

### How I Found the Farm - 3

I subscribe to New Mornings Daybook thanks to a friend who alerted me to that site. Every so often some contributor to that piques my interest and I follow up on the link listed. That was how I found Barbara and Geranium Farm. I've forwarded it to my friends and they've all thanked me for doing so. It's that ripple effect that so often has good and meaningful outcomes.

Terry Waggle  
St. Louis, MO

... or, maybe it's a story of Cross pollinating!

Dear Debbie,

I found the Farm by searching for couples' retreats on the internet. There were several nice retreats that I didn't have an opportunity to attend (and my husband wouldn't attend because he doesn't consider himself religious) but having the Almost Daily Emo and More or Less church e-mails it's like I get to go on mini-retreats each time I open one!

Grace & Peace,  
Michelle Stone

Hi Debbie,

Over 4 years ago, a woman I'd met in NYC sent me link to the farm. She's a member of a Cursillo reunion group with Barbara. I've since passed the connection to friends all across Canada. Having spent much of my life on the Saskatchewan prairie, I'm pretty familiar with how the wind blows seeds around... usually the ones you don't want in your garden or fields, but this one's been a pleasure to spread. And, speaking of new starts... Barbara married us in October and the NY native is now rooting in Saskatoon. With Canada's emigration policies being full of rocky detours and parched resource people, the New Yorker has used these 'fallow' months to dig herself into a lot of highly productive work: creating liturgies, bulletins and Taizé services; joining the board of a community centre for one of the core neighbourhoods; say nothing of organizing the mounds of paper in my office and opening our home to visitors. Ah, ain't planting great!

A Double-Whammy From Canada,

John Seib (& Kathy Chase)

For years, I was an 'article clipper' - the kind of person who has bulging folders in my file cabinet with articles that I liked. Sometime in the mid-to-late 1990's, I progressed to the obvious next step: saving text file versions of articles I like. Since my mother is a retired librarian, I try whenever possible to save an on-line link, copyright information and date as a citation to everything I save.

My guess is that someone sent me one of Barbara's e-mos and that when I went to track down the web-link, I discovered the Geranium Farm. The earliest articles in my personal archive is dated November 14, 2003. I saved three articles that day, but I'd be willing to bet that the one that brought me to the Farm was the one originally published on November 3, 2003: "Time To Leave Each Other Alone For A Spell". I must have subscribed immediately because I have twelve more articles saved between that date and the end of the year.

There are 244 items in that folder on my hard drive now ... and I add to it regularly!

Blessing to you and to all the Farm folks!

John

Debbie, I found the farm when I bought one of Barbara's books a number of years ago. Don't know that I have a good story about that but that's how I found it LOL

*Sometimes you just have to take the leap,  
and build your wings on the way down!*

Jill Cooper

Hi Debbie,

I'm a pastor Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship and received an email from both the previous pastor and a member of the congregation that they appreciated the words coming out of Geranium farm. So I signed up for the email and check in a couple times a week to see what is being said. - Joel Miller

Hi Debbie,

I don't remember how I came to know the site but I have e-mailed it to several friends. It is one of my favorites and I look for it every day.

viv2326

A former AA sponsor gave me a copy of "Finding Time for Serenity." She knew I was an Episcopalian and thought it might be up my alley. It certainly was. I found other books by Barbara Crafton including "Almost Daily e-Mos" and "From the Geranium Farm" and subscribed.

Sharon Kilpatrick

Debbie

I first was found by Geranium Farm through Gods grace and a wonderful friend.

My son, Adam, was serving in Iraq/Kuwait in 2006 and a friend sent me an email saying she lit a candle for him and an online faith community was praying for him; she sent me the link. She knew that Barbara had long been one of my favorite spiritual writers (I have all her books!) and I was delighted to find her almost daily emails.

Not only did the emails give me strength during his deployment but, after his safe return, her words of faith have continued breaking through the darkness of my job (I'm a cradle Episcopalian and a social worker in the ER of a pediatric hospital at a major trauma center and daily deal with child abuse cases and fatalities).

I've created a "Farm" folder and save the ones that resonant the most - and refer back to them during periods of reflection at home; some have even been incorporated into collage work I do on the weekends. As someone who was computer phobic for years - and still only has access @ work (I refuse to purchase one) - these emails have enriched my life beyond telling, as comfort, support and inspiration. ALMOST enough to make me think there are some redeeming qualities about this machine after all!

What a blessing! To all who make it possible - - THANK YOU.

Donna

Debbie,

Barbara asked that we let you know how we found the farm. A parishioner forwarded one of Barbara's e-mo's to me quite some time ago. I subscribed and have enjoyed her reflections ever since. Had I not learned of this great resource at that time, I have heard Barbara speak at Shrine Mont a couple of times (even had the treat of driving her back to the airport once) and would have signed on based on her presentations. Mine is not an unusual story, but I'm grateful for the discovery.

With thanks for the ministry of Geranium Farm,

Jackie Thomson

I heard about Barbara Crafton and Geranium Farm when I was taking EFM (Education For Ministry) mentor training at Sewanee (University of the South). I've been among the faithful ever since. Anne Rogers

Gosh... it's been a few years now - at least 5 or 6.... I think it was mentioned in some e-newsletter from some organization.

I'm a curious person. And it was the kind of resource I needed. It was a good reference.

I'm glad I found you!

Peace,

Karen Adolphson in Brecksville (Cleveland), Ohio

One of my dearest friends is Pam Maley - Chad's mom. she sent me a book by Barbara Crafton and it has given me rewarding, smiling spiritual feelings as have the Emo's. Thanks to Barbara for all her sharing of thoughts and life's events. Elizabeth Playforth

Debbie - about two years ago I was visiting with a long time friend (Judy St. John) in the town where we used to live in South Texas, and she mentioned that she received the BEST devotionals online from a lady who was an Episcopal priest. I thought, "Oh great. How boring and probably stuffy." Then she said the name of the site was Geranium Farm, which I thought sounded pretty down to earth, so I let her sign me up. I LOVE the e-mo's, and have signed up friends and family members far and wide. I have used them for devotionals in different groups, shared them with all kinds of people, and keep a file of the ones I love. I'd give anything to see Barbara in person or share a "retreat" weekend. Maybe one of these days..... Thanks and blessings to all of you at the Farm. Dorothy Schmidt, Kerrville, Texas

I have always been interested in the psalms. They have always just spoken to me in times when I needed truth, and I found out why at a retreat nearly 15 years ago when a nun suggested they were like "cursing at God in prayer," (rather irreverent for any nun I had ever known, and probably why I enjoyed her so much). Well, being one who frequently finds herself shaking her fist at God over even the smallest thing, I found sister's analogy just the excuse I needed for being so angry all the time—yet feeling it was okay with God.

However, in search for a way to use my anger more "prayerfully," I sought out a book on the psalms and stumbled across Barbara Cawthorne Crafton's *Meditations on the Book of Psalms* at the used book store—obviously someone less volatile than myself couldn't find a use for it. I don't remember what happened after that; life, divorce, more kids, the dog, but I don't remember reading it either—at least not on a daily basis.

Recently, though, it resurfaced in my life at a time I was seeking truth again. God has ways of putting things in my hands that lead to truth for me when I need it. And I've been reading it nearly every day for a month. Sometimes a skip a day on purpose, just so I can savor it a bit longer the next day—I can be manipulative like that. On days when the meditations don't seem to speak to me, they are still in my head as I shop vac the flooded basement or struggle with a willful child, or meet article deadlines (I'm a starving freelancer), and often they jump out and rescue me just when I am at wits end. So I've been sharing some of the wisdom of that book with a friend and recently went looking for Barbara on line when I found a web site about women in religion, which led me to the Geranium Farm, where I immediately signed up for almost daily eMo. That's how I found you. Long story, I know, but it's taken me a long while to get here—and wouldn't you know, in my wildest imagination I couldn't come up with a better refuge than a geranium farm. Ahhh. Diane Wieland

Debbie – I've "known" Barbara since I first read Sewing Room when it came out... I've tried to read her other books as they came out, and was probably googling for one of those books when I found the Farm... delighted, subscribed and have enjoyed the eMo's ever since near their beginning, forwarding and recommending to others along the way. And as she says, some connect, some don't. But I forward and share them anyway.

Blessings,

Rev. Frances Preston

St. Andrew's UMC

Spring Lake, NJ

Hi,

Sharon Marable a friend and fellow DOK forwarded several Farm emails to me before one hit me because I finally read it. I have been enjoying them ever since.

Thanks,

Margaret Cooper

