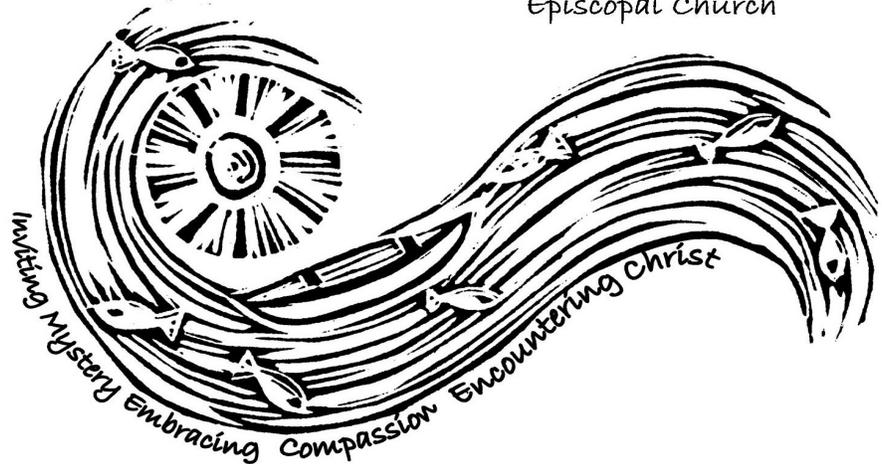


Wilderness Words

Weekly News—
March 21, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

As vicar at Spirit of the Wilderness I try to balance holding out opportunities for many to be involved, while not overwhelming people. I want our ministries to come coming from people's sense of call, and yet as we grow we need to be a little more organized! This is different many people's church experience, in which leaders pressure people to do things, so that anytime a new "opportunity" comes up, people run and hide!!

Instead, please see the suggestions coming out of our retreat as ways to explore gifts, be involved, follow your passions. The only pressure any of us should follow is the one coming from inside, as the Holy Spirit says, "Psssssst.....yes, you.....how about trying.....?"

There is an exception, of course, and that is when one of us in leadership senses that someone could use a little encouragement, a little, "you know I think you'd be good at X...why not try it?"

As you read about opportunities, then, pray about them and sense where God is calling you.....

Blessings, Mary Ellen

An Extra Note

My clergy colleagues and I have been meeting to discuss some of the anger, sorrow and angst going on related to the county attorney situation. Here are some things to remember and pass on to others:

1. There is a process in place that must be followed....these legal processes never happen very quickly, so patience is required.
2. With pain and anger, conflict and finger pointing increase. We, as members of a community of faith, have an opportunity to act differently—responding with concern instead of heat.
3. We can also pray—for all involved, and for healing in our community.

I invite all of us to be part of the solution in this way. Mary Ellen

A Reminder:

- If you have a prayer need for yourself or someone else, please send to Patsy Coleman—pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu
- If you would like to get updates on people needing prayer, to add to your prayer list, contact Patsy Coleman.
- Sunday sermons are on the website; upcoming lectionary readings are in the Newsletter, along with a question. If you would like to be part of a group responding the question, please let me know and we'll make an email discussion group.
- Let me know, too, if there are other ways you'd like to be involved at Spirit of the Wilderness.

Book Study—March 21, April 4 and 11.

Final plans for our Lenten book Club are now made. We will read Interviews with Muslim Women of Pakistan by Chiara Angela Kovarik and The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid. We will gather in the Fireside Room of the First Congregational Church at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on March 14th and March 21st for discussion on Kovarik 's book and April 4th and April 11th for discussion on Hamid's book. Please come and join us. Books are available at a bookstore of your choice.

Lessons:

March 24, Palm Sunday:

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Luke 22: 14-23;56

Q: From these passages, why did Jesus die? (Was it the Romans, the Jewish religious establishment, circumstances, Judas, God, his own choices?)

March 31, Easter Sunday:

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24;
I Corinthians 15: 19-26;
John 20: 1-18

Q: The resurrection was absolutely central to the first Christ followers? Is it central to you? Why or why not?

Mark your calendars for Holy Week/Easter Events!

- Palm Sunday, March 24th, 7 PM—community concert.
- Thursday, March 28th—Seder Meal at the Hedstroms. Sign up to bring something!
- Good Friday, March 29th—6 PM meet at St. John's for Cross Walk; service at 7 PM at the Free Church, liturgy hosted by SOTW, Mark Ditmanson preaching.
- Easter Vigil, 6 PM at WindCradle.
- Easter day service, 10:30.
- Care Center service 12:30. Let's have a big crowd for this!

March 24 Sign Ups:

Leader: Val
Music—Layne, Ellen and Karen
Homily: Passion Reading
Preside: Mary Ellen
Chalice:
OT:
NT:
Psalm:
Gospel:
Prayers of the People:

Raising more money (and awareness) for Good Samaritan Fund:

A bake sale from our tent is one idea. Another is to make "hankies"—like homer hankies—with our logo and Good Sam Fund on them to sell. Anybody feel called to that ministry?

Palm Sunday collection:

Bring items people can choose—unusual foods and toiletries for the Food Shelf. These will be delivered early this week.

Want to paddle?

Sign up with Ellen Stubbs—

estubbs290@aol.com

and give your payment to Karl.

A jolly, apres church outing!

