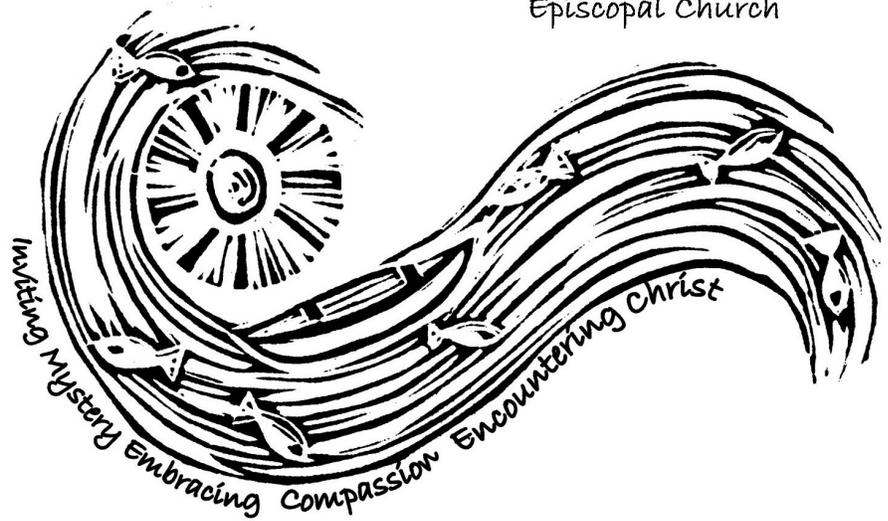


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
August 8, 2013

www.spiritofthewilderness.org
Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604
spiritwilderness@boreal.org
Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft
Phone 218 387 1536

Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Notes

I was chatting with someone the other day who runs a local restaurant and we were talking about marriage. I told her that I often ask couples whom I'm preparing for their wedding day this question: Why get married? You know marriages that have failed or have been terribly oppressive to one or other partner... Why get married? (Especially, but I don't need to say this... when every couple I've tied the knot for over the last few years has already been living together for some time...)

They usually answer something like, "Well, it seems like if we didn't get married at this stage we would not be taking our relationship seriously enough. As we go into these next years, we want more weight to our relationship, more walls around it and marriage is one great way to do that... promises in front of a community..."

I find that answer heartening and fascinating. Research shows that often couples who live together just sort of 'roll into marriage'—in other words they at one point made a vague decision to live together and then it's too hard to go back on it so they get married, and then the proverbial hits the fan!! I see my job preparing people for marriage is to help them consider if this is what they want to do. (And as some of you know... I've managed to scare a few off tying the knot.)

As this restaurant conversation went on, she asked me about same sex couples now that they can marry. I told her there were similar responses to the question... a sense of wanting to be more official, strengthening the relationship, etc. There's also a sense for some couples of finally gaining a legitimacy in the eyes of those around them. And that makes sense: Marriage, I often tell couples, is largely about community—saying 'yes' in front of your community; calling on your community to support you in your life together.

"I guess I'm not good at commitment," this person said. "You know," I told her, "Marriage is not the only way to be committed. You can be committed to community as you are."

That primary commitment of marriage is important, but we all need multiple commitments—to our community and church—places where we're not allowed to simply feel bad, and walk away... in Benedictine spirituality this is called the vow of stability—the commitment to look for growth and depth HERE where I am... assuming I'll find God HERE.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Countdown to Good Sam Garage Sale

AFTER THE SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, WE'LL CHAT WITH BARBARA TO FINISH PLANNING.

The Holadays' garage sale (with proceeds going to our Good Samaritan Fund) is fast upon us.

Here are some ways to be involved:

- Thursday and Friday, (August 15th and 16th) we need help pricing and moving items.
- The sale itself will be on Saturday, August 17th. We'll need help 'manning' the sale, and probably doing some 'haul away' at the end.
- If you have items you've been thinking about getting rid of, this is a great opportunity. Bring them along Thursday or Friday with prices.

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

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

Proper 14, August 11

Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20

Psalms 50: 1-8, 23-24

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Luke 12: 32-40

Jesus says, "Do not be afraid, little flock." Why shouldn't we be afraid? What makes you afraid? How does your faith affect your fear?

Proper 15, August 18

Isaiah 5: 1-7

Psalms 80: 1-2, 8-18

Hebrews 11:29-12: 2

Luke 12: 49-56

Our passages from Hebrews and Luke set a high bar for following Christ—'laying aside every weight and running with patience the race set before us' and Jesus telling us that he hasn't come to bring peace but division. How do you understand these demands of discipleship? How do you live them?



Getting this
Cincture on
Is serious
Business!!

Social!!

On Sunday, July 18th... we'll be heading up the trail—for a hike, early dinner at Trail Center and then celebratory pies at Sutphins (won for best tent at Dragon boat!)

You can decide where to join the fun—hiking at Caribou Rock at 2:30; early dinner at Trail Center at 4:00; Pie at Sutphins at 5:30.

Aug. 11— Sunday service responsibilities

Leading—Karl
Homily—Carol Mork
Presiding—Mary Ellen
Music—acapella
Treats—