

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

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Vicar's Report

First of all, a big thank you to Spirit of the Wilderness for allowing me to be away for the last two weeks. I had a fabulous time with Reed and Barbara in Tucson, followed by a few days hiking and gawking and camping at the Grand Canyon and in Sedona. I then went to Prescott for CREDO for eight days.

CREDO was a wonderful experience for me. I was able to connect with Episcopal Clergy from all over the country. Talking to many about their churches made me feel very thankful for Spirit of the Wilderness—our challenges are around life and growth! I also realized how much many clergy struggle with their own and other expectations that they do everything! When I spoke about lay preaching and leading, most were stunned—novel idea!

CREDO was restful and the fact of being away in such a different place—high desert—with time to be alone, chatting over meals with other clergy, with a small group, plus worship and input on a number of topics—it gave me a chance to get some perspective I really needed.

I hadn't realized that the trauma of eleven years ago had really affected my general attitude and that I'd gotten into a "glass half empty" rather than a "glass half full" frame of mind. That kind of habit of mind can become so pervasive that it begins to seem normal, and having time at this conference made me realize that I'd shifted into that and gotten into the habit of it. I don't want to live out of that attitude. Nor does it seem to be one that is congruent to Christian faith.

I am amazed at how easy it might have been for me not to have seen this had I not been away in that kind of setting, and I am very grateful for the chance to be on this retreat.

Jesus said to the woman at the well, "The water that I will give will become in you a spring of water, gushing up to eternal life." Look out for some gushing from this vicar!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Stewardship issues:

We are a new church and a small one! And yet we have (and are) committed to giving money each month through the Good Samaritan Fund, to help our neediest neighbors. And as part of the Episcopal Church, we have a responsibility to pay an assessment to the larger church. And then there are other needs—my paycheck, renting the building, advertising, etc. How do we do all this?

(Continued on page two....)

Coming Up!

Thursday, May 15th, 6 PM—Centering Prayer at Schmidt's.

Tuesday, June 3rd, 4-7—visit from Michael Pipkin, Missioner for Finance in the Episcopal Church in MN.

Wednesday, June 4th, 6:30—Bishop's Committee at Schmidts.

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

Sunday, June 22nd, Welcome Sunday—who will you invite?



Coming Soon to a venue near you!! (New life on our trees.)

(Ellen Stubbs pix)

Adult Forums

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

Sunday, July 6, Historic service. Karen Halberleben.

Sunday, August 10—The Canon of Scripture—how were the books of the Bible selected? Mary Ellen.

Outreach News:

Kody's Closet—We've delivered a couple of bags to the social worker who will be distributing items to students in need at the high school. Please put additional toiletry items (shampoos, conditioners, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, bar soap, shaving cream, lotions for girls for shaving, etc.) into the box at church.

Ruby's Pantry: This outreach opportunity will begin in September and will involve SOTW providing 8 volunteers one Saturday per month. More info on this soon, but for now please pray about being involved in this great scheme for meeting hunger needs. Contact Kathy Sullivan if you'd like to be part of the team!

Mentoring: The YMCA has hired its youth coordinator, so this will be another opportunity beginning in September, to mentor students after school.

Good Samaritan fund: We need to continue to find ways to put money into this fund, so that we can be faithful to our commitments, but still have enough in our operating fund. Here are some ideas:

- Work at the First and Second Thrift and send your earnings to Good Sam fund.
- Schmidts are planning a lemonade stand at their Croftville Road house on July 5th. We'll need posters, cookies, dog treats, folks to sit at the stand, a tent, etc. How would you like to help?
- Hold some special event that only you could think of!

Readings:

May 11, 4th Sunday of Easter (Sheep Sunday!)

Acts 2: 42-47

Psalm 23

I Peter 2: 19-25

John 10: 1-10

What about the metaphor of Jesus as good Shepherd means most to you?

Sunday, May 11

Leading: Suzanne

Homily: Mary Ellen

Music: Layne

Presiding: Carol

Treats: ??????

Stewardship, (continued from page one)

This question we will be our focus over the next few months. I talked with Reed and Barbara as I was visiting them a couple weeks ago. In early June, Michael Pipkin, Missioner for Finance in the diocesan offices will be coming up to visit with the Bishop's Committee about some of these issues.

We also plan in July to gather a group of financially minded people to discuss how we can raise money to support this church that we care so much about.

Please pray about your part in this.