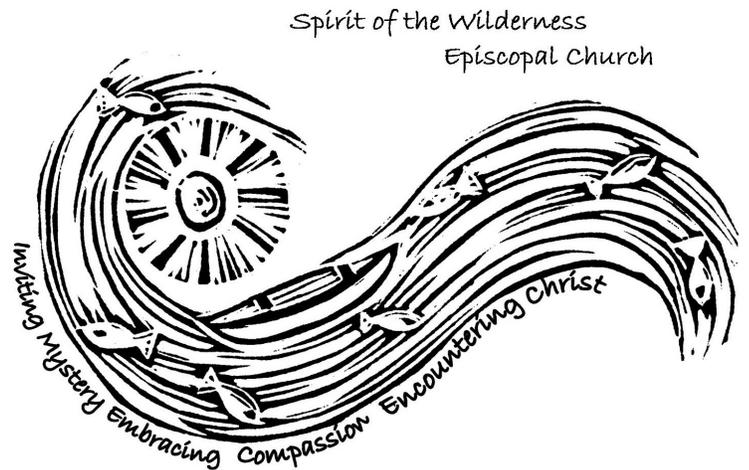


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

January 8, 2013

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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft
Phone 218 387 1536



Vicar's Report

On Sunday Ellen brought us a wonderful sermon—focused on Joseph. She spoke about how crucial he was to the STORY, and yet how easily forgotten. She challenged us to follow the still, small voice within—but like Joseph not demanding the lime-light or the glory.

Ellen's sermon reminds me of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Members of the church at Corinth were really into being the showiest. Paul uses a metaphor of the body—in which all parts are needed—the most presentable and least. If the whole body was just an eye, we'd be in trouble. Joseph was willing to be one of those who was not the center of attention, and yet he fulfilled a crucial role.

This message is central for us at Spirit of the Wilderness, because of the way we're **doing church**. We're not sitting back waiting for a professional to do church for us—we are **all doing church!** This demands that we all use our gifts for the good of the whole....

And we do this a lot. When we arrive and the path is snow-blown and the church warm and beautifully clean—we see each other's gifts at work; when we hear lessons read, and a homily we are seeing each other's gifts at work.

My hope and prayer is that this way of **doing church** will continue in our music ministry. We have been blessed to have the music box to support our worship; we were blessed to have Jane playing for us. Coming out of our discussion Sunday, we plan to continue to use the music box for support—probably for traditional processional and recessional hymns. In addition we're delighted that the newly retired Karen will be with us more, providing a core for other musicians.

Please pray that local musicians will hear the call to come and join us in making a joyful noise!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Adult forum on Sunday—Carol Mork will be giving us some background on Matthew's gospel—which is our lectionary book of the year! Please bring a bible with you.....immediately after church.



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

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.

Do you know a musician who might like to play an instrument at SOTW?

Coming up:

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.

January 12— Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Lee
Homily—Carol Mork
Presiding—Mary Ellen
Music—Layne
Treats—

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

1st Sunday after Epiphany—Jan. 12th

Isaiah 42: 1-9
 Psalm 29
 Acts 10: 34-43
 Matt. 3:3-17

On this Sunday it is traditional to remember the baptism of Jesus. Why should Jesus' baptism matter to us?

Second Sunday after the Epiphany—Jan. 19th

Isaiah 49: 1-7
 Psalm 40: 1-12
 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
 John 1: 29-42

In the gospel we see Jesus calling people to follow. How does Jesus call you in your ordinary life?