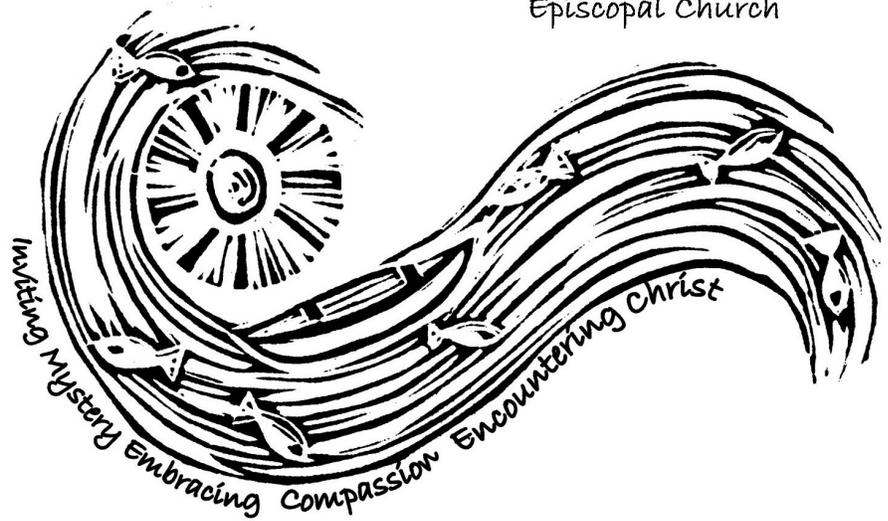


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
July 31, 2013

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

Sometimes it seems we get so busy in the summer that we lose perspective....we forget to live out of what is truly most important to us. At least I do, and I suspect I'm not the only one! I want to suggest that during this time, it's even more important to invest in our spiritual roots....

Here are a few—HANG ON IN AUGUST!!!! Suggestions:

- Pray! There are a number of ways to pray...you could use Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer or Compline from the Book of Common Prayer. Or you could simply be silent and breath deeply for 5 minutes in the morning. Or while you're going for a walk, include some conversation with the divine....
- Read some scripture. Just looking over the readings for the next few weeks, I'm struck by how radically counter cultural Christian faith is meant to be. All of us are surrounded by voices that are telling us things like, "Yes what really matters is how much stuff you have...." so to actually read and ponder scripture can be very challenging. One way to do this is to use the Sunday readings for your own private devotions. On page two of the newsletter, I put the readings for the next two Sundays. Try, during the week, reading the set passages for the following Sunday...Monday the OT, Tuesday the Psalm, Wednesday the Epistle, Thursday the Gospel, and then Friday and Saturday pondering the question I've put here. I think you'll find your spiritual life enriched and Sunday more meaningful. If there's interest we might get folks to share in an online discussion some of what's striking them about the passages.
- Other people find using some sort of devotional book helpful...one which has a reading and/or thought for the day. There are some of these in the box at the back of the church—our library—if you want to borrow one and try it...I'll stick a few others back there....

Centering prayer group is meeting and you might find that helpful. Also, beginning in September there will be a 'house group' that meets monthly for prayer, study, food, etc. Please speak to Lee if you're interested in that group.

In the meanwhile, hang in there....

Blessings, Mary Ellen



Special dragon-ish thanks to....

Sue for making our tent so hospitable and award winning!
 Jennye for organizing us on the day!
 Ellen for getting us organized before!
 Karen for helping us in our parade!
 All who paddled and provided and cheered!

Another successful dragon boat!

Looking Ahead:

August 13th—Centering Prayer—5:30 for 6:00 at Schmidts.

August 15th and 16th—garage sale pricing, etc. at Holadays.

August 17th—Regional mission meeting at St. Andrews, Duluth.

August 17th—garage sale at Holadays.

August 18th—Dinner at the Trail Center followed by pie at Sutphins.

August 26th—Bishops Committee.

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

Proper 13, August 4

Hosea 11: 1-11
 Psalm 107: 1-9, 43
 Colossians 3: 1-11
 Luke 12: 13-21

The epistle and the gospel focus on things that can (and do!) lead us away from God—especially greed. Paul says in Colossians that greed is idolatry; Jesus says in the gospel that a person's life does not consist of what they have—while our society says the opposite. How are we meant to relate to our money and our possessions?

Proper 14, August 11

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
 Psalm 50: 1-8, 23-24
 Hebrews 11: 1-3
 Luke 12: 32-40

Our epistle and gospel for this Sunday are focused on faith—the writer to the Hebrews is considering some great people of faith; in the gospel we hear Jesus teaching on investing in that which doesn't rust or wear out. How would you define faith? How do you grow in faith in your life? Are there times when you've had more faith?

Holy Apostles youth trip:

Thanks to all who've contributed items for them to use. Just a few more needs:

- old paddles
- Spare life jackets
- Light but larg-ish pots.

If you could bring on the 11th and I'll give them back on the 18th!!

August 4 Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Lee
 Homily—Carolyn
 Presiding—Mary Ellen
 Music—Jane Howard

Outreach Opportunity—August 15-17

The Holadays are planning a garage sale with proceeds going to our Good Samaritan Fund. Please sign up to help. If you have items you've been thinking about getting rid of, this is a great opportunity. Bring them along with prices.

This is a great opportunity to help get more money to our neediest neighbors (and have some fun!)