

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

June 25, 2014

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

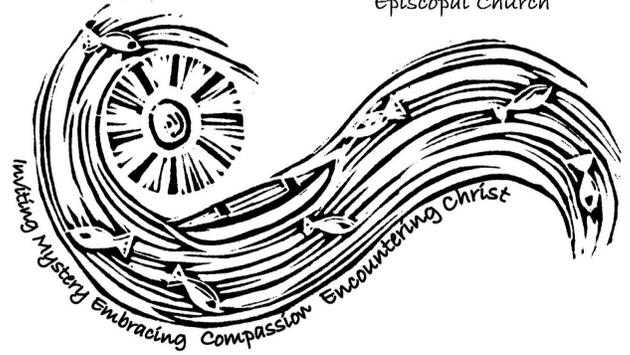
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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

I am very thankful for Spirit of the Wilderness. Sunday as I was standing at the back, getting ready to process, I was sincerely boggled (can you be sincerely boggled?!) to see all the people there, people who helped start the church and people who are brand new because they've been invited by members who feel a grace and connection with the divine that they are eager to share. What a gift.

Throughout the morning I was moved by the number of people bringing their "gifts that differ" (as the apostle Paul put it) to our community—Karen, Gina and Layne leading our music, Ellen giving us such a provocative and thoughtful sermon, Rolf greeting people who arrived, Sue organizing the hospitality, many cooking, sharing food and talents. And that's not even mentioning the 'behind the scenes' work that makes SOTW what it is—Bishop's Committee, Worship Committee, Outreach Committee and its work in the Good Samaritan Fund and elsewhere. And as one visitor said, "Wow. This congregation really sings!"

And I'm profoundly thankful for the love shown by people at Spirit of the Wilderness. One of Paul's greatest themes in his letters is love. No matter what controversy is going on, he brings the focus back to the priority of love. No wonder people said of those first followers of The Way—"Look at how these Christians love one another!" I feel very loved. As most of you know I had an emergency appendectomy (to the tune of \$25,000) which turned out not to be covered by my insurance because it was out of state. (The insurance company has gone out of business, I'm glad to say.) Through the hard work of Bob Gordon—negotiating with the insurance company, state insurance commissioner and then the medical providers—the cost was brought down to about half. (Yet another spiritual gift that the apostle Paul neglected to mention—hard-nosed negotiation!) Through the loving care of people at SOTW, and Bishop Brian's discretionary fund—the last bill has been paid. It feels to me as if a great load has been lifted off my shoulders.

Look at how these Christians love each other! Look at how this community uses their gifts for the good of those inside and outside its walls! Join me in giving thanks!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Movie Night—Note change of film.

Come and join us for **Movie Night**—a chance to watch and discuss a film together. Friday, June 27th, 7 PM at Ritalee and Bruce's house—15 Silver Fox Lane (off County 14, just above the horse farm); bring a snack and a beverage to share. We'll watch "Wings of Desire"—about invisible, immortal angels who populate Berlin and listen to the thoughts of the human inhabitants and comfort those who are in distress. Questions? Phone ME—387 1536.



Welcome Sunday!

Thanks to all who made the day a great success—especially Sue for organizing us, Ellen for preaching, and all who were part of the service and BBQ afterwards!

Paddles UP!!

Please contact Karen to get your name on the list to paddle. (stonefly5@msn.com) If you'd like a t-shirt (even if you're not paddling,) bring a check to Karen by June 29th. Our practice time is 3:00-4:40 on Friday, July 25th. Races begin 9 AM on Saturday. Checks can be mailed to SOTW, Box 1115.

Coming Up!

Friday, June 27, 7 PM Movie and discussion—come and join us as we watch “Wings of Desire.” (see notice on page one)

Thursday, July 3, 6 pm, Centering Prayer at Schmidt’s.

Saturday, July 5th, Lemonade stand to raise money for the Good Samaritan fund—at Schmidt’s. Sign up sheets at church. (This will also function as a social, so don’t miss it!)

July 7-8th—Community appreciation days at Hedstrom Lumber Company.

Wed., July 9th, Bishop’s Committee.

Sunday, July 13, 10-12 Historic service. Karen Halbersleben helps us understand our tradition, setting the stage before and leading a discussion after a historic service.

Thursday, July 17, 6 pm, Centering Prayer at Schmidt’s.

July 23rd, 4-8, Michael Pipkin, missionary for finance visits with the Bishop’s Committee.

Saturday, July 26th—Dragonboat races. (Please sign up with Karen Kobey).

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

Sunday, August 17—SOTW at the Care Center.

Sunday responsibilities—June 29—

Leading: Val
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Carolyn
Music: Karen and Karl
Treats: from Welcome Sunday

June 29 Readings:

Genesis 22: 1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6: 12-23
Matthew 10: 40-42

Read this very famous passage from the book of Genesis—called the “sacrifice of Isaac” or the “offering of Isaac.” It should raise many questions for you, as it has for Jewish and Christian believers down the ages. What do you take from this story?

Several requests:

- We could use some **bibles** at church for our forums. Do you have one sitting around that you don’t use? Or if you’re in a thrift shop and see one would you pick it up?
- Continue to bring **toiletry items** for the closet at the High School, to put in the box in the back of the church. (And if you have a suggested name for the program, let someone know.)