

WILDERNESS WORDS

Interim Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter:
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This Sunday:

Leading: Karen H.
Preaching: Patsy
Presiding: Carolyn

Readings this week:

First Reading & Psalm:

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and
Psalm 125

Alternate First Reading &**Psalm:**

Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146

Epistle:

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Gospel:

Mark 7:24-37

(Click on citation to go to the reading.)

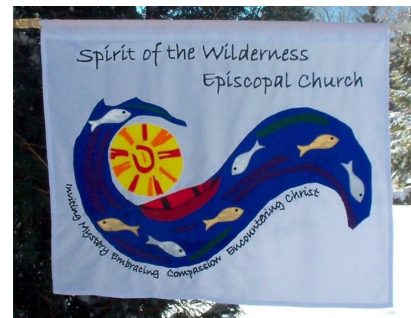
From Barbara Holaday:

A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES

Good News! The Holy Spirit is alive and well at Spirit Of The Wilderness in Grand Marais and at Christ The King in Tucson, Arizona. The second Sunday in the life of the SOTW I was staring at the sunbeams playing on the books in the back of the pew in front of me, and wondering how in the world this group of Episcopalian misfits was ever going to evolve into a viable church. Something said to me, Barbara, this is good. I found it somewhat difficult to believe, but in a little over a year, we were packing up and leaving a retirement dream home in Arizona and moving to County road #7 in GRAND MARAIS!

That first winter for us, and the second in the life of SOTW, as we drove up the hill we would count the number of people we knew would be attending and wondering how in the world there could be a service with so few people. We'd go in and greet people and then someone we had not expected would arrive and suddenly we had a church!

And why was that? Was it Mary Ellen? Maybe, but Mary Ellen couldn't make a church by herself. Was it the lay people who were inspired to give homilies? Perhaps, but how were they inspired? I think we all know the answer. It could only be the Holy Spirit, that little



Ruby's Pantry is next Tuesday, September 8.

PLEASE NOTE: Ruby's new hours! Please pass the info on! We are now going to be open 5:00pm til 6:30pm. School is starting! We want to be sure kids are safe. We need to let buses get out of the parking lot before Ruby's people come to school. Volunteers we will start at 3:00pm -- Please park at church parking lots not at school. Pick up a badge at front desk . We expect a large turnout of people coming to get Food so we need lots of volunteers.

Save these Dates:

Oct. 18: Annual Meeting after Church.

Vicar:

Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone: 218-387-1536

<maryellenvicar@gmail.com>

Assisting Priest:

Carolyn Schmidt

Phone: 218- 387-1806

<madrecj@aol.com>

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

<https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness>

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voice that seemed to tell me “This is good” that second Sunday. There was supposed to be a church such as ours at Maple Hill and all of us, knowingly or not, felt inspired in a myriad different ways to make it happen.

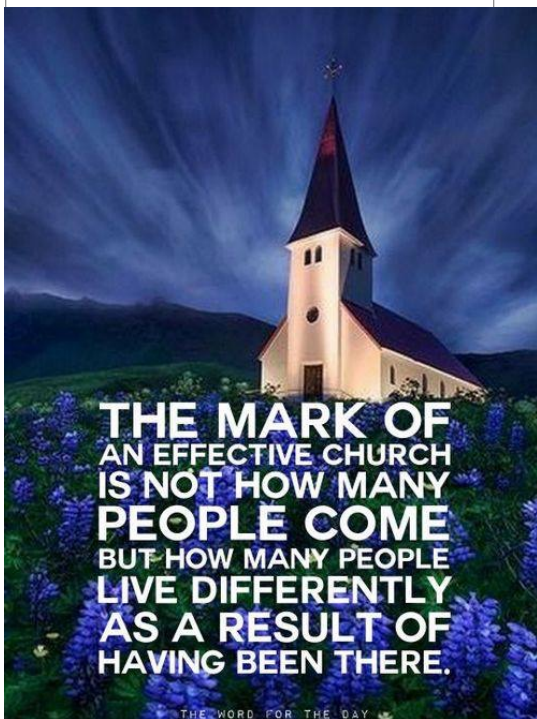
Last Sunday, as we entered to a full church after a longer absence than we had planned, we could not believe the number of people who filled the pews, and half of them were new to us.

I felt that little voice again and this time it seemed to say “I told you so.” Some will say that the Spirit of the Wilderness evolved because we don’t have a building to worry about, or that we have so much lay involvement, or that we have become so involved in the community. But I keep thinking back to that second Sunday and that little voice that hopped in on a sunbeam and I can only say, You were right!

So why did we move back to Tucson? We are in our eighties, need you ask? Seriously, though, when we went back to our old church of Christ The King we couldn’t believe the changes. Instead of a healthy early 8 o’clock service of a mixture of older traditionalist and some golfers with early tee times, we counted 9 people. The 10:30 service was somewhat better off, but there were some “regulars” who should have been there who had just disappeared. We found that the new young rector who had been there when we left had suffered some mental illness and had spent all our reserve funds and also alienated a good number of parishioners before the Bishop had finally asked him to leave. Two retired priests agreed to take over until we could somehow get things together again and afford to call a new rector. It seemed hopeless.

But I had always thought that Christ The King was a special place. Good people had worshipped there and worked there. How could it just die? When so many good people give so much in time and treasure, both to the church and to the community, and pour out their hearts in prayer a church doesn’t just die.

And Christ the King will not, either. We now have a vibrant Sunday school, an energetic Young Peoples



Group, a fantastic Choir and a healthy Outreach program. We've done our preliminary work, and by this September we start to look at candidates for Rector.

So we have two very different churches. Two very different stories. But we have one little voice on a sunbeam. It tells us that both places are very special in God's scheme of things. Reed and I feel very blessed indeed to be a part of each.

Barbara Holaday

Pastoral Care Committee Assignments: (week starting) September 6, Milan; September 13, Layne; September 20, Layne; September 27, Beth; October 4, Beth; October 11, Lee; October 18, Lee; October 25, Dave + Shawn

Photos by Ellen (Picnic at Ron & Sue's):

