

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—May 12, 2011

Vicar Notes:

I led a retreat last Friday/Saturday at the Gainey Center near Owatonna. The topic was balance, and the forty women who attended were eager to balance their lives. As I got deeper into my preparation I realized I would disappoint them—I don't think balance (except for a few miraculous moments in life) is possible. The best we can hope for is to be rooted and focused.

To illustrate, I told them about some people I knew who lived near the San Andreas Fault in southern California, who collected beautiful pottery and china. They didn't just "balance" their pottery on the shelves—they had special sticky stuff that they used that would hold the pieces firm even in an earthquake. From my illustration, we all laughed to think that God is like sticky stuff that keeps us from falling off the shelf in an earthquake.

But it's true. And though that metaphor for God may seem a bit "far out," all metaphors have their strengths and weaknesses—even the shepherd metaphor that we'll focus on this Sunday. It's such a beloved way of thinking about God, but only one way of expressing our wonderful God. Join us as we consider the ways we begin to talk to, think about and express God.

Blessings, + Mary Ellen



This Week:

- **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.)
- **May 25th: Bishop's Committee meeting**—if you have items you believe should be on the agenda, please contact Lee, Rolf or Mary Ellen with them.
- **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?**