

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness www.spiritofthewilderness.org

Weekly News—June 21, 2012

Vicar Notes

I like to take a retreat in June every year—to stop and ponder and pray about life. I take time to check in on what my priorities are, and how I'm living into those.

Usually I take this retreat as a solo Boundary Waters trip, but this year, looking at the weather prediction for last Monday and Tuesday, I decided to stay instead in our newly raised yurt up behind WindCradle.

Boy, was I glad I did. Monday night was fine, Tuesday morning okay, and then it started to rain. The yurt is in essence a big tent, and so the sound of rain on it was pretty noisy—and it got louder and louder. I wasn't sure whether it was really raining hard or just sounded like it. But when I went outside Wednesday morning, the nearby stream (that is usually a trickle) was a raging river.

As I lay awake listening to the rain, I thought of Jesus' parable about the house built on rock compared to the one built on sand. Jesus says, "Everyone who hears my words and acts on them will be like a man who built his house on rock...and the rains came down and the floods came up, but the house on the rock stood firm."

On the other hand, the man who hears Jesus' words and ignores them is like someone building their house on sand, and the storms whoosh it away.

I'm thankful that the yurt stood firm (and didn't even leak!). But of course the bigger question is about our lives and whether we're building them on the words of Christ. As long as the sun is shining we don't really know how good the foundation is: it's when the unexpected happens.

I think we all need times to stop and ponder and pray—to ask questions about our priorities and whether we're living into them. That's one kind of rock foundation.

But another is one we build together—the firm foundation of a life together as a faith community—so that when the "rains come down and the floods come up" we aren't facing the elements alone.

Blessings,

Mary Ellen

What's happening?

Other SOTW events:

July 16th: Bishop's Committee Meeting at Lee and Karl's house.

July 17th: Reaching Out Committee.

Please pray:

- For Barb Weller and Marg France, SOTW members who live near Two Harbors and have experienced significant flooding in the last couple days.
- Reed Holaday, who goes in for heart related tests on Monday.
- Others in Duluth who are struggling with flood related issues.

Look out for your
Spirit of the Wilderness
directory!!

(thanks to Jennye for her work on this)

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 Wind-Cradle.

