

## **Anne Elizabeth Bissell**

*September 12, 1954 – April 3, 2009*

*Written for the May 2009 Newsletter LITS.*

Most of you have learned of the tragic death of Anne Elizabeth Bissell in a head-on automobile collision on Friday, April 3, 2009. Her premature death is a fact not easy to accept. And many of us have been trying to reckon with it all.



Born in Connecticut, she attended schools in West Hartford, and then went to Skidmore College in New York, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1980. Anne moved to a home on Potato Hill near Popple Dungeon in Chester. Fortunate for us, Anne became a generous, faithful and valuable parishioner at St. Luke's, serving on the Finance Committee, the Vestry, and the Discernment Committee. Anne also participated in the Alpha Course and was an enthusiastic supporter of the Sleeping Bag Project for the Homeless. She and her mother, her best friend, moved to southern Florida in 2003, Anne to Englewood and her mother to nearby Venice.

Her career path took interesting turns. She first worked at the Old Tavern and then Smith Barney in Ludlow where she was able to work by telephone and computer to the outside work and have the bonus of "trucking" her favored dogs Buster and Lily to the office to supervise her. After moving to Florida Anne decided to pursue a new career as an X-ray technician and became intrigued with research in autism, but the hospital setting turned her off. Having remembered meeting someone in the medical transcription field while still in Vermont, she made another thoughtful change and transitioned to school, way ahead of the game. After finishing the training, she established her own business from her home. Her pets were there for company, walks, rides or supervision. She was able to take the best of her Vermont career and turn it into a successful flexible Florida one, unfortunately cut short by this tragedy.

Besides her mother Susan in Venice, FL, she leaves behind her sister Gail in Deer Park, WA and her brother Gib, in Kalispell, MT and nieces and nephews as well. Anne also leaves her beloved dog Lily, two horses, Foxie and Rosie and her two cats, Stan and Ollie. Anne's radiant warmth, kindness and joy of life will be deeply missed by all who knew her, including her fur family.

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