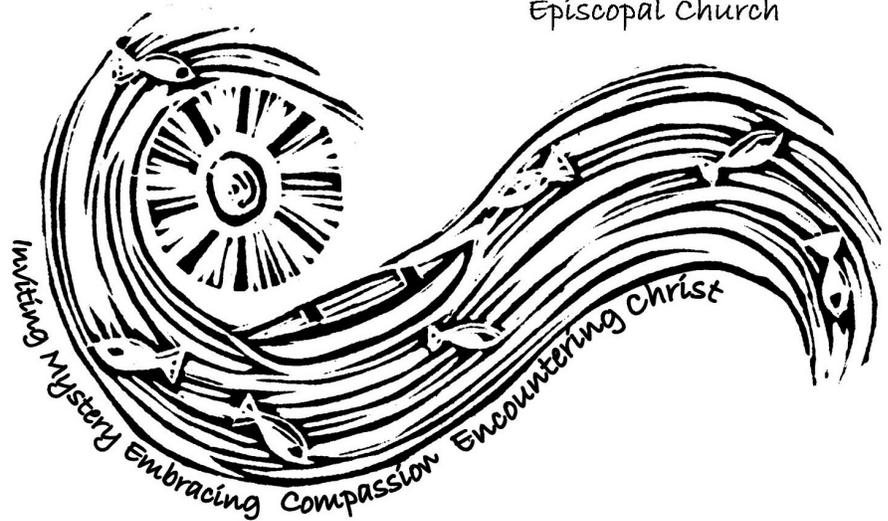


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
August 21, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

We just had visitors from Virginia Seminary and a lively St. Paul church, and it was very exciting to be comparing notes on what's working in our churches. Rev. Lee Anne Watkins from St. Mary's works with a small group on liturgy, and I asked if she'd like to come with her group and we could have a liturgy workshop up in Cook County together.

I'm going to be preaching at Ascension, Stillwater this Sunday. The rector and a lay person visited SOTW a couple months ago and invited me. Then I'm heading West to be with my friend Ellen, and intern the ashes of her daughter who died in April. Please pray for me to have wisdom and grace.... (No newsletter next week....)

I think I'm still on an internal 'academic calendar'—so that when we get to the end of August I feel excited about various new beginnings. I'm looking forward to Cook County to get back to a more normal life, and for us to start some new opportunities here. Check out page two for some options!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Good Sam Garage Sale

Results of moving sale—\$1740.75!!!!

For our neediest neighbors....

Thanks to all!

Reed and Barbara for the idea and many of the goods;
Many SOTW folks who helped price, move, sort and sell!

Look out for a story and picture in the paper!

Coming up:

Bishop's committee, August 26th (if you have agenda items please give to Lee or Milan)

Aug. 27th, 5:30 for 6:00, Centering Prayer at Schmidts, 1633 Croftville Rd.

Sept. 4th, 3-5—Karen Halbersleben will be presenting at Naniboujou Lodge For more info contact CCHE.

Sept. 17th, 7 pm—Mary Ellen doing a lecture on Dorothy L. Sayers at CCHE.

Sept. 25th, 6 PM A house group will have its initial meeting for planning at WindCradle. Speak to Lee if you're interested.

Sept. 29th, 6 PM A fiction book group will start by reading and discussing some of Flannery O'Connor's short stories—A Good Man is Hard to Find," "Greenleaf," "Good Country People," and one more to be announced... (Book of her collected short stories available at Drury Lane, the library or abebooks.com.)

A book group on Near Death Experiences will be re-starting soon —please contact Howard if you're interested.



Pix from our social at the Sutphen's house on Poplar!

Aug. 18— Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Jennye
Homily—Lee
Presiding—Carolyn
Music—Karl
Treats—

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

Proper 16, August 25

Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Psalm 71: 1-6
Hebrews 12: 18-29
Luke 13: 10-17

My sense is that in all these passages God is calling the people to "look up"! How does God call you to "look up?"

Proper 17, September 1

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81: 1, 10-16
Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16
Luke 14: 1, 7-14

More challenging passages! Jeremiah speaks to the people saying "Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water." When have you done something in your life that has turned out to be like trying to get water from a stone? When have you turned away from living water? How might you turn back?



From Carolyn Schmidt—Did you see this bit of news from Episcopal Relief and Development?

The *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund has successfully exceeded its \$5 million goal! **Thank You.** With the incredible generosity of supporters across the Episcopal Church and beyond, the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund has successfully exceeded its initial goal of \$5 million. Over the 2010-12 triennium, thousands of individuals joined congregations, dioceses, schools and organizations in this church-wide, grassroots effort to unite Episcopalians in the fight against malaria. Although the campaign is complete, the work of *NetsforLife*® will continue to support the gains we have made in malaria control. In 2013, the goal is to distribute more than 3 million nets.