

# Wilderness Words



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

*Weekly News—January 17, 2013*

## Vicar's Notes

I'm very proud of us here at Spirit of the Wilderness. We have a lot going on...in our services and in the community. People feel welcome when they come on Sundays, and every Sunday we have around 30 people in church. These are all wonderful signs of growth, but somewhat intangible.

Not so intangible is the financial side of our life together. Karl, Reed and Tim do fabulous work on this part of SOTW—each bringing slightly different gifts but much expertise and enthusiasm to the job. Thanks to them.

But the real thanks goes to the people of Spirit who give. Besides increased numbers of pledges this year, and an increase in the amount pledged, we are giving outside ourselves.

- The Good Samaritan Fund has given 5100 dollars this year. Where does it go? It goes into a fund that Cook County's social workers can use at their discretion to meet the needs of some of our neediest neighbors, who have needs that might fall through the cracks—glasses, car repair, fire wood, etc. These social workers know the people and know the needs, and so this is a wonderfully strategic way to give. Included in this amount is 300.00 used to give special Christmas gift cards, allowing people to shop at one of the grocery stores for Christmas.
- In addition, SOTW has given 853.00 to the Mama Ada foundation. This money will help to buy seeds, school uniforms, and school fees for people in the Rift Valley, Kenya. (This is a project designated by The Episcopal Church in Minnesota for this year's outreach.)
- And we were able to give 725.00 to the local Food Shelf.

These gifts are wonderful tangible expressions of God's work in our lives. They give in practical ways to those in need, but they also, I believe, help keep our priorities clear—following our Lord who gave all.

Blessings,

Mary Ellen

## This Sunday!!!

- **Thursday, January 24, 6:30, Reaching Out Committee** meets Carolyn Schmidt's.
- **February 9, 9:30 First mission area meeting** of the year at Trinity Church in Hermantown. Carolyn is planning to go...who else would like to join her.
- **February 15, 6-8:30 PM Ash Wednesday** evening at WindCradle.
- **February 28-March 3 "Seen through Native Eyes"** collaboration with The Art Colony—priests Robert Two Bulls and Johnson Loud will be working with youth and others. New missionary for community outreach, Rolf DeBoer will also be visiting. Please keep your eyes open for opportunities during this special event.

Weekly Sign up: January 20, 2013  
(so you can remind yourself of what you've signed up for....also, if you need to find a sub)  
Openings are in *italics* XXX

Leader Sarah  
M Box Layne  
Homily Milan  
Preside Carolyn  
Chalice Lee  
OT Kathy  
NT Karl  
*Psalm XXX*  
Gospel Rolf  
POP Kyle  
*Coffee Treats XXX*  
*Greeter XXX*  
Healing Prayers Suzanne if there maybe Milan too?

**January 27th, 1-4:30 PM—retreat at WindCradle.**  
Plan (if you can) to attend. Ponder and pray over these questions—and bring (or send) your responses.

1. If someone asked you to describe SOTW in a sentence or two, what would you say?
2. If someone said, "What makes your church unique?" how would you answer?
3. What is working well at Spirit of the Wilderness?
4. Are there challenges we need to meet at this stage?
5. Are there parts of who we feel called to be which have slipped off our radar?
6. Spend some time praying about SOTW. What comes to you in terms of vision for our future?



### Service opportunities:

Outreach committee would like new members, and also has service opportunities! (contact Kathy Sullivan)

Newly forming Pastoral Care Committee could use members! (contact Jennye Ashcroft)

Practical? Want to take home mugs and wash them?  
Tidy up after the service? Take home linens to wash?  
Speak to someone after church!