

## Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness [www.spiritofthewilderness.org](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

Weekly News—May 1, 2012

### Vicar Notes

Five years ago there was no *Spirit of the Wilderness*. Now we are an active community—with committees, for heaven's sake! Low attendance means 15 or so, high near 50. People are pursuing their God-given passions—providing for our neighbors in need, planning services, preparing homilies, leading services at the Care Center.

We have become known in the community partly because of our Dragonboat involvement and our collaboration with the Grand Marais Art Colony—both activities that are very contextual—a good example of a missional church's paradigm of listening to the community and the Holy Spirit and responding.

We are taking time to understand—by reading native fiction. Our coffee times after the service last as long as the service itself!! Our socials are pretty wonderful. We've found some ways to keep in touch with our members who are at a distance for chunks of the year.

We're not perfect, but we are sure alive!

Five years ago we could not have imagined where we would be now. And this is the Spirit at work.

Just as the most striking thing about the earliest church was its rapid growth—impossible to account for without acknowledging the action of the Spirit—so we at *Spirit of the Wilderness* have experienced the leading, prodding, and challenging of the Spirit, along with the joy the Spirit brings.

The nice thing is—with a big year like FIVE we can celebrate for a couple months!

At this point we have only one part of our celebration planned—August 22nd—when Dwight Zscheile (mission church expert who met with us early in the process) will spend an evening with us—potluck and meeting at WindCradle. And I suspect our Dragonboat, July 27-28—with special music—will be celebratory.

This is well worth commemorating—so I invite you to think of ways we might mark this anniversary together, as well as ways we might use this anniversary to invite others in the community to join us. I'm hoping someone will volunteer to oversee these fifth anniversary celebrations, but for now—send any ideas my way!

How wonderful to know the Spirit's work in our midst!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

## What's happening?

A deep discussion at  
"Rhythms of Darkness and Light"  
at The Art Colony.



### An easier way to pay your pledge—

We are setting up a system so that members can automatically have their pledges taken out of their accounts and deposited in our SOTW account. If you're interested, please talk to Reed.

### Anyone feeling called?????

To organize greeters to welcome people coming through the door—making sure they have name tags and the right papers? This will be especially important with summer coming and visitors coming...

### Five Years of Spirit!!

- July/August—We'll be celebrating the Fifth Anniversary of Spirit of the Wilderness. Would you like to help plan some celebrations?

### Mark your calendars:

- May 5th—Region Two meeting in Virginia—contact Carolyn if you're interested in going.
- May 5th—"Enriching relationships with First Nations" in Thunder Bay—contact Carol Knox if you'd like to attend.
- May 9th—Reaching Out book group discussing Scott Momaday's *House of Dawn* at the Congregational Church, 6:30 PM.
- May 16th—Bishop's Committee meeting—please raise any concerns with Rolf, Lee or Mary Ellen
- May 19th is our "Yurt Raising Day" at WindCradle. We have volunteers coming from a number of places to help, and then will have a party and music in the evening. Would love to have you there!
- June 4th—Potluck social at WindCradle. Alex Logan, a vicar from England, will share about her experience of working with folks on the outside.
- July 27-28—Dragonboat—sign up with Kathy Sullivan if you want to paddle. We'll have a tent full of music and fun, so plan to join in—even if you're not paddling...
- August 22nd—Dwight Zscheile (mission church expert who met with us early in the process) will spend an evening with us—potluck and meeting at WindCradle.
- Beginning in September—Would you be interested in a new *Deepening Roots* course starting up next year? Do you know someone you think might be interested in the course? Please let me know.....(387 1536).