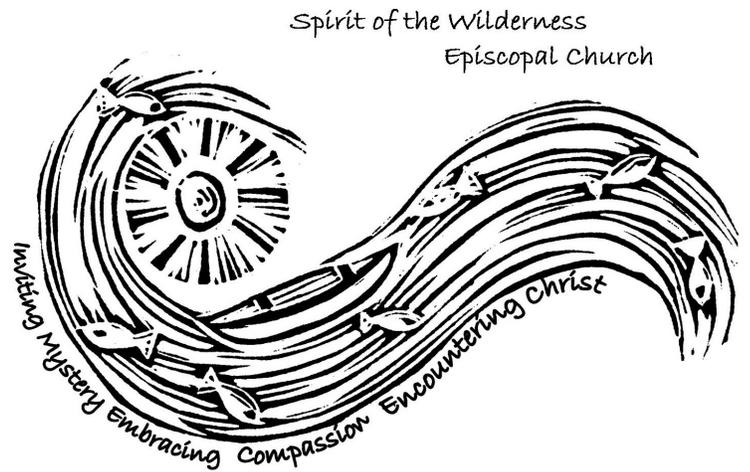


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
January 15, 2013

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Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604
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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft
Phone 218 387 1536



Vicar's Report

I'm planning to apply for a Lilly Grant which provides funding for clergy renewal. They make up to \$50,000 available to a pastor and congregation—up to \$15,000 can provide coverage to the local church in the pastor's absence. They recommend 3 ½ to 4 months away. If I get the grant, I will go to England, but spend the bulk of my time in South Africa. I would go sometime in 2015—either Feb.-May or Sept.-Dec.

For a Lilly grant, the renewal time should be valuable for the church as well as the pastor. It would, of course, consolidate the value of lay involvement. Milan says it'd be worth sending me away just to get some great stories!

But there are other ideas I'd like to pursue and bring back to SOTW. As many of you know I've been writing about my time in South Africa from 1975-1982, and several things have surfaced that I'd like to ponder, re-experience, reflect on:

Landscape: Just as people in Cook County have a commitment to this wild, sometimes dangerous, always beautiful landscape—so in South Africa. People make sacrifices so they can live in both places. How does commitment to place inform discipleship?

The World-wide Anglican church: As independent Cook County types, we may forget the gift of our belonging in a world-wide church. The Anglican church in South Africa played a key role in bringing about change. How can we at SOTW be a part of meaningful, contextual change? (I would explore parishes we might develop links with.)

Worship: Anglican worship in Grand Marais and Cape Town—similar and different. What role does worship play in undergirding the tenets of faith, building trust, and reinforcing vision in a particular place?

Inspiring narratives: What are some of the dominant stories/voices that inspired Christians under apartheid? What narratives inspire us?

Exploring these questions would be my goal. In England and South Africa, I would spend time with friends and colleagues getting their perspectives on the church in South Africa then and now. I would revisit places that touched my heart while I lived in South Africa and do some outdoor adventures I've always wanted to do. I would visit worship services and service projects/retreat centers.

If you have ideas and input on this, please contact me or Milan.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

**Please Read all this carefully—
It will be on your final exam!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Sunday, January 19th—Spirit of the Wilderness at the Care Center, 12:30-1:15. Suzanne is leading the service, but would like helpers there, and treats to hand out!

Rolf Lowenburg-De Boer's Visit:

As you know we've been focusing on how we can meet the needs of youth in Cook County as part of this year's Episcopal Mission in Minnesota. (Our liturgy during advent as well as our after church speakers helped us to know more about what's going on for kids in our area.) Now Rolf (Missioner for Community Outreach for the Episcopal Church in MN) will be helping us to strategize about our next steps. Here's the plan:

Saturday, Jan. 25th—potluck at Kathy Sullivan's to fill Rolf in on where we're at, get his insights and begin to make a plan. RSVP

Sunday, Jan. 26th—Rolf is with us at SOTW to share during the service around these issues. (If plans need more work, we will meet after the service to work on them.)

Later Sunday, a social with ongoing discussion—

3 PM —Caribou Rock Trail snowshoe hike.

5 PM dinner together at Trail Center.

If you have questions please contact Kathy Sullivan 370 9799.

Coming up:

Jan. 21st, 5:30 PM Centering Prayer at Schmidt's

Jan. 22nd, 6:30 for 7:00 Book discussion group—Proof of Heaven by Eben Alexander. Howard and Bonnie Gay Hedstroms' house.

Jan. 26th-27th, Rolf Lowenburg-DeBoer visits (see left).

Feb. 8th, 10 AM region meeting (place TBA)

Feb. 21st and 22nd—Enneagram retreat at Wind-Cradle.

March 28-April 5th—Entry Points to the Creative, Johnson Heritage Post.

Epiphany Visits:

Often in this season we have a church retreat to consider past, present and future. This year I would love to meet with you—as an individual, couple or family. I've put suggested dates to meet at Java Moose—I'm thinking 10ish, but would be open to other times, or happy to come to you. Before we meet, please ponder some questions: What brings you to Sunday worship? Why do you feel glad you've come? What prevents you from coming? What ideas do you have for SOTW in the year ahead? Are there any concerns you'd like me to know about?

January 22, 23, 25, 29, 30.

February 1, 10, 11, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,

March 1, 3, 4,

Please let me know a good time to meet!

Adult Forums

Sunday, February 9, noon - 1:00 - Hunger Issues - Beth Kennedy)

Sunday, March 9, noon - 1:00 - Exploring some Old Testament Roots of Jesus - Hillary Freeman

Sunday, April 6, noon-1:00—Literature and spirituality—Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Sunday, May 4, noon-1:00—Why liturgy? Carolyn Schmidt

Sunday Lectionary Readings:

Second Sunday after the Epiphany—Jan. 19th

Isaiah 49: 1-7

Psalms 40: 1-12

I Corinthians 1: 1-9

John 1: 29-42

In the gospel we see Jesus calling people to follow. How does Jesus call you in your ordinary life?

