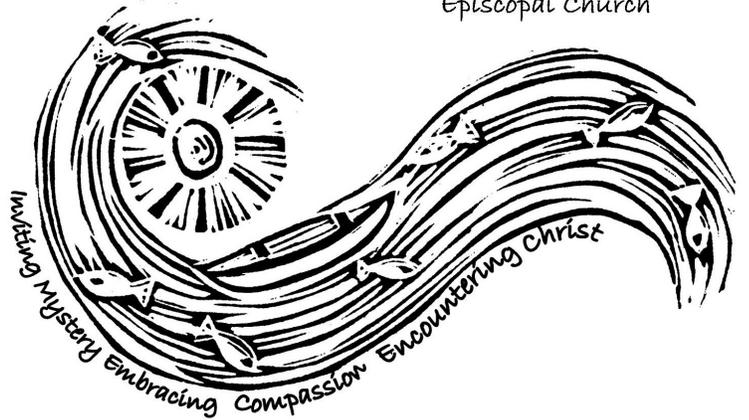


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
March 11, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

More feedback from you, including ideas and challenges:

Ideas:

Need altar guild and snow removal tutorials.

Need a check off list for set up.

Should we have a bishop's committee person in charge of each area?

What we need is a clearer sense of a ministry team—a core group.

How about an adult forum on how we decide who to give money to?

Are there other ways we could follow up with those who are at a distance to help them feel more connected?

How about having other readings from time to time, like from Martin Luther King, Jr. or a great poem, in place of one of the Bible readings—something chosen by the preacher and vetted by the vicar?

More people should contextualize the lessons before they read them.

Some Challenges/Concerns: (I've clumped these together, from most prevalent concern)

- Challenge is that we may be slipping into a more common pattern of a few people doing more and more while others do less and less. (x4). Have we lost our initial passion and determination? How can we bring that back?
- Kids... how can we bring more families into church? Could there be a choir with kids? Or a program during the sermon in the back room with stories for kids? Could we involve kids in more positive ways?
- Music... Would like to have some fewer verses on hymns. Would like more familiar music, with only one new one per week at most. (x2) Would love to have more musicians. Would love more consistent keyboard.
- Why are we part of the world wide church? Must we be? (x2)
- Challenge: Challenge is to grow enough so that we stay financially viable.
- Would love to see more diversity.

Please ponder these and pray about them. We will be doing some discerning around them in the next few months.

Blessings,
Mary Ellen



Another picture from our 2/2 service. Thanks Ellen for taking pictures. Thanks to Hedstroms for opening their home!

Sunday, March 16th:

Leading: Lee
 Homily: Patsy
 Music: Karl
 Treats:

Coming up:

- 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 20th—meeting to discuss Mary Ellen's sabbatical—potluck at Lee and Karl's 6 pm
- March 23rd—12:30—SOTW does the Care Center service.
- March 28-April 5th**—Entry Points to the Creative, Johnson Heritage Post.

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

First Sunday of Lent, March 16th

- Genesis 12: 1-4a
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
- John 3: 1-17

This passage shows a famous encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus. Try to read it without bringing all sorts of expectations. What do you think of this man and his conversation with Christ?

Sunday, March 23rd, 12:30
We lead the service at the Care Center—would you like to help or bring treats?

Adult Forums

- 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....)