**Wednesday Harry Potter Gift Night**

6pm everyone sit; sort yourself into 4 houses, table grace and then “let the feast begin”

6:25pm The house elves went on strike so everyone will need to take their own dishes to the kitchen! Thank Buffy for feast.

6:30pm Intro to Faith in HP – show a clip on projector, 3 activities you can rotate to, wand making, defeating dementors with patronus charms and a horcrux hunt,

(divide into 3 houses?)

6:40pm Patronus charms by glass table

6:55pm Wand making by stage

7:10pm Hunt – get first clue in hall

6:40pm 6:50, 7pm, 7:10pm

Optional activities- memory game for little ones

Invisible ink pens

7:20pm up in church for closing

Many articles and books have been written about the faith dimensions seen in the Harry Potter books. In an interview with JK Rowling she stated; “To me, the religious parallels have always been obvious. But I never wanted to talk too openly about it while writing the books because I thought it might show people who just wanted the story, where we were going.” Beginning with her childhood, cleaning pews in St. Luke’s Anglican church wit her younger sister, and deciding on her own to be baptized when she turned 11 years old, the same age she chose for Harry to accept his call; Joanne Rowling infused the spiritual themes of love over evil, upholding the dignity of all, and sacrificing for others in every Harry Potter book.

We could spend hours, even days looking at all the parallels, but the most important one she wanted to embed was the power of love over the love of power, (repeat) , especially sacrificial love, and that love even has power over death through Resurrection. That’s why when Harry is losing hope, he and Hermione, visit his birthplace on Christmas Eve, walk past a church, hear the sound of Christmas carols and visit the gravestone of Harry’s parents in which the scripture is written ; “The last enemy to be defeated is death”

Harry doesn’t understand at first, but Herminone explains, “It doesn’t mean defeating death in the way the Death Eaters mean it, Harry,” said Hermione, her voice gentle. “It means…you know…living beyond death. Living after death.” (*Hallows* 328)

We are called to love:

Lily’s love for her son- parents for children

Snape’s love for lily- people who love each other

The love of the Weasley family- love within a family

Dobby’s love for Harry- love between creatures and humans

Harry, Ron, Herminone, Neville, Luna – love between friends

So if you watch the movies or read the Harry Potter books, look for love; it’s all around

So tonight, we have 3 activities

1. Patronus Charms:

We all have to face Dementors at some points in our lives; the experiences, emotions, people, images and things that suck happiness from us. It could be illness, stress, a tough loss, a test, a difficult person, anxiety, a hurtful comment, etc.

To combat that, we can use a Patronus; which draws upon a person’s happiest memories to produce a kind of shield to help protect themselves from Dementors.

In Harry Potter, Patronus’ took the shape of various animals.

As Christians we have God as our ultimate Patronus.

You can make your own patronus charm keychain to carry with you:

-select 1 animal of your choosing; you can select from the animals described below

- select 1 cross (there are two kinds) to remind you that Jesus is the ultimate Patronus who is always with us

- select 1 heart (there are two kinds) to remind you that God loves you always; in good times and bad.

1. Wand Making: wands in HP were used for good and evil; it is in the power of the holder of the wand to choose; just like we have choices in life; to choose love, love of others, love of God.

1. Horcrux Hunt- gather with others to form a house, and then go on the Hunt together.

THEN WE WILL GATHER IN the Great Hall AT 7:25PM FOR SPECIAL CLOSING on We Are Called, just like Harry was…And a special gift for all (chocolate frog with Episcopal saint card)!