

## Wilderness Words



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

Weekly News—June 5, 2012

### Vicar Notes

Many of you have met Alex Logan, whom I was at seminary with, and who is now a vicar in the east end of London. She's on a sabbatical after ten years of ministry.

I've been struck with some differences: different ideas of parish, a vicarage, many Bengalis in her neighborhood.

But at the same time so much is the same in the church all over. Some things I've heard Alex say that rings true with us:

1. How the church must see where God is working and then join God in those places.
2. How the church in these times cannot rest on its laurels—how an increasingly secular society and dropping budgets means the church must work to be relevant to the community around it.
3. How God continues to work through ordinary people.
4. That the vision must be constantly refined.

These are all things we've learned at Spirit of the Wilderness and will continue to learn.

Here are the questions I want us all to ask:

How can we be the church that the Spirit is calling us to be?

How can we invite people into the heart of God by inviting them to join us?

July 1st is a welcome Sunday—an opportunity for us to consider whether there are people we might like to give a special invitation to.....please pray with me about this....who could use a church family? And then invite them.....

Blessings,

Mary Ellen

## What's happening?

### Mark your calendars:

- June 10th—3-5 PM at the Congo Church—Minnesotans United for all Families information session. REGISTRATION REQUESTED. For questions and to register, send name and phone to [tess@mnunited.org](mailto:tess@mnunited.org)
- June 13th—Bishop's Committee—all agenda items to Rolf, Lee, or Mary Ellen.
- 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).
- Our book group—for increasing our cultural understanding—will be taking the summer off, and reconvening in September.

### Five Years of Spirit!!

- July 1—Welcome and anniversary celebration—donuts before church and a barbecue after!
- July 15th—Tim Hodapp, Missioner for Mission in the Episcopal Church in MN will be with us for service, and then a potluck after...Holadays have invited us out to Greenwood that afternoon!
- 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 Wind-Cradle.

### Several Needs:

- With summer coming we really need folks who are willing to welcome people and make sure they have the right papers on Sunday mornings. This is one of the most important ways to help visitors feel welcome. If no one is doing this when you arrive, please step in and do it!
- For Dragonboat, a few church musicians from St. Matthew's are going to be visiting to be in our tent and then in services on Sunday. We're full up at WindCradle.....could you host a couple? (there will be two, I think.....)
- We now have a sign up slot for those who would be willing to pray for people during the administration of the Eucharist. (Look our for a course Patsy Coleman will be teaching in August on this!)

### Discussing Criminal Justice

The ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) has a draft of a criminal justice study which people can comment on. Criminal Justice affects all of us and this study provides a way to understand the system, the issue and the function of a faith community. There will be three Monday night sessions to walk through this document starting June 11, June 18 and June 25th from 7-8:15 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Hillary Freeman will be leading that discussion and there will be study guides available. .