

## Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

November 12, 2014

[www.spiritofthewilderness.org](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

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### Vicar's Report

In our Stewardship service last Sunday, Karen reminded us of the ultimate statistic—we all die. But something from us is left behind, a legacy in people's hearts and minds.

Karen invited us to think of someone in our lives who had loved and guided us in childhood and to picture that person and then speak their name. She then invited us to think of a child for whom we wish all good, to picture that one and speak their name. In doing this we built a bridge.

That bridge and the love in it spanned between the past and into the future: the link was each of us and our love. As stewards of this love, Karen pointed out, we commit to a future for the children. Our commitment of time, talent, and treasure goes beyond dollars pledged to a commitment to this church and to this community.

We are called as stewards, Karen reminded us, to commit to a future as yet unknown: a commitment to keep Spirit of the Wilderness flourishing as a community holding its light out to the world for generations to come.

In the gospel for next Sunday, Jesus tells the familiar parable of the talents, in which a master entrusts his assets to his slaves. I've been pondering this passage, and especially the closing lines—"As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Rather harsh, don't you think? After all, what that "worthless" slave did was nothing. He didn't invest or put in the bank. He simply handed back exactly what he'd been given. Not bad, really. Somehow Jesus doesn't seem to see it that way.

Part of being a steward is realizing that all we are entrusted with is a gift—that it is not ours, but belongs to another and is for us to invest wisely and well.

We all die. We have all been loved and guided by someone, and we choose to love and guide others.

We have the opportunity to commit our time, talents, and treasures to bridge to a future of love.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Centering Prayer is looking for a new time to meet—speak to Carolyn and Milan if you are interested in this group.



Anybody know when this was taken?

What a jolly looking group!

We've been asked to ring bells for the salvation army's red kettle, one Saturday during advent. Does anyone feel strongly about:

- Whether we want to be involved in this
- What date—Dec. 6, 13, or 20th we should do it?

Please let me know.....

### Coming Up!

Nov. 13th, Empty Bowls at St. John's Church. Come and volunteer for both the 11-1 and the 5-7 shifts. SOTW does clean up.

Nov. 14th, 3-7—Kathy Sullivan's birthday open house at her home!

Nov. 23rd—A forum after church on "Difficult passages of the Bible" by Hillary Freeman.

Nov. 26th, 7:00-8:00 PM—Thanksgiving service at Maple Hill.

Nov. 30th—First Sunday of Advent!

Dec. 3rd, 6:30—Bishop's Committee Meeting

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> —A forum after church on the book of the year—the Gospel of Mark! Carol Mork.

Dec. 7th SOTW leads worship at The Care Center.

Our Missional Innovative Grant proposal is in—along with 31 others! Please hold this grant in your prayers.

### Lessons for Proper 28

Judges 4: 1-7  
I Thess. 5: 1-11  
Matthew 25: 14-30

Why does Jesus seem so harsh in this gospel? What has this timid slave done that is so much to be judged?

### This Sunday:

Leading—Karen Halbersleben  
Preaching—Mary Ellen  
Presiding—Mary Ellen  
Music—Layne  
Treats—??????

(If you want to bring treats for next Sunday, please contact Lee—387 2983.)