

## Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness [www.spiritofthewilderness.org](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

Weekly News—October 25 2012

**Mark your calendars!**

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All Saints—we'll be celebrating this Sunday, October 28th! Please bring a picture of someone you'd most like to remember to church.

### Vicar's Notes

I just got back from Clergy Conference in Buffalo, MN. Although these gatherings usually include clergy who are retired, total ministry, unemployed, as well as associates, this gathering was only for clergy in charge of congregations. I come away from this gathering sensing the enormous changes that are happening in the church. And I am extremely thankful for what God is doing in Cook County!

So many of my colleagues are struggling to survive because their buildings are sucking up so many resources. It's hard for people at these churches to think creatively, because they are paralyzed by trying to come up with enough funds to repair the building and pay staff.

But many are also struggling with a new paradigm. Bishop Brian is very clear that he wants the church to be "ministry centered" emphasizing the "ministry of all the baptized." This is what we are doing at Spirit of the Wilderness.

The bishop also spoke about how leadership has to change from being hierarchical to being "adaptive" and "distributive"—in other words not "top down." He pointed out how different our world has become with everyone opining, texting, blogging, etc. People are no longer willing to belong to a church where they are meant to sit back and be spectators, or hear the word from "on high" and obey.

I believe this is how God has been leading us here. I will begin meeting with the Bishop and a couple of other rectors and vicars who are seeking to encourage the "ministry of all the baptized" in different ways—in other words who are practicing "thinking outside the box."

Thank God we have a bishop who encourages creative approaches and mutual support. Please pray for him as he leads the church through a huge transition.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

**Other dates:**

**Sunday, November 4** at 5 p.m. Carolyn and Milan are hosting an African Dinner at their house at 1633 Croftville Road. They will be serving food typical for Kenya. Want a recipe? There are some at <http://allthingskenyan.com/food.html> Or just come with a smile and be fed!

**Thursday, November 8**, Empty Bowls held at the Congregational Church. Bowl making is on Sundays and Mondays for the next few weeks. Spirit of the Wilderness does clean up at the end of the evening.

- Also, during that evening there will be an interdenominational Eucharist, (upstairs in the sanctuary) to emphasize our unity, after the election.

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

**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.

**Looking further ahead:**

- **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?



Thanks  
to  
Rolf  
Lindquist  
for his  
service as  
Senior  
Warden!!

Want to pray, or  
have a prayer request?  
Spirit of the Wilderness prayer chain...  
contact Patsy Coleman at [pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu](mailto:pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu)