

Biblical Herb Fair in Fairfield

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BUTSY MOFFITT was in retailing in New York before she moved to Fairfield some 15 years ago, and her voice rings with conviction when she says "I hate meetings." She does, however, love herbs; so she agreed to be chairman of the herb fair at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 4670 Congress Street, Fairfield, if she could do it her way. She has supervised an unusually cohesive enterprise, aided by co-chairman Jean Moffitt (no relation).

A permanent Biblical garden at the front of the church, designed by Butsy Moffitt in memory of her brother-in-law, John A. Moffitt Jr., has "provided the

germ of the idea for the fair," she says. The garden's three main parts include a Mary Garden, with plants bearing the Virgin Mary's name or story; a Culinary Garden, involving herbs mentioned in the Bible as seasoning sources, and a Legendary Garden, with Biblical herbs that have acquired legendary meaning. Visitors to the fair are encouraged to visit the garden, and a little booklet has been printed to explain the concepts.

The fair will be held next Friday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., and visitors are also invited, for a \$3 donation, to six neighboring gardens and kitchens that emphasize herbs.

These include the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Larsen, who have designed

theirs as a habitat for birds, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Seggerman, who have selected their herbs for fragrance and have surrounded a pool and pool house with them. At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yates, the herbs grow in barrels by the kitchen door, which opens into a French country kitchen.

Virtually all of the items to be sold at the fair are related to herbs or gardens. Volunteers will wear aprons with a silk-screened motif incorporating an herbal theme, designed by a professional silk-screener and potter, Varrick Niles. Visitors can purchase these aprons in green-striped cotton for \$7.50 or in solid-colored versions in canvas or cotton.

There will also be notepaper—12 cards and envelopes for \$1.50—featuring a sketch of herbs in a kitchen setting by the Westport artist Enid Monroe. And the best needlepoint artists of St. Timothy's parish have been executing a series of altar cushions designed by Butsy Moffitt and depicting herbs of the Bible. The canvas can easily be converted to a conventional rectangular pillow, and kits will be on sale.

Other items executed by parishoners include do-it-yourself pomander kits at \$3.50; hanging potpourri to repel moths, \$1.25; a variety of dried-herb fragrant wreaths, from \$12.50 to \$20, and lots of vinegars, jams and jellies. Herbs themselves, both dried and fresh in pots, will also be sold.

The food booth will carry such items as herb breads and cookies. By far the most ambitious project is a cookbook, "Cooking With Love," which offers 455 recipes in 250 looseleaf pages for \$7. Each of the kitchens visited on the tour will be serving some recipe from the book.

In addition, a box lunch with an herbal theme will be available for \$3.

St. Timothy's is reached by leaving the Merritt Parkway at Exit 44, turning right immediately on Congress Street and proceeding for four miles. ■



The New York Times/Colleen O'Hara

Mrs. Peter Moffitt in the biblical herb garden she designed for St. Timothy's Church

