

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—January 20, 2010

Vicar Notes:

Last Sunday, we went to an Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. This church had a splendid building, largely finished by Tiffany of lamp-shade fame: it was celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. The organ was phenomenal; next door was a large rectory.

I was so glad we went to this church because it made me realize how amazing Spirit of the Wilderness is! We talked to the deacon before the service who was telling us about all they are doing—holding dance classes, a nursery school, etc. “But,” he said, “I’ve got to say, it’s not translating into people coming to services.”

During the service I could sure see why. It felt like we were in a museum, in which a service was being preserved. If I’d stumbled in there I would have had no sense of the gospel’s love. There were maybe 30 people there.

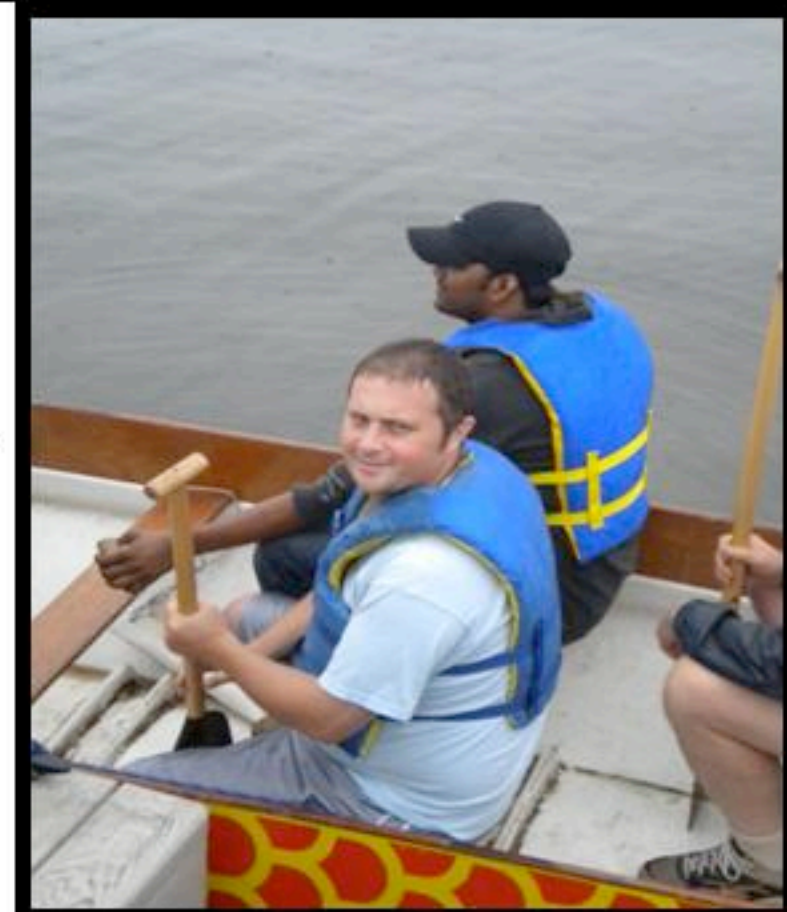
Sadly, that service was indicative of what the Episcopal Church often is nowadays, and that is why the church as a whole is in such trouble. The weight of tradition, of brocade, of silver, of hierarchy, of buildings—all of that dumped onto the fire of the Spirit—little wonder the Spirit has trouble flickering in that setting.

I realize this sounds judgmental. I mean it to encourage us—we have the most amazing opportunity. This is partly because of what we DO have—in each other here and now. But it is also in what we DON’T have—buildings, years of tradition and hierarchy. Rejoice with me in the wonderful gift of Spirit of the Wilderness!!!

Peace, Mary Ellen+



Have you been practicing your dragon boat moves?



Don't forget!!!

- **Saturday, January 22nd:** Vicar of Dibley Party at Howard and Bonnie Gay's—6 PM—bring food that will go with Rolf's famous meatballs.
- **Saturday, January 29th:** Music workshop day at WindCradle with Jeff Kidder, 10-4. Sunday the 30th will be a day of special celebration at Spirit. Coming out of this, I trust, will be a music committee who work together to choose our music for Sundays. Let me know if you want to be a part of that group.
- **Wednesday, February, 2nd, Forum:** 7-9 at WindCradle. The Eucharist—how do we understand it? RSVP 387 1536.
- **Sunday, February 20th Care Center Service, 2-3:** We need more people to be involved in this important ministry.
- **Social for February—Trail Center....**who would like to organize?
- **“Nets for Life” fund-raising party:** Contact Beth or Suzanne.
- **Directory for Spirit of the Wilderness:** Coralyn has offered to put this together....ideas for this?
- **Friday and Saturday, February 25th and 26th Retreat:** A retreat on women in earliest Christianity at WindCradle.
- **Art Colony Collaboration, April 10-24 :** April 8-9 retreat on Creativity and Spirituality; April 10th opening.