

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness www.spiritofthewilderness.org

Weekly News—July 22, 2012

Vicar Notes

As I await the birth of another grandchild—due date for my son Steve and his wife Anna was July 14—I'm pondering mother-hood and grand-motherhood a lot. I remember when I got close to a due date, feeling like I was the only one who had ever done this. Over even thought about doing such a thing as to have a baby. Someone said to me, "Just think. Every single person who is living or who has ever lived, has gotten here this way!" So primal, so extraordinary, and yet so common.

I was in the Boundary Waters last week and we saw lots of evidence of this: tiny trees growing out of older logs; adult loons caring for young by feeding them and teaching them to dive. Best of all was a mother moose with her two young: first the mom looked up at us, and then the two little ones—as if we were just about the strangest thing they'd ever seen. They watched us for ten minutes.

Also on this trip was a mother and daughter—the daughter who had faced a life threatening illness. I thought of the worry, balance, and care with "run of the mill" parenting, and watched this mother stopping herself from the leap to protect.

We are told that God is like a parent; Jesus compares himself to a mother hen who would like to gather her chicks. It's an amazing metaphor—something so primal, so extraordinary, and yet so common.

Occasionally a young couple will ask me what I think about whether or not they should have children. "It' looks so hard," they say. I answer, "It's the hardest, best, most-heartbreaking, most life-giving thing you'll ever do. You'll learn more than you ever wanted to..."

In a sense God chose "parenthood" in creation—the vulnerability and joy and sorrow. Opportunities for that vulnerability—also called love—are around us all the time—in our families and in the community.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

What's happening?

For your calendars:

July 31st: Worship committee meeting—any input to Lee, Kathy, Layne or Mary Ellen.

August 11th: Region meeting—if you want to go contact Carolyn Schmidt.

August 12th: After the service, Patsy Coleman will spend an hour with all who are interested in being an ongoing part of the healing prayer ministry. Patsy has much experience in this area!

August 13th: Bishop's Committee Meeting

August 19th: Potluck at Jay and Madge Hanson's place on Onegun Lake.

August 22nd: Don't forget Dwight Zscheile's visit—potluck at WindCradle!!

Five Years of Spirit!!

- July 27-28—Dragon-boat. We'll have a tent full of fun, so plan to join in—even if you're not paddling...Bring treats to share

Our practice time is 1:30 PM on Friday.
And of course, there is the parade from 7 PM!

- 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.

Don't forget the yellow cards at the back of the church—
if you prepay or automatically pay your pledge!

If you're interested in the
Deepening Roots Course next year,
please contact Mary Ellen.

Look out for our Reading Group, starting again in the Fall.

