

# Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

December 4, 2014

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

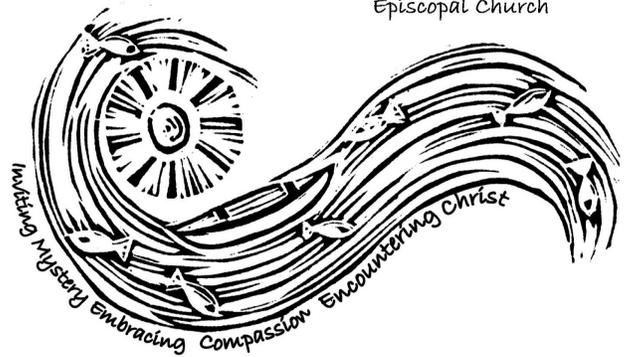
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Spirit of the Wilderness  
Episcopal Church



## Vicar's Report

I've been getting ready to finalize plans on the South Africa Book/Movie group. My hope is that these evenings will give us all greater understanding of South Africa, and thereby increase a sense of involvement as I go on my sabbatical there, and blog about my experience. I am hopeful that we will develop a sister church relationship with a church I visit there, and hope this study will also help prepare for that. I also hope that folks from other churches might like to be involved in this group, and that others from the community as a whole might be a part of this.

We will meet eight Thursdays from 6:30-8:30, during January, February and March. We have not finalized a venue yet. Please consider if you would like to be involved with this group. (You don't need to commit to all the sessions to come to some....) Some of our 'further afield' members might like to do the readings and Netflix the movies along with us...we could perhaps do some online discussion. Also please think if there are people whom you think might like to be involved in this who are not part of SOTW. (I'll be sending info to others in the ministerium, but we all know that a personal invitation goes a long way!) Here's the official blurb:

During the deep winter, come and read books and watch movies from South Africa. Over the years I've taught a course called *The Literature of Southern Africa* at several colleges, so I'd like to offer a book and movie discussion group, as I prepare for my sabbatical in South Africa Sept.-Dec. 2015. South Africa has produced a number of outstanding novelists (such as Alan Paton, Andre Brink, Nadine Gordimer, and J.M. Coetzee) as well as playwright Athol Fugard.

As we gather for this group, I will provide background on the historical situation, colonial and post colonial literature, and the writers we will read (and a few we don't have time for). We will read three (short-ish) novels by great South African writers, and I will hand out poetry by some others as well as short pieces by a few emerging voices. An optional book of nonfiction on the *Truth and Reconciliation* and some short writings by Nelson Mandela will be used for some background. We will watch film versions of two of Athol Fugard's plays—one set under apartheid and one in post-apartheid South Africa. We will also watch a film of Andre Brink's novel *Dry White Season*, another film about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, *Long Night's Journey Into Day* and *Invictus*, about Nelson Mandela and the new South Africa.

January 8-- Background to literature/film of Southern Africa. Watch Athol Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys*

January 15-- Discuss Alan Paton's novel-- *Cry the Beloved Country*.

January 29—Watch Andre Brink's--*Dry White Season*.

February 5-- Discuss Nadine Gordimer's-- *July's People*.

February 12-- Watch Athol Fugard's *TsoTsi*.

February 26—Discuss J. M Coetzee's *Disgrace*.

March 5—Watch *Invictus* and discuss some short readings by Nelson Mandela.

March 12-- Watch *Long Night's Journey Into Day*. (Optional reading: Antjie Krog's--*Country of my Skull*).

Questions? Want to be involved? Let me know....

Blessings, Mary Ellen



**Keeping Kids Warm!**

We've heard from the school that there are children who need boots size 2 and size 7 1/2. There is also a need for kids gloves. If you can provide these items, please let Kathy Sullivan know, and then drop at the school to give to Anna Sandstrom. Glad we have this reputation!

**Priorities:**

- Make sure you've set aside January 18th for our all church retreat. We'll get a financial update, consider more about who we are and who we are called to be; we'll eat together and have some fun.
- If you haven't yet sent in your pledge, please do.
- We hope to give grocery store gift cards to some low income folks again this Christmas—if you'd like to make a special donation, please write a check or give some cash to the Good Samaritan Fund.
- Christmas: invite a friend to the service!
- Please let Lee know if you'd like to lead the service occasionally. Or even to try it.
- May Bob Padzieski's hammer dulcimer inspire you to bring an instrument to help lead worship! Talk to Karen Kobey about this.

**Coming Up!**

Dec. 7th and 8th—Borealis Christmas Chorus concert at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7 PM.

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> —A forum after church on the book of the year—the Gospel of Mark! Carol Mork. (Bring a Bible if you have one handy!)

Dec. 7th SOTW leads worship at The Care Center. Help!! Also need treats for this....

Dec. 21st Help decorate after church.

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve service at 5 PM. (Christmas potluck to follow at WindCradle)

Jan. 7th Bishop's Committee Meeting

Jan. 18th—SOTW retreat (save the date!)

**This Sunday:**

Leading—Val

Preaching—Carolyn

Presiding—Mary Ellen

Music—Bob and Layne

Treats—??????

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

**Lessons for Advent 2**

Isaiah 40: 1-11

II Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

Advent is about waiting and preparation.

What are you waiting for?

What does it mean to you to prepare for Christ?