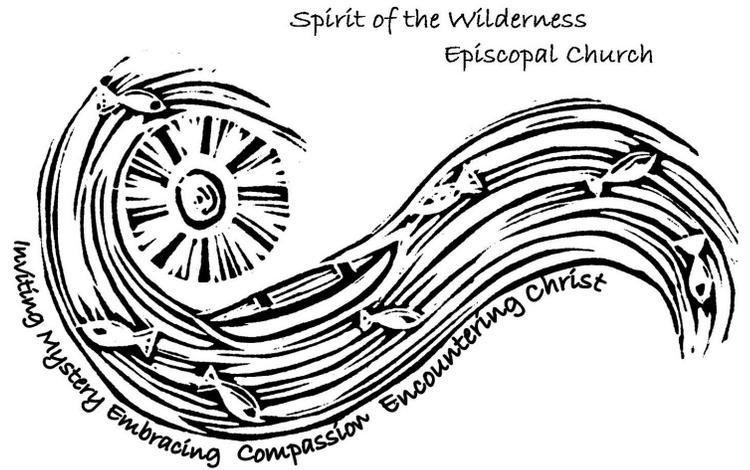


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
March 27, 2013

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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft
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Vicar's Report

With Mapping Mystery opening tomorrow, I've had many opportunities to think about and talk about Spirit of the Wilderness. I feel so fortunate to be part of such a faith community!

Here's what I wrote for the brochure we're handing out:

At Spirit of the Wilderness Episcopal Church, all are welcome. And we mean all—kids, dogs, imperfect, wounded people. In our Art Exhibit, all are welcome—those who call themselves artists and those who are just discovering the creative spark within. We believe that “Bidden or not, God is present.” Our goal as a faith community is to “Invite Mystery, Embrace Compassion and Encounter Christ.”

Join us for worship, Sundays at 10:30 at Historic Maple Hill Church.

We're also asking people who come to the exhibit to donate to The Good Samaritan Fund—Kathy has organized an appeal, I've ordered a sign, and mentioned it in different venues.

As we've been receiving art, setting up, and organizing at the Johnson Heritage Post, many of you have stopped by—so much involvement!

As I was being interviewed on the radio this morning, and talking about the show and about the Good Samaritan Fund, I thought—you know, if you were in this community and didn't know different, you'd think Spirit of the Wilderness was an enormous church, with so much going on.

Instead, we're really active and involved, and I sure love it that way!

See you Friday at “Mapping Mystery”!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Coming up:

Friday, March 28th: Setting up for and helping at the opening at Johnson Heritage Post. 4:00 PM onwards.

Sunday, March 30th: I'll bring copies of the full "Clergy renewal proposal" I'm getting ready to submit, in case anyone wants to discuss/give input after church.

Centering prayer: Tuesdays, April 8th and 15th at Schmidt's.



Holy Week and Easter Services:

Palm Sunday—reading of the passion.

Thursday, Seder Meal, 6 PM at Howard and Bonnie Gay's. (Look out for sign up sheets.)

Friday, Interdenominational cross walk and service at St. John's, with Dale MacIntyre preaching.

Easter Sunday service at 10:30—come prepared to celebrate!!

Thanks to those who served at the Care Center last Sunday and all who have been working hard to make Mapping Mystery happen!

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 30th

I Samuel 16: 1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5: 8-14
John 9: 1-41

In another long story from John's gospel we hear about Jesus healing the man born blind, and the controversies around it. As you read, pay attention to who Jesus is in this story—what do all the different characters say about him?

Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 6

Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45

In John's story of Jesus raising Lazarus, we see Jesus at his most human and his most divine. Pay attention to the way people react to him in this story.

Let me know if you might be interested in taking Deepening Roots next Sept.-May—meeting once a month for a four hour session. If you're interested, chat with someone who's taken the course, or with me!

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.

Outreach News:

At this point we're waiting to hear about next steps with Ruby's Pantry—in early April I'll be meeting with some of the organizers. Will keep you posted!

Sunday, March 30th:

Leading: Lee
Homily: Dave
Music: Layne
Treats: Layne and Rolf
Preside: Carolyn