

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

February 17, 2015

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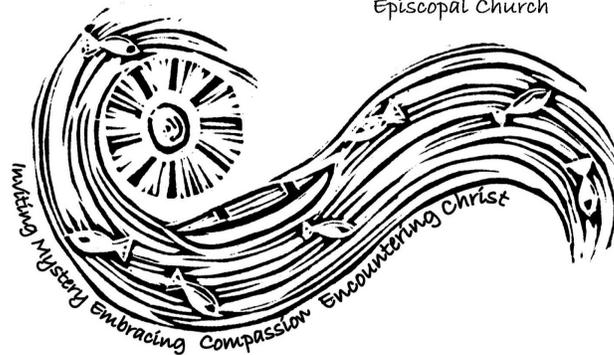
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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

I want to list some of the ways we're being church:

Last Friday I was at the new brew pub in town—an important job testing their beer!—when I looked up and saw a friend of my son Stephen. I ran over and said hello. A bit later I looked up and saw that Howard was talking with her. When I took her out snowshoeing the next morning she said Howard had invited her to church and she was going to come Sunday.

This morning I did another interview on WTIP to talk about our upcoming art show, entitled this year ILLUMINATION: IGNITING IMAGINATION. I have been getting great interest from some artists on the show. And we're just beginning to publicize the opening presentation—THE MAKING OF THE ST. JOHN'S BIBLE by Susan Sink. The show will run March 13-29.

I also just submitted an article to the COOK COUNTY NEWS HERALD on Ruby's Pantry. It's been exciting to see so many things coming together for this—we have great leadership, lots of volunteers (though would like more), a time (second Thursday of each month from 4:30-6:00), and are busy working out some details of place. SOTW will be the sponsoring church. Ruby's Pantry will give us great opportunities to serve, and to work alongside others in our community.

This Saturday, folks from SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS will be going for a social—dinner at 5 PM at Trail Center, followed by some of the group going on a sleigh ride.

Last Sunday we once again had a pretty full church—remarkable for this time of year! We had lively worship—two guitars and a drum—a fine sermon, excellent liturgical dance by a two year old, and service leadership by one of our young people. Besides that we had a clear walk to get into church and the heat was on....

Wednesday of this week, we'll have an Ash Wednesday service/retreat at WindCradle—6:30-8:00. This will be an opportunity for us to deepen as we begin our Lent.

This next Sunday after church, Carol Mork will present on the latter half of Mark's gospel—with new bibles donated by the Padzieskis.

Our South Africa Book and Movie Group has been fascinating—good relationships forged and discussions had—some fine insights.

Kathy Sullivan is meeting with an interdenominational group to discuss social justice issues.

And people are caring for and praying for each other—perhaps the most important thing of all.

All of these—from brew pub to worship, from sleigh ride to art, from Ash Wednesday to Ruby's Pantry—are what being church is about!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

This Sunday:

Leading—Beth
Preaching—Layne
Presiding—Carol
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)

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

June 7th: Sacraments—(Mary Ellen)

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

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 first Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
I Peter 3:18-22
Mark 9: 9-15

As we begin our Lenten season, how will you keep a holy lent? Are there things you will add—prayer, reading and service—or try to slow down on—gossip, or worry, perhaps?

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 10-12 using 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.



This Sunday's forum on Mark's gospel will be wonderful (taught by Carol Mork). And we will crack our new bibles—donated by Bob and Ginny!