

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—April 21, 2011

Vicar Notes:

On Monday, I was with fifteen clergy colleagues (plus Bishop Brian) for a service to renew our ordination vows. He spoke about how the church tends to take itself too seriously, while not taking the gospel seriously enough. How, he asked, can we take ourselves as clergy, as a church, less seriously—but really take up the challenge to live the gospel? Finding that balance is a big part of what it means to be an Episcopal Church that focuses not just on the ministry of the ordained, but on the ministry of all the baptized.

Over lunch after the service I chatted with several colleagues about a common concern they had—that their “flock” just came on Sundays and were spectators and didn’t get more deeply involved in the life of the church. I didn’t say what I was thinking: “How can you expect people to be other than spectators when you force them to be spectators on Sunday?” That model is one we’re trying to avoid at Spirit!

When I was a professor and colleagues complained about their students being passive and doing a bare minimum, I knew it was because the professor was “taking up too much space”—lecturing, acting as sole expert, etc. It was common knowledge that if you wanted student involvement and passion you had to invite that in meaningful ways.

As Easter people, let us show forth the risen one as we live out our baptismal covenant!

Blessings, + Mary Ellen



Be there!

- **Friday, April 22nd: Interdenominational Community Cross Walk**—meet 6 pm at St. John’s.
- **Friday, April 22nd: 7 pm. Interdenominational Good Friday service** at Cornerstone: with Readers Theater version of the Passion parts of Dorothy L. Sayers *The Man Born to be King*.
- **Saturday, April 23rd: 6:30 pm. Experimental Easter Vigil at WindCradle.** We’ll have a light supper—I’ll make chili, you bring bread, salad, chili toppings. We’ll walk the labyrinth, kindle a new fire on the beach, carry candles and lanterns, ring bells, and then celebrate Easter with hot cross buns and wine/soft drinks. Finished by 8:30. (Bring lanterns, bells, and contribution to the feast!)
- **Sunday, April 24th: Easter Day Service** at 10:30—we’ve heard rumors of a special visitor for the children!
- **April 27th: Bishops Committee Meeting**
- **May 2nd: Food Shelf**
- **May 21st: Feed My Starving Children** food packing.