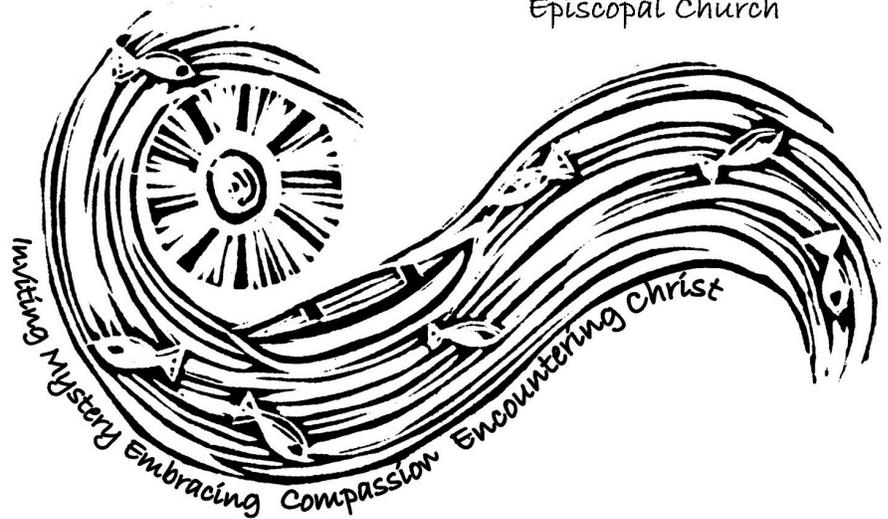


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
Oct. 30, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Don't forget to Fall Back this Sunday!!!

Vicar's Notes

As Christians we believe that death is not the end—that in some way (mysterious and beyond our understanding) those who have died are still present. When we celebrate All Saints Day we are remembering those who have gone before and some of what they have given and taught us.

All Saints Day developed as a kind of 'catch all' for the leftover saints—different feast days remembering various saints (like Francis, Luke, etc.) had become so numerous, that the rest were scooped into All Saints. I'm glad they did this, since it makes sainthood seem less like being a celebrity and more like being one of many followers. And that is closer to the biblical idea of 'saint.' Paul calls all believers 'saints' meaning they are those who have been set apart for God. That's us!

The eve of All Saints—All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween—was thought to be a time of great power, when the veil between this world and the next was thin. It behooved you to carry a lighted, carved squash when you went out, and to even put a costume on, so that none of the malevolent spirits who were abroad would get you. This was the scary time leading up to the celebration of the holy!

All Saints Day is Nov. 1st, but we celebrate on the following Sunday. For our gathering this Sunday, I'd like to invite you to do a couple things:

- Think about some of the people who have been most inspirational to you. **Bring a picture** of one of two of them on Sunday.
- As we're in the thick of our Stewardship Drive, **think about the priorities** that these inspirational ones taught you—since that's really what stewardship is about.

See you saints, as we commune with the saints this Sunday!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Coming up:

Nov. 3rd—All Saints Service—bring pix of those who have gone before whom you'd like to honor.

Nov. 6th—Bishop's Committee Meeting, 6:30 (Please let Lee, Milan or Mary Ellen know if you have items you'd like discussed.)

Nov. 10th—Offering our pledge cards, followed by a celebratory meal.

Nov. 14th—Empty Bowls. We need volunteers on the day—Nov. 14th—for set up, serving, and clean up both for the noon and evening servings. Let Suzanne—windcradle@boreal.org or Kathy Sullivan kmsullivan8@gmail.com to sign up to help!

Nov. 16th, 10:00am —Mission Area Gathering, St. Paul's Duluth. "First Century Apostles in a 21st century world." For more information, contact Carolyn Schmidt.

Nov. 19th, Bishop Brian will come to us for a lunchtime visit at Carolyn and Milan's. RSVP soon.

Nov. 27th, 7 pm Thanksgiving Service—come and light a candle and give thanks.

Dec. 8th and 9th—Christmas choral concert at Bethlehem Lutheran.

Feb. 21st and 22nd—Enneagram retreat at WindCradle.

March 28-April 5th—Entry Points to the Creative, Johnson Heritage Post.

Stewardship!

Over the next month we'll be focusing on stewardship at *Spirit of the Wilderness*. As a new church, we've taken a strong stance on giving away a portion of what we take in—through the Good Samaritan Fund. I believe this really makes us clear on our priorities as a church, but it also means that (since we have no cushion of endowments or other funds) that we can end up pretty close to the edge financially.

I would invite all of us to consider our calling as part of this faith community—how we can give from our resources so that *Spirit of the Wilderness* can continue to nurture our spiritual growth, as well as continuing to reach out in love to those around us.

November 10th will be the date when we collect our pledge cards; we will follow the service with a celebratory meal provided by the Bishop's Committee.

Look out for more on all of this, and in the meanwhile, pray about what God is calling you to give.

Nov. 3— Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Lee
Homily—Jennye
Presiding—Mary Ellen
Music—Jane
Treats—

Thinking toward Christmas....

Last Christmas we had these:

1. a potluck Christmas gathering at WindCradle (5 pm) on Christmas Eve
2. A candlelight carol service at 7 PM on Christmas Eve.
3. A service on Christmas Day at 10:00.

The worship committee would love your input on this—which will you attend? (Lee, Layne or Mary Ellen)

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

Proper 26, November 3 All Saints

Daniel 8: 1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6: 20-31

All saints is a time to remember those who have gone before and what they teach us about our priorities and our lives. Think of those who have taught you something crucial in your life...

Proper 27, November 10

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145: 1-5, 18-22
II Thess. 2: 1-5, 13-17
Luke 20: 27-38

Jesus speaks in the gospel about how different the values of his kingdom are from those in society as a whole. How do you experience this difference?

