



Spirit of the Wilderness www.spiritofthewilderness.org

Weekly News—July 5, 2012

Vicar Notes

Pray for the church.

Today the national gathering of the Episcopal Church (an event that happens every three years) begins in Indianapolis. And while it's always good to pray for these gatherings—they are part of what make our little church here in Grand Marais part of something larger—this year seems particularly crucial to me.

There are some major decisions being made—about budgets and canons and liturgies. But it feels to me that the church at a national level is just beginning to realize that there's no more “business as usual.”

There really should never be “business as usual” in an institution guided by the Holy Spirit, but sometimes the weight of an institution seems to almost crush the new. And so the institution grinds on....But NOW—Because of shrinking numbers—both attendees and finances—there can be no more “business as usual.”

Pray for the church, as leaders meet to begin to come to terms with questions that they've not had to face—things like:

- how do we be the church in a time of shrinking resources?
- how can we find ways to sit more loosely to canons and traditions in a time when they are simply impossible for the life of the church?
- how can we make resources available for growth rather than simply ongoing maintenance?
- how can we balance the stability of an institution with the fresh winds of the Spirit?

Most of us know that we only begin to tell a new story when the old one wears out—in fact when it becomes impossible. That creative process of reframing an old story is not easy but immensely worthwhile. Pray for the church as they engage in this!

Blessings,

Mary Ellen

What's happening?

Help!!!

This Sunday, July 8, 2 PM—SOTW does service at the Care Center. If you can help by being there or by sending treats, that would be great!

CCNH Article

I'm submitting an article about SOTW's five year anniversary, and would still like a few more "quotable quotes" about what it means to be part of Spirit of the Wilderness. Please send to me.....

Thanks to all for a wonderful welcome Sunday—great music, homily, involvement, food, and welcome!

Five Years of Spirit!!

- 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...
- 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.

Other SOTW events:

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

July 17th: Reaching Out Committee.

