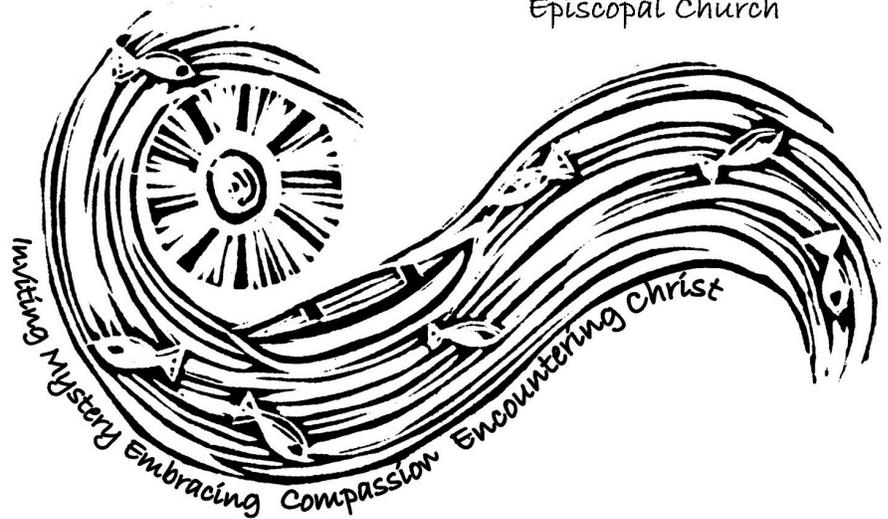


# Wilderness Words

Newsletter—  
Sept. 26, 2013

www.spiritofthewilderness.org  
Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604  
spiritwilderness@boreal.org  
Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft  
Phone 218 387 1536

Spirit of the Wilderness  
Episcopal Church



## Vicar's Notes

Many churches have small groups that meet—they are sometimes called 'house groups,' 'home groups,' 'cell groups,' or even 'small groups.' Some SOTW folks who are interested in being involved in such a group met last night; some folks who couldn't come sent their input...

Here's what we agreed on:

- In terms of purpose, we want a group to be a place for sharing, support, study and sociability.
- We want a group that will be fairly high commitment—members come unless they're out of town or sick.
- We will meet once a month, at a different home each time. The person whose house we meet at will make some kind of main dish, and others will bring sides.
- Some other person will be in charge of a study—perhaps readings from the lectionary or something related to a liturgical season.
- We will gather at 6:00 for a meal at 6:30; sharing and study and prayer (compline?) to be finished by 8:30.
- Our first meeting will be on Oct. 17th at Lee and Karl's.

One of the biggest issues with a group like this is size. Six-eight people is an ideal. If there are more people than that who might want to be in this kind of group, it would be great to know that! Please speak to me or to Lee if you are interested—we might start more than one....Or we may start another group a few months later....

With a group like this, we may go for a few months and then decide together to change something—for example to not have a meal or to do a different kind of study.

I realized as I was preparing for our meeting that I've been involved in church small groups for many years—from before I had children in South Africa and in several other churches in MN. Small groups are a great way to grow spiritually and to grow in relationship with others.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Coming up:

Sept. 29th, 6 PM WindCradle. 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.

Oct. 17th—6 pm Small group at Lee and Karl's.

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.)

Nov. 14th—Empty Bowls.

### A new way to participate on Sundays!

We're trying some thing new that I saw working at a church I visited this summer. Certain church tasks—reading lessons, healing prayers, etc. are written onto blocks in a basket at the back of the church (complete with an instructions if this is your first time doing a task.) You pick up the block as you come in and do the task!

Some of the tasks—ringing the bell, bringing up the elements, putting out the candles—are specially for the kids.

### Pet Blessing Service!!

Please have your dogs and cats mark their calendars for a pet blessing in the 10:30 service on October 6th.

This will be a special St. Francis Day service—bring friends—two or four legged!

### Aug. 18— Sunday service responsibilities

**Leading—Suzanne**  
**Homily—Mary Ellen**  
**Presiding—Carol**  
**Music—Layne**  
**Treats—Lee**

### Sunday Lectionary Readings:

#### 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?

#### Proper 22, Oct. 6 St. Francis Day

Jeremiah 22: 13-16  
Psalm 148: 7-14  
Galatians 6: 14-18  
Matthew 11: 25-30

"Preach the gospel always," said St. Francis. "When necessary, use words." That's how we often experience the gospel from our pets. Ponder the meaning of this in your life.

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.

Sophie  
And  
Barbara!

