

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—February 17, 2011

Vicar Notes:

I've been thinking a lot lately about our ministry at Spirit of the Wilderness—what Bishop Brian would call the “ministry of all the baptized.” I think we are doing that very well—we have lay people involved in almost all aspects of our life together. And while many would be uncomfortable with lay people preaching, leading, reading the gospel—I love it. I feel like our services are truly organic—as we hear each other speaking from our lives in Cook County into our lives in Cook County.

Tonight we're going to Gretchen Roeck's ordination to the priest hood. What does priesthood mean in the context of the “ministry of all the baptized”? There are the obvious answers—that the church has set aside the a,b,c's (absolution, blessing, and consecration) for people who are trained and ordained, areas that are non-negotiable as we are part of the Episcopal Church. But another is professional training—the fact that I have studied theology, learned (and forgotten!) Greek, studied church history, church growth, biblical studies, so that I can bring that background to bear, as most of us do in our professional lives.

As we figure out how to do church in a way, incorporating the ministry of all the baptized, I feel that my job is to keep us on track—when an issue arises, to suggest how tradition, scripture and reason would respond to it.

I can also help bind us to the larger church as I interface with other clergy, congregations, and celebrate the call of a wonderful young woman like Gretchen to this special ministry.

Peace, Mary Ellen+



Don't forget!!!

- Sunday, February 20th Directory pictures taken at church.
- Sunday, February 20th Care Center Service, 2-3 PM
- Friday and Saturday, February 25th and 26th Retreat: A retreat on women in earliest Christianity at WindCradle.
- Wednesday, March 9th: Ash Wednesday evening at WindCradle. 7-9
- Sunday, March 13th: Baptism at Spirit 10:30
- Wednesday, March 16th: Bishop's Committee meets with facilitator 6-9 Reed and Barbara's.
- Art Colony Collaboration, April 10-24 : April 8-9 retreat on Creativity and Spirituality; April 10th opening.