

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—May 5, 2011

Vicar Notes:

At the climax of C.S. Lewis's *The Last Battle*, a small hut sits next to a bonfire where a terrible confrontation is going on. The worst punishment imaginable is to be thrown into this hut. But when Lucy (our heroine) is thrown in, she finds it to be a beautiful meadow on a sunny day, rather than the dark grim death she'd expected. What a surprise—the expected horrors give way to beauty and joy!

The gospels during this Easter season give us a series of surprises—people expecting death, and instead being given life. The women who go to the tomb, Thomas the Twin, the disciples on the road to Emmaus all have this experience.

And we may have that kind of experience too—expecting the worst, and then somehow grace enters and there's a shift and we are given joy. I wonder—how does our attitude affect our ability to receive these joyful surprises?

Sometimes it seems that God's grace breaks right through our bad attitudes. Other times it seems that we are given the freedom to choose darkness. In *The Last Battle*, a group of dwarves who have been thrown into the hut are cowering, convinced they are in a smelly, dark place. They cannot "smell the flowers."

This may be one of the reasons involvement in a faith community is crucial—we can help each other to expect surprises, help each other "smell the flowers."

We are blessed to be Easter people—surprised by joy.

Blessings, + Mary Ellen



This Week:

- Bring food shelf contributions on Sunday.
- Sign up to pack food on May 21st.
- Talk to Barbara about a craft project some folks are working on.

Looking Ahead:

- **May 21st: Feed My Starving Children** food packing. There are many open spaces for people to sign up: times are 9:30-11:30; 12:00-2:00; 2:30-4:40; 5:00-7:00. (This is a great opportunity to do something for the good of the world and also to work alongside others from our community.)
- **Deepening Roots: A Course for Formation.** (Offered by WindCradle.) This course, for people who would like to grow deeper in their knowledge of the Old and New Testaments as well as their theological understanding of various issues, will meet once a month Sept.-May at WindCradle. If you have questions, please talk to Mary Ellen. Maximum group size is ten.
- Anyone wanting to plan a social or a house blessing this month?