

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—November 24, 2010

Vicar Notes:

Thanksgiving...we all have much to be grateful for. As a community, we've had a wonderful year. Preparing for convention reminded many of us of God's faithfulness to us during our whole process toward mission status. We have some wonderful new members amongst us. We are indeed blessed as a church.

As individuals we also are given this chance to count our blessings. But for us as Episcopalians, Thanksgiving brings the beginning of Advent, a season of preparation for the coming of Christ. Advent offers us a "mini-Lent"—and opportunity to take a deep breath and examine what it is we are giving ourselves to, how we are living our lives, etc.

Our climate underlines this season. As days shorten, we have more time for quiet contemplation. The darkness of the sky and the quietness of Cook County seem to say, "Hush. Don't rush. Ponder." It seems like a great privilege to live somewhere where we don't have to rush around like crazy, buying this and that for a list of acquaintances, visiting one cocktail party after another.

I invite you, as I invite myself, to keep advent as a holy time, a time for reflection. In an ongoing way, we must discern God's call to us at Spirit of the Wilderness. In our life as individuals and in our life as a church, this is a great opportunity to ponder and pray.

Peace, Mary Ellen+

Two needs:

- We'll need greens of all kinds for our wreath making on Saturday. If you have some available, please bring them to the Art Colony—which will be open from 9:00 AM.
- If anyone can join us at the Care Center Sunday to sing, pray, and snack with the residents, that would be much appreciated!



Don't Forget!

November 24th: Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 27th: Advent Wreath Making at the Art Colony
November 28th: Brief forum on Matthew
November 28th: Care Center Service 2 PM
December 18th: Spirit rings Salvation Army bells at Johnson's
December 24th: Christmas Eve service