

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

September 24, 2014

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

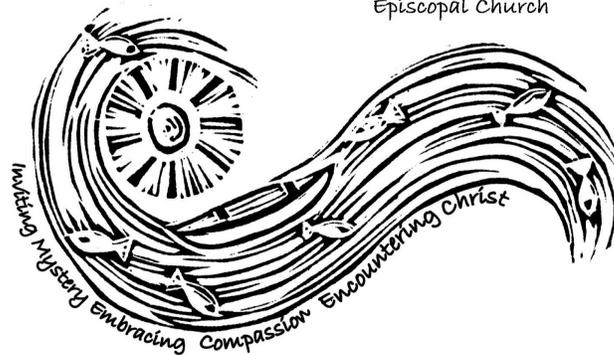
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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

Last Friday, in response to a call from Kathy Sullivan, twelve people showed up to pack bags of hygiene products for ISD 166. When I think of how hard it is for some churches to get volunteers, this makes me feel very proud of us! We want to make a difference!

This week I made up a preaching schedule—something we've never done at Spirit of the Wilderness before. All in all, there will be nine different voices bringing the word to us between now and the end of December. We also have conveners for the major groups at Spirit—worship, outreach, etc.

Besides being wonderfully organized (!) all of this is about a turn we are trying to take at SOTW—a turn which keeps our strong sense of lay involvement but also makes sure we're not 'flying by the seat of our pants.' All of this is part of growing up as a church, but also about getting ready for my sabbatical in a year's time.

We also received a freshly printed Directory—thanks to Karen Kobey. It looks great! But of course, it was instantly out of date! (See below.) We will start including names in our on line version of the directory.

And we had a wonderful International Day of Peace service, put together by Kathy Sullivan.

I list all these as emblematic of our involvement as a church.

I'm still hoping to hear from you about what makes us distinctive as a church. What do you tell people when you tell them about SOTW? Does our statement (that goes with our logo) still work for us? "Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ."—does this speak of who we are?

Looking forward to hearing your thoughts on this!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Please add to your directory:
Dennis Skrade and Laurel Stiebler
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Next week I will start writing columns for the News Herald for the month of October. Please let me know if you have ideas for articles that you think the community might find helpful.



Coming Up!

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 5th, 12:30 SOTW leads worship at the Care Center

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?

October 19th—Annual meeting after church.

October 25th—Joyce and Peter Fergus—Moore present on their time in the occupied West Bank at CCHE

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

November 9th—Stewardship Sunday

A dozen SOTW folks pack hygiene bags for ISD 166—thanks to all!

This Sunday's lessons:

Exodus 17: 1-7
Philippians 2: 1-13
Matthew 21: 23-32

In the gospel passage from Matthew Jesus says one of the most incendiary things he ever says. Can you see what it is? Why does he say this?

This Sunday:

Leading—Howard
Preaching—Lee
Presiding—Carol Mork
Music—Karen
Treats—Barb and Marg