

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—November 12, 2009

Mentor Notes:

Our first Steering Committee (like a vestry) met the other night, and here's some of what we agreed on:

- None of us want Spirit of the Wilderness to grow just for the sake of numbers, nor do we expect or want it to get much bigger.
- We are committed to retaining our Episcopal identity, both in our worship and polity, but with strong lay leadership.

We agreed: God has done great work here, building from 0-20, speaking to us through each other's homilies, etc. For this we give thanks to God.

But for any church to thrive, to continue to follow the way of Christ and to be spirit led, we need to be holding out hope with open hands, finding ways to connect with the spiritually hungry in our community. If we stop looking outward as well as inward, our wonderful church will splinter, and then shrivel up and die.

So we commit to step by step growth: as we look back at our gradual, listening growth these past two years, we assume that as we listen to God and each other, the adventure will continue, even if the ending is not clear! +Mary Ellen

PLEASE PRAY!!

- Continued healing for those on our hearts—for Lorraine and Jerry, Nikki's nephew Alan.
- For Barbara and her sister Doris.
- For Dave Coleman in the loss of his sister.
- For Dave and Patsy's grandson Jake with meningitis.
- For Spirit of the Wilderness as we follow God's call here in Cook County.



Possible Adult Forum topics:

1. The creed and how we got it.
2. Baptism and Eucharist—where they are from and what they mean.
3. Controversial topics and how they've been understood—war, women, sexual issues, etc.
4. Ways to pray.
5. How we understand the authority of scripture.
6. What makes Episcopalians different.
7. The divinity of Christ.
8. How the Old Testament relates to the new.
9. The relationship between faith and works.
10. Other faiths in relation to Christianity.
11. Background on the books of the Bible.

Calendar of Extra Events!

- **Sunday, November 23rd** (after church): Steering Committee .
- **Sunday, November 30th**: Adult forum on one of the topics to the right! Would love to hear from you—which shall we start on?
- **Wednesday, Dec. 16th**: Potluck and Advent Meditation at WindCradle.