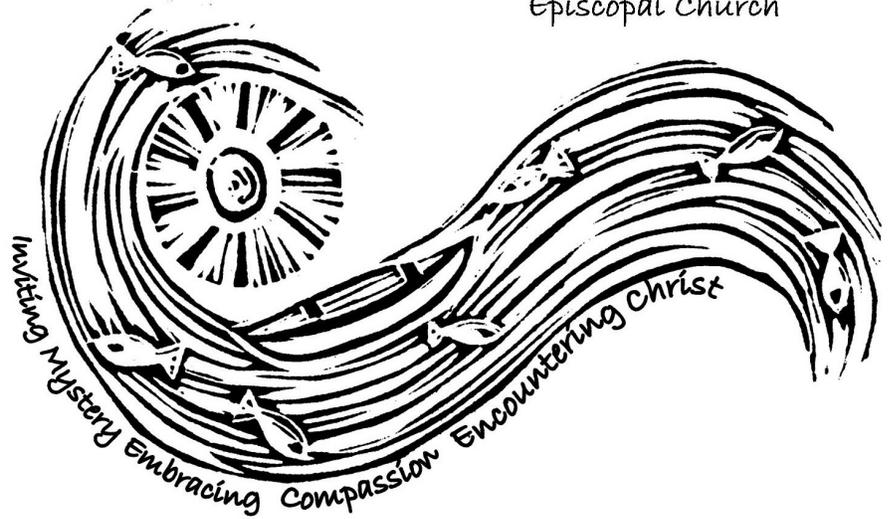


# Wilderness Words

Newsletter—  
Oct. 3, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness  
Episcopal Church



## Vicar's Notes

Convention last weekend—the annual meeting of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota—was quite wonderful in its focus on young persons: “Engaging All God’s Children.”

At the Eucharist on Saturday morning, Bishop Laura Ahrens, bishop of Connecticut, spoke about children and youth, focusing on the part of the gospels where Jesus says, “Let the children come to me...” She was in Sandy Hook on the day of the school shooting, and talked about the importance of remembering the names of those children and others.

Shortly after the service finished, Stephanie Hogenson, Outreach Specialist from the Children’s Defense Fund brought us a lot of information about children in Minnesota—how many are in need of various kinds. This was quite sobering. Fortunately, after her speech, there were break out sessions with some presenters on a number of areas related to youth and children. Milan, Carolyn and I went to different sessions.

Mine was very inspiring—with several folks talking about mentoring for young people—the importance of mentoring programs, and how to get involved in them. Jen Linvall, Director of Training and Quality Assurance, Mentoring Partnership of MN, spoke about how easy it is for us to fail to see and connect with young persons in our grocery stores and other public places. Another presenter, executive director of Sheltering Arms (an Episcopal foundation focused on kids), handed out forms we could use to apply for small grants for programs we’d like to engage in.

As we contemplate our place in The Episcopal Church of Minnesota’s Mission for 2014, we will join in this focus on youth. During Advent we’ll have visitors who engage us in learning about young people in Cook County and ways we can be involved.

At the lunch at Convention, a number of the kids I took into the Boundary Waters—from Holy Apostles and St. Johns—ran up to me in excitement—so glad to see me! I felt very grateful for the chance I’d had to get beyond the surface and really get to know these young persons.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

## 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!

Coming up:

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

October 15 , Centering Prayer at Schmidts.

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.

## Bishop Brian's visit to Spirit of the Wilderness!!!!

On Tuesday, Nov. 19th, Bishop Brian will come to us for a lunchtime visit. This will be an opportunity for us to meet with him, raise any concerns, share any joys, etc.

This is a big deal. Two questions:

1. Does anyone have thoughts about where we should do this?
2. Who can be there?

## 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!

## Aug. 18— Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Lee  
Homily—Milan  
Presiding—Carolyn  
Music—Jane Howard  
Treats—Danielsons

## 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.

## Sunday Lectionary Readings:

### 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.

### Proper 23, October 13

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7  
Psalm 66: 1-11  
II Timothy 2: 8-15  
Luke 17: 11-19

The gospel for this Sunday is really about gratitude. How do you feel giving thanks, having a grateful attitude, affects you? What facilitates your gratitude?

