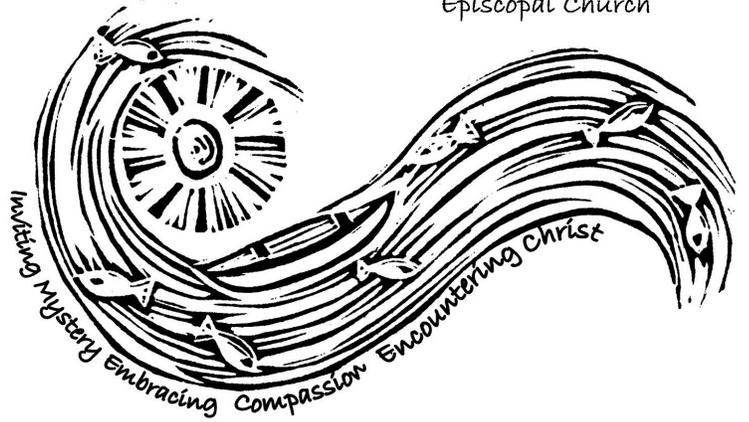


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
March 4, 2013

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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft
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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Don't forget to SPRING FORWARD!

Vicar's Report

Quotes from my interviews with *Spirit of the Wilderness* members:

"I'm better when I get to church—it gives me perspective."

"I go back to one of our first meetings... our goal at SOTW is to change the Episcopal Church in North America."

"People are not un-churched, but hurt, wounded and afraid."

"We have felt very loved and supported."

"I love the family, friends, closeness, community, participatory nature, mix of ages, informality, imperfection, and homilies that are personal and succinct."

"I'm proud of SOTW—with people doing so much."

"Living your life and religion should not be separated. SOTW feels like an exercise in day to day living."

"I talked to someone who said he loved the Christmas Eve service—especially the way kids were involved and the sermon which was short and to the point."

"Spirit of the Wilderness has given me a way back to Christianity."

"I find myself thinking about the service through the week."

"I like the role the vicar plays as ringmaster and teacher, with everyone taking part. Love tradition and new things."

"We are working out our faith both within and without."

Blessings,
Mary Ellen



Our service last Sunday. Thanks Ellen for taking pictures. Thanks to Hedstroms for opening their home!

Sunday, March 9th:

Leading: Val
 Homily: Carol
 Presiding: Mary Ellen
 Music: Karen and Karl
 Treats:

Coming up:

- March 5th—6 pm. Ash Wednesday service at Howard and Bonnie Gay Hedstroms house.
- March 9th—Adult forum after church —Exploring some Old Testament Roots of Jesus - Hillary Freeman
- March 11th—7 PM Book discussion—”Proof of Heaven” at Hedstroms.
- March 12th—Bishop’s Committee—let Lee, Milan or Mary Ellen know if you have matters you want discussed.
- March 13th—6 PM Ruby’s Pantry meeting at the Community Center.
- March 19th—Meeting to discuss ME’s sabbatical...
- March 28-April 5th—Entry Points to the Creative, Johnson Heritage Post.

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

First Sunday of Lent, March 9

Genesis 2:15-17; 3: 1-7;
 Psalm 32
 Romans 5: 12-19
 Matthew 4: 1-11

Our lessons focus on sin and temptation. (This is Lent, after all....) How do you think of sin? What pulls you from God? Are there things you could add to your life that would help you grow in this area? Are there things you could let go of?

Ash Wednesday evening at Howard and Bonnie Gay’s house. 6-8, Wed. March 5th.

Adult Forums

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

Sunday, April 6, noon-1:00—John’s gospel—Mary Ellen

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

Sunday, June 8, noon-1:00—Matthew revisited, Carol Mork.

Sunday, July 6, We’re thinking of having a historic service—turning back the clocks to what would have been when the prayer book was first used! Karen Halbersleben will set up the historical context, and then we’ll proceed with the service, with time following for more input, questions and reflection. (For verisimilitude, I’m going to start growing a beard right now, and if you all could stop bathing until then.....)