

## Wilderness Words



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

Weekly News—June 13, 2012

### Vicar Notes

Summer poses particular challenges in a place like Grand Marais. Of course we get to enjoy lovely weather and long evenings—BUT...on the other hand.....

- There are lots of people around. This is great economically for the area—but who are these people we don't know, who are wearing new clothes!?!
- The pace of life speeds up from andante to presto. There are times when we can't simply pull up in front of the store and park!
- For many of us, our stress level goes up—because we're working more, entertaining our many friends who drop by when they're in the area, our families who come to stay.

When I say to someone that I live in Grand Marais, they usually react by saying, "Oh, you lucky thing. I LOVE Grand Marais!" Followed by, "But how do you cope with the winters?" The stresses of summer are not apparent to outsiders.

These stresses can spill over into church. Many regulars are very busy. Sometimes it seems as if members are out-numbered by visitors. It can be hard to extend a genuine welcome. We might feel that we're coming to services and trying to keep many balls in the air!

How do we meet this challenge?

First we need to recognize and name it.

Second, I believe we need to hold this challenge and our summer services in our prayers. Please join me in this....

Third, we need to remember that with all the stress around, we need to cut each other lots of slack. (If I ask you a question and then walk away, forgive me!)

Fourth, we need to remember to be grateful—that we are part of such a wonderful faith community AND that we get to live in such a beautiful place!

Blessings,

Mary Ellen

## What's happening?

### 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—Dragon-boat—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...For Dragon-boat, 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.....)
- 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.

**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.

Look out for  
your  
Spirit of the Wilderness  
directory!!

(thanks to Jennye for her work on this)

