as are a number of my friends now. The original connection was through our now retired rector, The Rev. C. Scott May, who recommended eMos to several people. Also, two of our book club members attended the gardening conference at Kanuaga last year.

Your request for the story was especially interesting to me because you mentioned my childhood friend, Hazel Smith Glover; and I got to read her reflection on the content of an eMo from about a year ago because of your link.

Your request for the story came the day after I saw Hazel's older brother in our hometown of LaGrange, GA. I'm in the midst of clearing out our family home prior to closing the sale of it. After 5 generations of life in this small west Georgia town, there will be no one from our immediate family living there and I have been troubled about breaking the connection.

Then over the last two weeks reminders of my roots are cropping up all around me, even in email from someone in New Jersey! The connection with "home" is always with us. Isn't it interesting how reassurance about what preys upon our minds comes to us?

Kay Quillian Chester

I found the "Farm" through my friend who found the "farm" and passed it on to me. This friend is a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Alabama, serving at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Huntsville, Alabama. I have moved to Prescott Valley, Arizona and still receive and enjoy the emos and morning prayer. My whole Curcillo reunion group in Huntsville, AL receives the "farm" and so does the Priest. We are Blessed daily by words of encouragement from a woman of wisdom.
God bless you and your ministry,
Rebecca Riviere, Oblate OSB
Prescott Deanery of Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Monastery, Tucson, AZ

Dear Debbie,

I don't have anything exciting or dramatic, but I found the Farm through Anglodeacons listserv. I can't remember if Joanna Depue wrote something on the line, or if someone cited a meditation by Joanna or Barbara. However, I was curious enough to seek the website. I subscribed. I became even more excited when I saw the announcement at General Convention Columbus, that a breakfast for Geranium Farmers was scheduled. I was lucky enough to get in. I was hooked! Now I find the offerings of the Farm vital to my daily meditations. I have shared the site with many.
Have a great weekend.
Barbara Carver
Diocese of Spokane

Hi Debbie

I had to search back to recall...but it finally wriggled its way out of the tangled neurons of my brain. I am pretty certain it was from something I read on ExploreFaith.org. I visit the website daily and that led to a click to geranium farm. I signed up for the daily Emo and one day I forwarded a good one to my sister and now she too is a devotee of the Emo. Anyway, I always look forward to reading the Emo and other info I get from the site.
Thanks for asking!!
Nanci Moll

I found out about it through newmornings, Timberly Whitfield. it was on her daily newsletter one time and I just clicked on and here I am. I love geranium farm and send it to others often.
Mona Priest

Hi Debbie,

Someone gave me a book of devotionals by Barbara, and I wanted to read anything she had written. One thing led to another, and I discovered the delights of the website! The writings speak to my soul.
Blessings ~ Rev. Patience Brumley
United Methodist minister

My priest, who considers Barbara Crafton a mentor of his, sent me the eMo from April 25, 2007, thinking I might enjoy it... especially the reference to gay marriage, since my partner and I were, and still are, talking about just that. He also told me I could check out the site and sign up to receive the eMo's. To quote him "It is a blessing, I find." And I agree. I look forward to receiving the messages and check out the website whenever I can. I have sent several of the eMo's to my partner and friends of ours and have heard back that they too have signed up to receive not only the eMo's but also More or Less Church from Deacon J. We truly find it a blessing... and laugh, cry, talk and think on the messages sent. So thank you for asking.. it helps me to remember how supportive my priest is regarding my "orientation". ~Sue

Barbara was the retreat leader for Episcopal women in Arkansas about 4 years ago. I was so taken by her spiritual honesty, I immediately signed up. Judith

