

**JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2013**

**THE COMFORT OF SOUP AND SONG**

*Like a warm breeze, on a winter's day,  
Like a kind word that a friend may say  
Like a candle keeping the dark away  
I will comfort you.*

From "Carry Us through this Night"

Dear Friends,

It's a beautiful Sunday morning here in Holden Village. The snow has been falling gently. There's little sound....much different than the sound of the rain in Bellingham....I love that, as well! But it's usually mixed with a cacophony of sounds from our neighborhood -- of cars and trains and barking dogs. But here...all is quiet.

I've been thinking about comfort this morning. There was the comfort of our cat, sitting on the couch beside me. There's the comfort of Scott sitting across from me in the big, maroon chair, reading. I am comforted by the beauty that surrounds me here...I am struck with awe at least six times a day. Today, we'll be going for a long walk in the snow. I find comfort in the work I've been given to do here --working as Village postmistress, leading worship now and then, offering music. I am also greatly comforted by the community down the hill that I am about to join for breakfast. New friends whose lives are being more deeply entwined with mine as we share this adventure of living in Holden Village. And there is the continuous thread of the spiritual life we share....the glue that binds this community.

On March 15 through 18<sup>th</sup>, I'm looking forward to helping to host the "Compassionate Voices" retreat here in the Village. There will be snow. We've had around 212 inches so far this season. But there are also skis and snow shoes for exploring this beautiful Valley. I'm sending you two links. The first is to our quarterly Village Voices newsletter. You'll find lots of information about the Village, and an article I wrote. The next link is to the news release about the retreat. You can also "like" me on Facebook, and be updated with news and photos. I am excited about this retreat...gathering with old friends and new to sing, sing, and sing some more, while also having conversations about death and grief, dancing and doing art together, sharing a movie or a moonlight snowshoe walk. I hope you can join us here! Below are the links:

[http://www.holdenvillage.org/images/stories/publications/hvv\\_winter13.pdf](http://www.holdenvillage.org/images/stories/publications/hvv_winter13.pdf)

<http://www.holdenvillage.org/compassionate-voices-retreat/>

Please feel free to pass on this information. ALL voices are welcome! And just to whet your appetite for the wonderful meals we share at Holden, here's a recipe from one of our lead cooks, Dean Safe.

## Dean's Potato Soup

1 cup carrots, chopped  
1 cup onion, diced  
1 cup celery, diced  
3 cloves of garlic, minced  
2 quarts of vegetable stock  
3 cups heavy cream  
4 potatoes, diced  
Basil, oregano, salt, pepper, olive oil

- 1) In soup pot, sweat onions, carrots, celery and garlic in olive oil until soft.
- 2) Add cream to cover vegetables
- 3) Add potatoes, then vegetable stock. Add spices. Bring to boil. Simmer for 1-2 hours.
- 4) Serve, and share the comfort of a Holden winter meal!

Deep peace of this quiet Valley to you –  
Linda