

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness www.spiritofthewilderness.org

Weekly News—November 15, 2012

Vicar's Notes

Baptism is the rite by which people become part of the Christian church. Baptism was only used by some fringes of Judaism at the time of Jesus—as a symbolic washing, implying repentance and conversion. John's baptism was in this tradition, and Jesus joined in by being baptized. So it may seem surprising that from the time of the resurrection baptism was the sign that a person belonged to the Christian community.

Paul writes (within around 20 years of the resurrection) about baptism as “burial with Christ.” He also speaks of those who are “sealed by the promised Holy Spirit.” In the book of Acts, it is repentance, and baptism, and the gift of the Spirit that make a person a Christian, and that has continued to be the case throughout the years, although people have agreed that the exact timing of the three may vary. From earliest days, dipping in water and anointing were part of the service., which then moved into Eucharist.

This Sunday Thea Hedstrom will be baptized, using this two thousand year old rite in a church that just celebrated five years! We will also incorporate part of a Jewish “naming” rite.

Baptism is very much a family occasion—a time when the candidate becomes part of the Christian family—particularly this expression of that family which we call SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS. See you at the family gathering this Sunday!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Check out our website for
updated information on
our Stewardship Campaign?

Monday, November 19th, Bishop's Committee 7 PM.

Tuesday, November 20th, 4:30 Worship committee, dental office.

Wednesday, November 21st, 7 PM, Thanksgiving service at Maple Hill. Light some candles and sing some Thanksgiving hymns and be grateful.

Sunday, November 25th, 2 PM, Spirit of the Wilderness at the Care Center.

Thursday, November 29th, Light Up a Life service of remembrance at the hospital.

Sunday, Dec. 2nd, Blessing of our pledges in church.

NEEDING your input.....

- Last year we had a Christmas Eve potluck at WindCradle Cradle late afternoon/early evening.... shall we do this again?
- A number of folks requested an earlier Christmas Eve service—like 7 PM—rather than 10 PM..... what do you think?
- Christmas Day has been a very small service....shall we have one this year?

Looking further ahead:

- **January 27th SOTW retreat 1:00-4:30 at WindCradle.**
- **February 28-March 2**—For our event with the Grand Marais Art Colony we will be bringing to native American priests to Grand Marais. They will be presenting and offering workshops, and leading our Sunday worship. We also hope to have an event or two at Grand Portage. Who would like to help plan this?

The Reaching Out Committee is looking for volunteers to spend an hour a week helping elementary students at Sawtooth.
Contact Kathy Sullivan.