

# Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

December 26, 2014

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

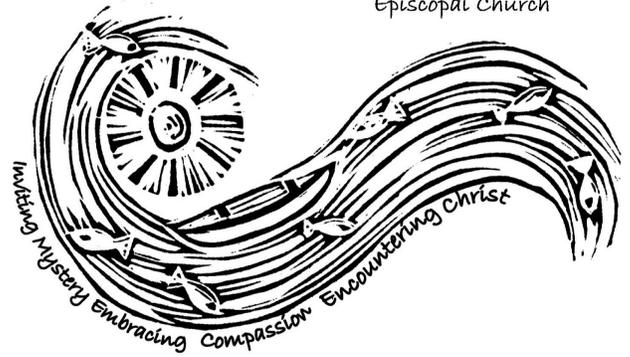
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Spirit of the Wilderness  
Episcopal Church



## Vicar's Report

My beloved got me an unusual Christmas present—a SPOT. When my kids heard about it they each said, “A what?!?” And then said, “That’s perfect!! The best gift EVER for you Mom!!!”

Just in case you don’t have one yet, a SPOT is a little device that you carry with you when you’re hiking or paddling in places where there is no cell phone or other coverage. To set it up you go online and list some emergency contacts. You can also have your SPOT send a message to a list of people that says, “Hey, I’m okay!” or shows them your gps coordinates. If you were in a life-threatening situation, you could press a button that would send your coordinates to a rescue service.

I set up my SPOT yesterday and went into the woods in an area I’ve been doing some off trail exploring. This is one of my very favorite things to do. Someone told me the other day that not that many people like doing that, which seems very odd to me. What could be more fun!?

Hiking along I noticed how I felt a little more comfortable than I normally do—when I’m alone in a remote place in some bitter cold .

What’s this about? I thought. And then I realized that this little device basically provides back up. My SPOT provides support, so although I may seem to be on my own, I’m not. I can check in with people and if I get in trouble I can get help.

It struck me that church membership is a bit like this—our own SPOT. Our SPIRIT SPOT.

How so? Well, I’m not alone. Even if I seem to be alone, I have my backup. I know there are people who want to know where I am. If I get into some difficulty, I can send for help.

What could be better? Sometimes when things are going along well (when the path is clear, etc. ) we don’t really need our SPIRIT SPOT. It’s good to know it’s there. Other times we need that family that is our chosen family desperately!

All in all, we need a faith community. We all need backup. It’s great to know that they’re there, and that they’ll respond to my SPOT message with a smile at my check in, or with a hand if I need it.

Blessings, Mary Ellen



Our  
wonderful  
musicians!

We love  
their  
playing!

(Any others  
out there?)

**Coming Up!**

Jan. 7th Bishop's Committee Meeting

Jan. 8th—South Africa Book/Movie group begins

Jan. 18th—SOTW retreat at Hedstrom's House of Holy Happenings. We'll begin at noon with appetizers, and then do our retreat work, and then share dinner and fun. All are welcome.

**South Africa Book and Movie Group—CCHE**

Save the dates and **invite a friend.** 6:00-8:00

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

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

I want to take a moment to thank you very much for the gift card to Gene's for Christmas! This past year has been somewhat difficult as I was diagnosed with a brain tumor so my social work asked if she could put me on a list to receive a gift card for the holidays and I was happy to see it was from you and could thank you. Can you please print this out for your congregation or whomever contributed...thank you once again!

Christine

**This Sunday:**

Leading—Karen H.  
Preaching—Carolyn  
Presiding—Mary Ellen  
Music—Bob and Karen  
Treats—????

(If you want to bring treats for next Sunday, please contact **Beth Kennedy—387 1314.**)

**Lessons for Epiphany**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Eph. 3: 1-12

Matt. 2:1-12

During Epiphany we focus on light—Jesus the light coming to the world and being revealed to all. What associations does Epiphany have for you?