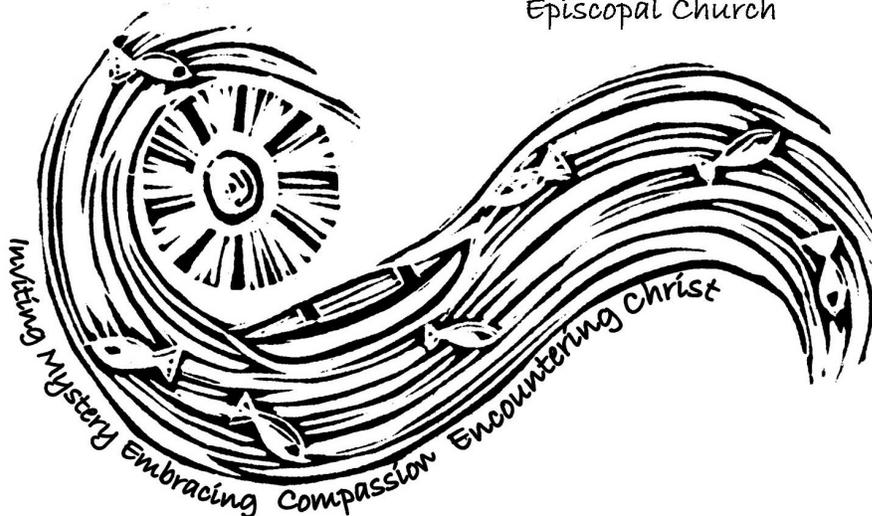


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
June 6, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

As many of you know, my friend Ellen's nineteen year old daughter died tragically a few months ago. As I have been thinking about and praying for her and her family, I've been considering what's out there about death and loss, for people to read.

There are books of course about experiences people have had after death—Near Death Experiences. Many of us have read *Proof of Heaven*, and several have read *Dying to Be Me*. Howard will be starting a book study group on these books in the next few weeks.

For many of us, what comes after death is not the biggest problem...it's the actual process of dying. Or as in the case of my friend and that whole family—the terrible sense of grief and loss. In the New Testament, we are instructed “not to grieve as those who have no hope”—in other words our grief will be different because we know that death is not the end. But it is still a terrible loss.

Another friend of mine who lost a son to cancer at age four suggested a few books to me, so I could vet them before sending them on to my friend, Ellen. I have found myself rating them, in terms of ‘how soon’?

Touching the Edge by Margaret Wurtele —An Episcopalian woman writes about her loss of her son in a climbing accident. Very human and real. (Three or four months after trauma.)

Hour of Gold, Hour of Lead—Anne Morrow Lindbergh. This remarkable woman's diaries and letters before, during and after kidnapping and killing of their baby. (Five or Six months after trauma.)

Lament for a Son—Nicholas Wolterstorff. A philosopher, theologian and person of faith writing about the loss of his son. Very profound but pretty intellectual. (Seven or Eight months after trauma).

The Blood of the Lamb—Peter DeVries. A fine novelist writing a semi-autobiographical work about the loss of a child. (Three or four years after trauma.)

There's some great poetry on this subject...*A New Path to the Waterfall* by Carver. And of course John Donne with some of his wonderful sonnets like “Death be not Proud.”

There are books on the question of suffering, like *Disappointment With God* by Phil Yancy or C.S. Lewis' *A Grief Observed*.

Even if we're not walking this path right now, we will know people who are. I found several of these helped me—as narrative does—to feel some of what others are feeling. Are there books you would add to these lists?

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Looking Ahead

Sunday, June 9th: First a capella group service—come at 10 to practice.

Thursday, June 13th: 6:30 Bishops Committee

Tuesday, June 18th: 5:30 for 6:00 Centering Prayer at Schmidt's

Thursday, June 20th: Hillary and Carol present at Higher Ed.

Sunday, June 23rd: WELCOME SUNDAY—bring a friend. Instrumental Sunday— if you can play something, bring it along.

Saturday, June 29th: 5:30 House Blessing at Hillary and Carol's new place.

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

Proper 5, June 9

I Kings 17: 8-24

Psalm 146

Galatians 1:11-24

Luke 7: 11-17

These readings—especially the Old Testament and the Gospel—focus on compassion and care for those who need it most. Where in your life do you feel the call to compassion? Who in your world needs this compassion most?

Proper 6, June 16

I Kings 21: 1-21a

Psalm 5:1-8

Galatians 2: 15-21

Luke 7:36-8:3

In the gospel, a disreputable woman anoints Jesus, and the religious folks get upset. Do you get upset when you see someone 'get away with something'? How can you show more grace?

Please pray for....

Molly Koschinka, recovering from surgery to insert an artificial heart valve, on Tuesday, June 4th. For her parents, Tim and Shannon, grandparents, Greg and Coralyn, siblings, Luke and Kate.

For Jay Hanson (and Madge) as he awaits surgery/treatment for a brain tumor.

For Reed's niece Kathy Holaday, fighting cancer.

June 2 Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Sarah

Homily—Lee

Presiding—Carol Mork

Music—A Capella

Chalice—

OT—

NT—

Psalm—

Prayers of the People—

Treats—Suzanne

Healing prayers—

What is an a capella group?

ON the second Sunday of each month, a small group of singers will lead our music at SOTW. The music will be chosen to be sing-able (without accompaniment). Carol Mork will be facilitating this group. If you'd like to help lead music on these Sundays, show up at 10:00 to practice.

Spring at Last!!!

New!!! Spirit of the Wilderness Calendar....

Jenny has organized this for us. She says, "I've been using Google Calendar to organize my calendar, find interesting events, and share my schedule with friends and family members. I thought you might like to use Google Calendar, too." This will help us in planning our life together. Go to:

Look out for...

- A book group led by Howard Hedstrom—book is "Dying to Be Me." Available at Drury Lane.
- How about a book group to discuss Flanner O'Connor short stories?

