

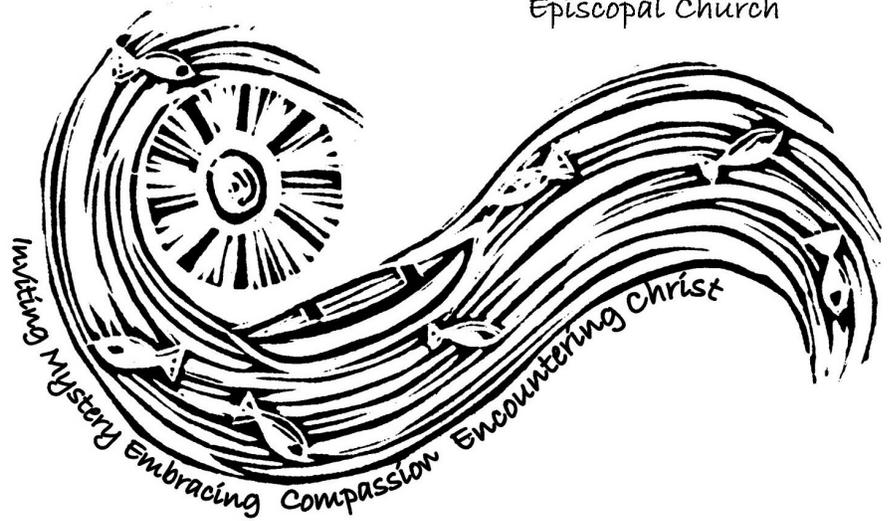
Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

June 13, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

Last weekend I led a retreat and did a wedding in the Twin Cities. I also got to spend time with Molly Koschinska for whom we've been praying.

At the wedding reception, I saw an old friend, with whom I had been quite close. We'd drifted apart and I'd felt kind of offended. Turned out, she felt the same way. We both thought we'd offended each other, or that we cared more than the other person did. I said to her that I'd had this experience of doing Anna's funeral and being with her family out West, and I'd realized that connections are the most important things in the world. If I offended you, I'm sorry. I don't want to lose this friendship."

On my way home, my car suddenly went strange, and I limped to the nearest gas station, where it was towed to a local mechanic. When the mechanic informed me that the engine had lost all coolant and fried, he shook his head, and said, "I hate to have to tell you this." Maybe it's because there have been a number of very sad occurrences recently, but I felt like saying, "Yeah, but it's only a car....."

People at the mechanic's were very helpful and drove me to pick up a rental and generally were kind. I thought about how much that kind of 'niceness' means when you're dependent on strangers.

I also thought about how 'life' and the way it happens to us, can give us perspective. Maybe if I hadn't been involved in my friend's daughter's death or visiting Molly in intensive care—maybe I would have burst into tears when I heard about the car. But it was clear to me that—while a nuisance, a hassle and a bit of a hardship—a thing is not a person.

Jesus talked about what we treasure, and I've been reminded that what I want to treasure is people. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Today, with a car accident of some local teens—one killed and one injured—we are reminded that life is uncertain. We never know when we'll get a phone call telling us that someone is no longer around.

Let's treasure what really matters—our connections with each other and with God. How do we 'treasure'? By investing time and energy in...

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Looking Ahead

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.

June 2 Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Lee

Homily—Carolyn

Presiding—Mary Ellen

Music—Karl

Chalice—

Gospel—

OT—Hillary

NT—Carol Mork

Psalm—

Prayers of the People—

Treats—Barb and Marg

Healing prayers—

Anyone need a very reliable honest handy-man?

Doug has worked for us for eight years, and would like to pick up some more work—highly recommended! Phone Suzanne or Mary Ellen, or Doug. His number is 387 1586.

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

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?

Proper 7, June 23

I Kings 19: 1-15a

Psalm 42 & 43

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8: 26-39

In our Old Testament reading, an exhausted Elijah sits in a funk and God speaks to him in the silence. Can you relate to the state of mind Elijah is in? How about hearing God in silence?

Please pray for...

Molly Koschinka, at home after surgery to insert an artificial heart valve. For ongoing healing and 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.

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 Flannery O'Connor short stories?

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:

<https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=m1jlk969epklojlv55o566nev4%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago>

Or look at the website.....

Spring Beauties!!!

