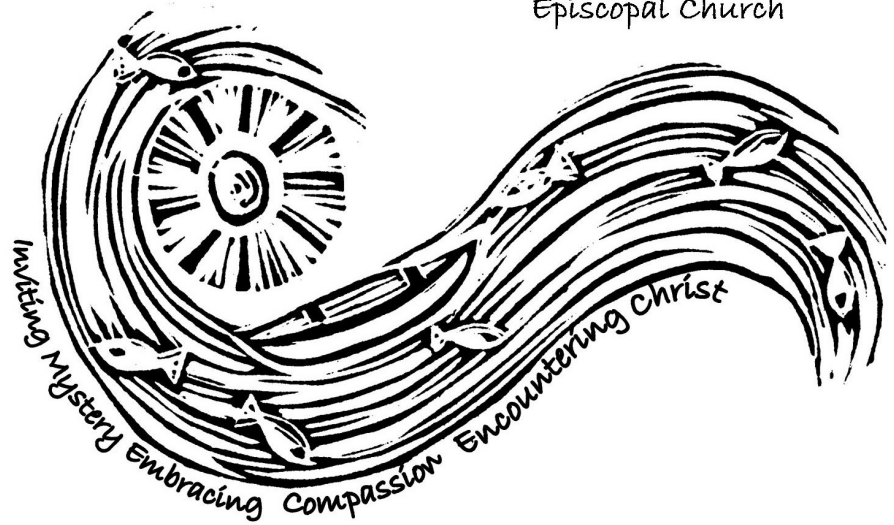


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
Sept. 18, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

I've been reading some fascinating books over the last few weeks—books about how the world is changing and how the church needs to change. One book I recommend is by Diana Butler Bass—*Christianity After Religion*. She writes about how our culture has shifted in a number of ways that deeply affect us as a church:

- People care more about a sense of belonging than they do about believing certain things.
- With more inter cultural contact, fewer people believe that theirs is the only way to God.
- People are more open to spiritual experience than a few decades ago.

She writes that people are actually more open to spirituality—they want to belong to a community. They want to find meaning. These are all things that mean a lot to us at Spirit of the Wilderness—as we “invite mystery, embrace compassion and encounter Christ.”

But often, Bass says, people assume that ‘church’ means what they were raised with—as an exclusive, guilt and shame mongering institution. Or they assume ‘church’ is the religious right who seem to be characterized by fear, hate, and self-righteousness.

We're called to help those who are longing for a meaningful spiritual experience, who want to belong to a loving community, who want something bigger than themselves—to help them begin to see that we have that and want them to be a part of it.

But walking into church will not be easy for many of these folks, and this why our presence in the community becomes so crucial—in our volunteering, our Good Sam fund, our work with Empty Bowls, our art show, our Dragonboat team. But even more our presence—as we represent Jesus in our work and our contacts with people.

One of my favorite lines from this book was when a Bishop was asked, “Do you believe in the resurrection?” and he responded, “Believe in it!?!? I see it every day!!”

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Coming up:

Sept. 25th, 9:00 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.)

October 1 & 15 , Centering Prayer at Schmidts.

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.

Nov. 14th—Empty Bowls.

Heads up!!

Empty Bowls! November 14th

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

November 8th and 9th at WindCradle—"The Enneagram: A Map of Transformation Through the Heart". Led by Spiritual director and enneagram teacher Karin Grosscup. (Cost will be approx. 200 per person; 350 per couple.)

Aug. 18— Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Rolf
Homily—
Presiding—Carol
Music—Karen Kobey and Layne
Treats—Hedstroms

Barbara and Reed Are leaving us for Tucson....they're going to be summer people here from now on!

They've been so key to our growth as a church!

We'll be saying farewell in church on Sept. 29th.

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

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?

Proper 21, Sept. 29

Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16
I Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16: 19-31

Our epistle and gospel present very challenging passages about our relationship with money and riches. How do you understand your relationship with 'stuff'? Has it changed over the years? How? Why?

Sophie
And
Barbara!

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.

