

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—December 17, 2009

Mentor Notes:

Visiting my son, daughter in law, and granddaughter in Phillie reminded me of a crucial principle about being a healthy church—that of how a church must carefully define itself for a given setting. St. Mark's (where my son is priest) is a venerable, Anglo-Catholic church with paid section leaders, several organists, close on twenty masses per week, brocaded vestments and lots and lots of incense!

Spirit of the Wilderness will never be like St. Mark's, Philadelphia, but we can ask the questions they ask—how can we meet the needs of both our present congregation as well as our potential members, living out of our tradition and yet being welcoming to outsiders?

I believe that our Christmas Eve service is an ideal example of our doing this—with the best of our liturgy, the magical atmosphere, the gift to those in need, and our welcome. Do invite people you know to join us that evening.

Blessings— +Mary Ellen

Christmas Eve Preparation:

Decorating: After church this Sunday.

Ice Luminaria for Christmas Eve—these are being made by Max Linehan.

Kerosene Lanterns: If you have a couple of these, please bring them for use that evening.

Ushers: We need some friendly folks to welcome our visitors.

Readers: Sign up this Sunday for a lesson to read.

Treats: Please bring some for after the service.



Dates to Remember!!



- **Sunday, December 27th:** Steering Committee meeting after the service.
- **Monday, December 28th:** Spirit of the Wilderness does the food shelf at 3 PM.
- **Sunday, January 10th:** Adult forum: How did we get the scriptures in their present form? How trustworthy are our translations?
- **Anyone willing** to host our January social gathering?