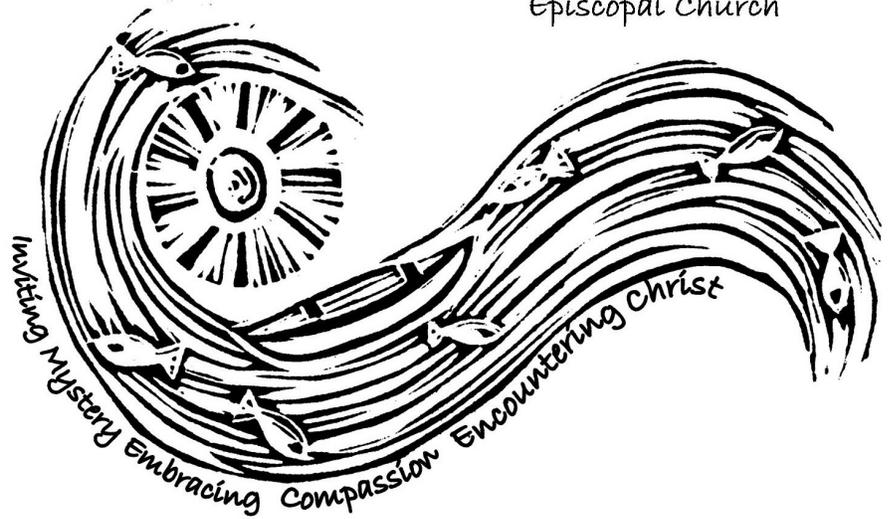


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
Sept. 11, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

Yesterday I heard a program on public radio on which the two guests were pastors in “emergent churches”—one in South Minneapolis and one in Denver. Several of the main elements of an “emergent church” they talked about were these:

- An emphasis on the spiritual life of the community rather than on older/outer things like pews, etc.
- An acceptance of imperfection—it’s not about getting it perfect but having more people involved.
- Most importantly—a change in the ‘balance of power.’ Instead of a whole congregation sitting like spectators and the really crucial ministry being done by a few professionals up at the front, an “emergent church” has many more people who are really involved, doing ministry. This, they said, shows up in worship on Sundays as well as during the week, in ministries within the faith community and to the community as a whole.

As I listened, I first thought, “Is this such a big deal? Does this really deserve a public radio slot?” But then I thought of some churches I visit and I realized that for many these changes would seem really radical.

It struck me that we at *Spirit of the Wilderness* are an emergent church—one in which we strive to have that different ‘balance of power’—where involvement and ministry on the part of all of us is key.

I think that this is what people feel when they visit SOTW.

It also made me wonder how we could do this better, more fully. What do you think? (Really...tell me if you have ideas....) Are there ways more people could be more fully involved in the life of SOTW? Are there ways we could be more involved in our community?

I also thought about the way this shift in power changes things for all of us. My job as vicar is to spread out the authority, to delegate, to look for people’s gifts and passions and encourage their use. Your job—as members—is to keep that level of involvement.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Coming up:

Sept. 16th, 6:30 PM— Bishop’s committee, (if you have agenda items please give to Lee.) Lee and Karl’s house.

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

Sept. 25th, 8:30 AM Meeting of the *Entry Points* committee for next stage of planning art show. (Pie Place).

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 “The Violent Bear it Away. A 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.

Oct. 13th, 12:30 PM Service at the Care Center.

Heads up!!

Empty Bowls! November 14th

Beth Kennedy is leading SOTW’s role in this year’s event. Look out for opportunities to serve!

Liturgy!! The liturgy/worship team from St. Mary’s in St. Paul (known to be a church that engages creatively with worship) will be coming up to WindCradle sometime this year for a couple days. Their rector Lee Ann Watkins and I thought it would be great to have a group of us meet with them to do some creative brainstorming. Watch for more info on this!

Aug. 18— Sunday service responsibilities

- Leading—Lee**
- Homily—Carolyn**
- Presiding—Mary Ellen**
- Music—Karl**
- Treats—**

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

Proper 19, Sept. 15

- Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28
- Psalm 14
- I Timothy 1: 12-17
- Luke 15: 1-10

Luke gives us some wonderful parables of Jesus—the lost sheep and the lost coin—about celebrating the lost who has been found. Both are extravagant gestures—leaving the 99 sheep to pursue the wayward one; throwing a party to celebrate finding a coin. What can we learn from these stories about the extravagance of God?

Proper 20, Sept. 22

- Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
- Psalm 79: 1-9
- I Timothy 2: 1-7
- Luke 16: 1-13

Jesus finishes the parable of the unfaithful steward with these words: “No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” This seems a little stark—how would you understand what Jesus is saying here?



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.