

## Wilderness Words



## Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—April 28, 2011

### Vicar Notes:

What nurtures your soul? What, in our Sunday worship at Spirit of the Wilderness, feeds you, makes you ready to go back into the rest of your life? It's easy for me to assume that what nurtures my soul **MUST** nurture yours! That what turns me off is distasteful to you as well. But then I remember how much I've changed in terms of what I have found soul-nurturing over the years.

At the interdenominational service at Cornerstone Friday evening, we sang "The Old Rugged Cross." I suddenly saw myself as a nine year old, listening to my brother's junior high youth group sing that song, and thinking it was the most beautiful song I'd ever heard. I was singing along on Friday and thinking, "This is kind of cheesy..."

Then Baptist pastor Dale MacIntyre stood up and looked out at the people gathered there—Catholics, Baptists, Evangelical Free church folks, Episcopalians, and Lutherans—and said, "This is what heaven looks like—every tribe and tongue—people who worship differently gathered together."

I guess most of us who worship in the Episcopal Church appreciate Episcopalian worship. Is it the style? The familiarity? Perhaps it's the good theology, or maybe the fine language? I remember when I first went to a liturgical service and I was shocked (!) that all these people were just saying all these rote prayers—I assumed they couldn't possibly mean them! Or I recall times when the kind of worship that best suited me was full of incense, vestments, chanting....which seems like a performance to me now.

The challenge to me (and perhaps to you) is to keep growing in my worship of God, seeking God's nurture, but also remembering to hold dear the unity we have across different denominations in Christ.

+ Mary Ellen



Spring Flowers compliments of Ellen Stubbs!

### Be there!

- **May 1st:** Spirit of the Wilderness at the Care Center 2-3
- **May 2nd:** Spirit of the Wilderness at the Food Shelf 3 PM
- **May 8th:** Bring food shelf contributions to church.
- **May 21st:** Feed My Starving Children food packing. Sign up today for a two hour packing slot.
- **May 25th:** Bishop's Committee Meeting

Anyone have thoughts for a May social?

Anyone want their house blessed?