

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

February 11, 2015

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

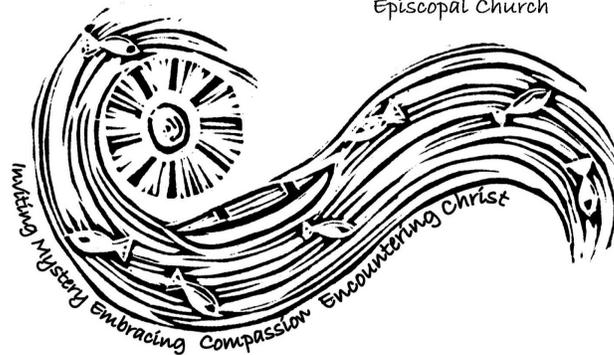
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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

One of the gifts of being Episcopalian is the church year. The rhythm of our worship changes with each season—from the joy of Christmas, to the enlightenment of Epiphany, to the sobriety of Lent, and then Passion week.

This Sunday is the last of Epiphany, and next Wednesday is our spring board into Lent. All over the world people celebrate this move in different ways. On Shrove Tuesday people eat pancakes (traditionally to get rid of all the fat in the house) and hold Mardi Gra extravaganzas to party it up before a strictly kept Lent .

Our forebears in faith often kept Lent very strictly, with no fat, no meat, no sex, no jollity. We do give up 'alleluias,' but that's not a huge sacrifice!

Maybe there's been too much emphasis on 'giving up' something for Lent; instead I suggest adding something—a morning devotional using the Book of Common Prayer or another devotional book (look through some of our church books in the entry way if you're interested in finding one...) Maybe adding some kind of service—visiting people at the Care Center for example. Or substituting something—take out gossiping about someone and add praying for them, for example.

We will have a meditative service/retreat on Ash Wednesday at WindCradle from 6:30-8:00 PM. This service is an opportunity for us to consider our lives and whether there are areas we'd like to change as we face the fact that we're not living forever. Please join us for that evening.

Our services shift during Lent, too. Not only do we eschew "alleluias;" we also become more somber. We pray Kyrie Eli-son—Lord, have mercy.

I invite you to put the Ash Wednesday service on your calendar, and to consider how you would like to hold this special season as "holy"—set apart to deepen you!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

We hope to start Ruby's Pantry distribution in May. We need a list of people who would like to be on a volunteer list. When you are called you will need to offer six hours once a month. Please sign up to be part of this! By contacting Barb Spaulding: bspaulding@boreal.org.

Questions: Contact Beth Kennedy!

This Sunday:

Leading—Ella
Preaching—Ellen
Presiding—Mary Ellen
Music—Layne and Karen
Treats—

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

Adult forums:

Feb. 22nd: Mark's gospel—the passion narratives (Carol Mork)

March 8: on The Minor Prophets. (Hillary Freeman)

March 22nd: The history of the Episcopal church in Minnesota. (Ben Scott)

April 19th: Medical issues and mortality. (Ellen Stubbs)

May 17th: Historical Service—1670. (Karen Halberleben)

June 7th: Sacraments—(Mary Ellen)

South Africa Book and Movie Group—CCHE 6:00-8:00

February 12-- Watch *Invictus* and discuss some short readings by Nelson Mandela.

February 26—Discuss M'pho 'M'atsepo Nthunya's *Singing Away the Hunger*.

March 5—Watch Athol Fugard's *TsoTsi*.

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

Lessons for Last Sunday after the Epiphany

II Kings 2:1-12
II Corinthians 4: 3-6
Mark 9: 2-9

The Transfiguration is the ultimate epiphany revelation. How do you understand the scene in our gospel?

Mark your calendars:

Wednesday, February 18th, 6:30-8:00 at WindCradle—Ash Wednesday service/retreat.

Saturday, February 21st—Social ! Dinner at Trail Center 5:00 PM; sleigh ride follows for those who have signed up.

Saturday, Feb. 28th—Field trip to Silver Bay to experience Ruby's Pantry.

Tuesday, March 10th—Illuminations art show materials will be dropped at Johnson Heritage Post. (Help needed!)

Friday, March 13th—show opening including presentation on the St. John's Bible.

Saturday, March 14th—class (time TBA on the St. John's Bible.

Sunday, March 15th—SOTW at the Care Center.

Wednesday, March 18th—worship committee meeting—concerns to members Lee, Karen K, Ginny or Layne.



We love our musicians!