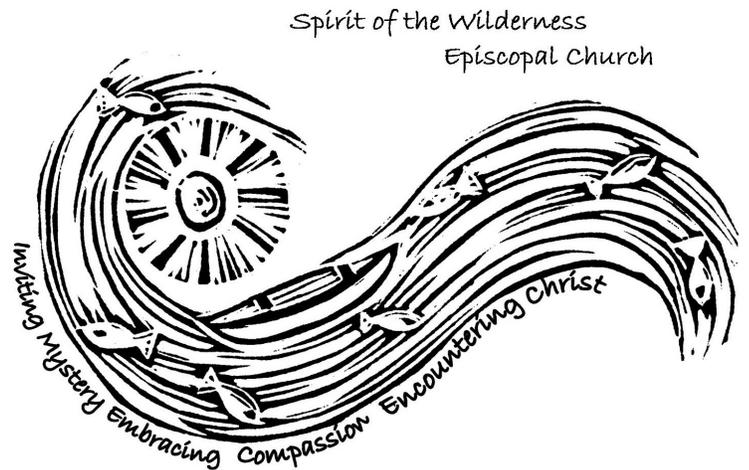


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

December 26, 2013

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Vicar's Report

New Year's is a time for resolutions—from now on I'm going to

As individuals, I'd like to encourage you to consider your spiritual life as part of your resolutions. A few suggestions:

- Would you like to be in a **small group** to grow in your faith and connection to others? A new one will begin in January.
- Would you like to start coming to the **contemplative prayer** group?
- Would you like to do more **devotional reading** to grow your spiritual life? (There are some books with daily readings at the back of the church.)
- Is there an **ministry area at church** that you'd like to start (or resume) involvement with? (Leading, giving homilies, reading, music, Care Center, healing prayer, etc.?)
- How about committing to our new series of **Adult forums**? (see other side).

As a community this is also a good time to take stock and think about the future. Several areas to ponder:

- As I've mentioned we're going to try to raise more of our **Good Samaritan fund** in different ways. (See other side for thoughts.) We will continue to think and begin to act on behalf of **kids in Cook County**.
- Our music is in a state of flux with Jane leaving, others who will be here more. We need to pray about **our worship**, seeking God's next step for us. I'd like for those who are interested to meet after church on January 5th to discuss....if you can't be there, please get your input to Layne, Lee or me.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Jane Howard's departure:

Jane Howard is moving early next week (with her daughter Ashley) to Onamia to be a psychologist with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa. We will miss her musical gifts to us. Not only has she provided us with monthly lovely playing; she has also expanded our range of music. She's done all this without asking for pay. I would like us to send a gift to her as she settles into her new life there. If you would like to donate please make out a check to SOTW with Jane Howard in the subject line. There will be a card for us all to sign on the next two Sundays. Mary Ellen



Coming up:

Jan. 7th, 6:30 PM Centering Prayer at Schmidt's. (note later start)

Jan. 8th, 6:30 PM Bishops Committee

Jan. 21st, 5:30 PM Centering Prayer at Schmidt's

Jan. 26th, Rolf Lowenburg-DeBoer (missioner for community outreach) will visit with us.

Feb. 8th, 10 AM region meeting (place TBA)

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

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

Adult Forums

Sunday, January 12, noon - 1:00 - "The Book of the Year - Matthew" (Carol Mork)

Sunday, February 9, noon - 1:00 - Hunger Issues - Beth Kennedy)

Sunday, March 9, noon - 1:00 - Exploring some Old Testament Roots of Jesus - Hillary Freeman

Sunday, April 6, noon-1:00—Literature and spirituality—Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Sunday, May 4, noon-1:00—Why liturgy? Carolyn Schmidt

Thanks to all who made our Christmas so wonderful—musicians, decorators, readers, candle-lighters, light show facilitators!

Dec 29— Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Suzanne
Homily—Mary Ellen
Presiding—Carolyn
Music—Karen
Treats—Suzanne

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

First Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 29

Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3
 Psalm 147: 13-21
 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
 John 1: 1-18

Holy Name, Jan. 1st

Numbers 6:22-27
 Psalm 8
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 2:15-21

Second Sunday after Christmas, January 5th

Jeremiah 31: 7-14
 Psalm 84:1-8
 Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-19a
 Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23 or Luke 2: 41-52

As we prepare to fund the Good Samaritan Fund in a new way—not through operating funds but through fund raising—do consider special opportunities. A special gift to honor an occasion is one. A fundraiser is another. Also First and Second Thrift offers an opportunity for folks to volunteer and then dedicate their earnings to a cause of their choice. The amount turns out to be around 13.00 an hour... We're hoping some SOTW folks will do this and designate The Good Samaritan Fund as their cause, as a way to raise money. Forms are at the back of the church.