

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

October 7, 2014

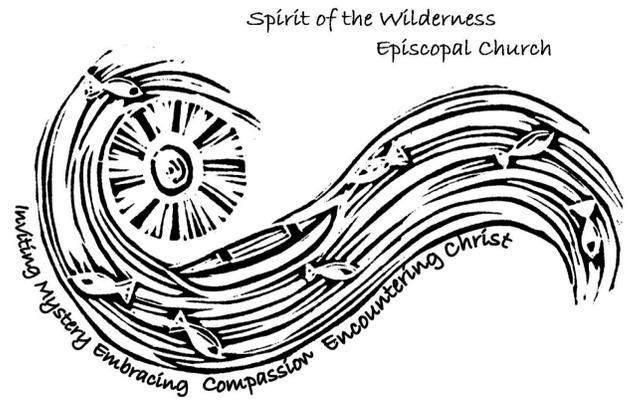
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Vicar's Report

“Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ” Members of *Spirit of the Wilderness* formed these phrases some years ago to express who we are as a church. Do they still ring true? Should any (or all) of these words be changed to reflect who we are now, or who we want to be?

Any organization faces this challenge: how can we hold the original vision while changing as the organization matures? It's like human growth-- a baby is delightful as a baby and a toddler is (mostly) delightful as a toddler-- but an eight year old acting like a baby or toddler would be sad, even tragic. Who are we called to be now?

Spirit of the Wilderness is at a crucial junction in our life together as a faith community. To move ahead, we need to reflect on who we have been, who we are, and who we feel called to become. What parts of our original vision do we hold to, and what needs to change?

We talked last Sunday in church about living out of what's important to us, rather than what distracts us. As individuals and as a church, we need to identify and confirm what is most important to us. We do this to follow the call of God. We do this so that we might continue to be fed at Spirit to continue the outreach work that matters to us. And we do this for those who are not yet a part of our faith community, but who we hope will join us and find life.

When we had our meeting about the long term financial health of *Spirit of the Wilderness*, it became clear that our first step is to identify who we are and what is distinctive about us.

In church this Sunday we'll be discussing this together.

Here are some questions to ponder:

What is *Spirit of the Wilderness* best at?

Does our motto--“Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ,” still express who we are?

Bring your ideas Sunday. Or if you can't be there, please email me!

Blessings, Mary Ellen



The great question behind the development of the canon—deciding what books are in and out of scripture—what do we tell the children?

What do we want to pass on? Consider this as you ponder the questions on page one of the newsletter!

Coming Up!

October 9th—Field trip to check out Ruby's Pantry in Cook MN (more on this after the trip....)

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, 2PM—On the Ground in Palestine: An Eyewitness Account of Life Under Occupation, Presented by Joyce and Peter Fergus-Moore, 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

November 16th—Adult forum on "Difficult Bible Passages" by Hillary Freeman

Anyone want to help organize a movie night during November?

This Sunday's lessons:

Exodus 32: 1-14
Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14

How do you think the people of Israel—having seen God's deliverance at the Red Sea and other miracles—could decide to make a golden calf? What golden calves are you tempted to make?

This Sunday:

Leading—Val
Preaching—Mary Ellen
Presiding—Mary Ellen
Music—Karen and Layne
Treats—?????