

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

September 11, 2014

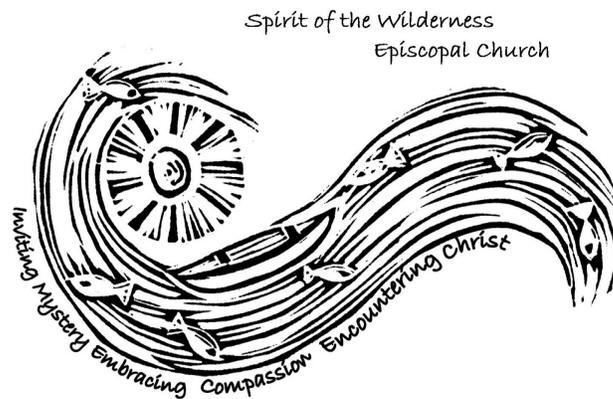
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Vicar's Report

Last night ten of us met at “Hedstrom’s House of Holy Happenings” to talk about the future of SOTW. How can we plan so that the church is thriving in years to come?

Some of our discussion centered on our financial stewardship—what are some ways we could work toward having a reserve fund? Should we have a capital campaign and then become part of an endowment fund or buy property, or simply raise a year’s operating reserve?

We will be continuing to think about how to more fully ensure SOTW’s future financially.

As we start into this new year, we will be guided in our stewardship campaign by Karen Halbersleben and Bob Padzieski. Look out for some material from them.

The other question we pursued was this: how can we grow *Spirit of the Wilderness*? In other words, if we want to increase our income, one way will be to increase our membership.)

To increase our membership, we need to know what makes us distinctive. Some answers we came up with were these: spirituality, intimacy, participation, and openness to all. (And of course, dogs in church.)

What do you think makes us unique? What some may want may turn others off. (Some people don’t like dogs in church!)

What makes SOTW different? What is our “brand”? If you had a few minutes in an elevator with a person who said, “Tell me about Spirit of the Wilderness,” what would you answer?

And following from that, how that might be communicated to those in our community who would like to be a part of SOTW.

This is a great question for us all to ponder and respond to. Send responses to me, and I’ll put them in the next newsletter! (And we’ll use them as a basis for ongoing discussions on this...)

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Spirit of the Wilderness Interest Survey—please let me know if you're interested in being involved in any of these. Some need a convener; we also need a new Junior Warden and clerk.

- Financial wizards (longer term financial)—convener?
- Bishop's Committee—We need a new Junior Warden and clerk
- Clergy Renewal planning group-- convener?
- Outreach—Kathy Sullivan is convener
- Practical—snow removal/heat/storms—need more people who love to shovel snow!
- Arts planning group-- convener?
- Altar guild—convener?
- Communications—any one else want to be involved in this area?
- Welcome—convener?
- Worship/music—convener?

Coming Up!

Sept. 21—We celebrate International Day of Peace at SOTW

Sept. 25—Centering prayer at Schmidt's.

Oct. 1—Bishop's committee

October 5th—Blessing of the animals at Church—invite friends with four or two legs.

October 9th—Field trip to check out Ruby's Pantry in Cook MN (let MEA know if you'd like to go...)

October 9th—Centering prayer at Schmidt's.

October 12th—Rescheduled forum—How were the books of the Bible chosen?

November 7th and 8th—"All Hearts are Open" liturgy workshop at St. John's Linden Hills—let me know if you're interested!

September 14 readings:

Ex. 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

Jesus talks in our gospel about forgiveness—how have you thought about this subject?

Please pray for Carol Knox who is in having heart problems that doctors are struggling to treat—she has asked for all our prayers.

This Sunday:

Leading—Lay

Preaching—Mary Ellen

Presiding—Carolyn

Music—Karl and Karen

Treats—Barb and Marg

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.) We may be called on to help make up bags of toiletries for kids at the junior high and high school!