

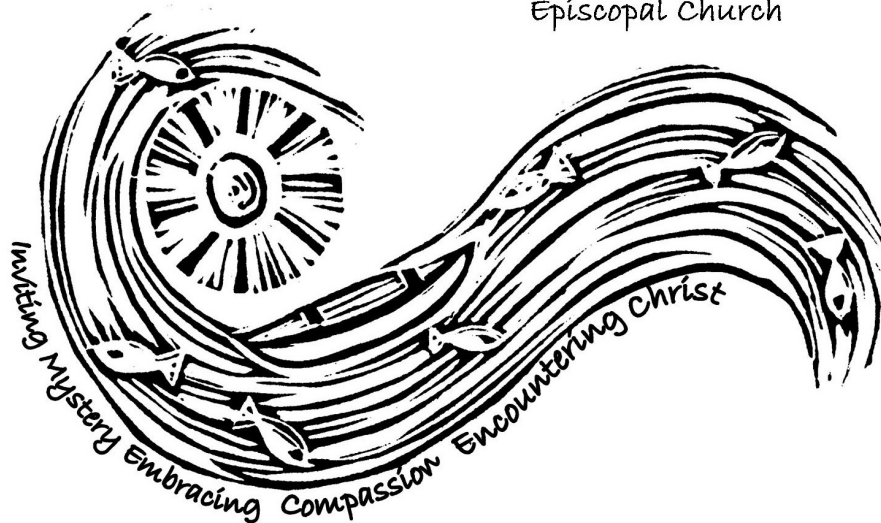
Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

June 20, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

At our retreat last January, one priority we discussed for Spirit of the Wilderness was small groups. We decided that we hoped these would take a number of different forms—some meeting for a limited period of time with a special focus, some with an 'open door' policy, some with more commitment, etc. We also felt that some should be open to folks who have more, rather than less, time in the summer!

Since then a Centering Prayer group has started, which meets about every two weeks at Carolyn and Milan's house. It begins with snacks at 5:30, and then some kind of prayer from 6-7. Different people are leading and it's very much a drop in group.

Another group is starting this next week, which will be a book discussion meeting at Howard and Bonnie Gay's. It's not clear how long this group will meet and who will lead, but it's a great opportunity to get together to discuss some significant issues. (July 27th 7 PM "Dying to be Me" —available at Drury Lane.)

Starting in September I'd like us to have one or two 'house groups.' A group like this would make a number of decisions at its first meeting:

- How often to meet—once or twice a month?
- It would also decide on its format—probably including sharing, some kind of study or discussion, and prayer. Food?
- One important decision the group would make would be on commitment level. Usually this kind of group functions best with high commitment. (In other words, you come to it unless you are away or sick.)
- In terms of study/discussion, I've seen groups that took topics—such as the creed, or prayer or Christianity and...the arts or medicine...or mystics, or key moments in church history, or.... It could be led in rotation or by one person...

In terms of our growth as disciples, I believe this kind of group is crucial. It functions best with 6-10 people, so I'm hoping we can find out how many are interested and times that are good so we can start planning. Please let me or Lee know if you might be interested in a group like this. Start thinking, too, about the questions above—what would you like your group to be like?

We look forward to hearing from you....

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Looking Ahead

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

Sunday, June 23rd: WELCOME SUNDAY—bring a friend. Doughnuts from 10:00. Bring a dish to share for a BBQ afterwards.

Thursday, June 27th: Book study at Howard and Bonnie Gay's—7 PM "Dying to Be Me." Book available at Drury Lane.)

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

Tuesday, July 2nd: 5:30 for 6:00 Centering Prayer at Schmidt's.

Tuesday, July 9th: 6:30 Bishop's Committee Meeting.

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

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?

Proper 8, June 30

II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9: 51-62

In both Galatians and Luke, we are given some fairly clear instructions on how to follow Christ. As you read these, which are easiest for you to follow? Which are most challenging?

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.

Please pray for...

Our Prayer Chain at SOTW provides a way to get information on prayer needs to those who would like to pray.... Two ways to use this:

- Something comes up in your life or the life of someone you love that you'd like prayer for. Send the need to me or to Patsy Coleman. pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu.
- Sign up with Patsy Coleman to get the messages requesting prayer. pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu.

If you've requested, after a week or so, please update Patsy, so she can put a report out in her next prayer message. This is a crucial ministry! (Thank you, Patsy!)

Mugs?!?!

At Spirit of the Wilderness we use mugs and someone takes them home to wash them. They are lost...are they living quietly in your garage? If so, please return them. Otherwise, let's all bring a few mugs to replenish the supply....

Camping Gear???

During August I'll be taking a group of young people from Holy Apostles Episcopal in St. Paul into the BWCAW. Since most of them are Hmong they don't have the kind of things most of us have in our attics—sleeping bags, mattresses, etc. Please speak to me if you might be able to loan something Aug. 12-16.

June 23 Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Rolf

Homily—Howard

Presiding—Mary Ellen

Music—Layne

