

# Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

April 17, 2014

[www.spiritofthewilderness.org](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604

[spiritwilderness@boreal.org](mailto:spiritwilderness@boreal.org)

Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone 218 387 1536



## Vicar's Report

Most of you know that I travel one weekend a month to teach Deepening Roots in Duluth and the Twin Cities. I also sometimes have the opportunity to visit other churches and participate in their worship.

On Palm Sunday I was at Holy Apostles (near 3M in St. Paul), the church where one of my oldest friends, Letha, is the priest. I have been teaching there on Sunday afternoons when I'm on my travel weekend, for a group who are training to be more involved as lay ministers in the church.

Holy Apostles was a dying church when a group of Hmong Catholics decided to move to the Episcopal church en masse. On Sunday the church was fully—maybe 225 people—of which ten or so are “anglo,” the same number from Africa, and the rest are Hmong.

The service was in Hmong and English, sometimes by parts, sometimes at the same time. The Lord's Prayer, for example, was said by everyone at the same time in their language. The reading of the passion was in Hmong, but the congregational responses were in both languages: “Crucify!” My preaching had to be slow, simple and practical.

When Letha and I served the bread, she said the words of institution in Hmong, while I, standing next to her, said them in English. “The body of Christ. The bread of heaven.”

Some of the people extended hands that were very old, and I knew many of these folk had swum the Mekong River and had hidden in jungles, had spent years in Laotian or Thai camps. Some were teens, who had been to the Boundary Waters with me last summer. Some were little children who knew no other country.

The service was very Anglo-Catholic—much was chanted, with incense swung here and there and a bevy of acolytes with candles. At one point I forgot an acolyte and stopped and knocked over a vase of palms. Just a little different from Spirit of the Wilderness!

I was struck once again by the richness of belonging to a larger church. Here we are ‘being church’ in Cook County; there they are ‘being church’ in St. Paul—all of us using the liturgy, sharing the sacraments, and finding ways to be who we are culturally in the setting in which we've been put—as we celebrate the mysteries of our faith.

I'm hoping some of the women from Holy Apostles will be coming up for a canoe trip in late August, and have suggested they might offer a spring roll making class for the community—for fun, and as a fund raiser for the Good Samaritan Fund and a Hmong ministry fund.

As we celebrate Easter, let's remember that we celebrate with those who have gone before us, those who celebrate in other ways in this country and those who celebrate around the world.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

### Holy Week and Easter Services:

Thursday, Seder Meal, 6 PM at Howard and Bonnie Gay's.  
(RSVP)

Good Friday, 12:30-1:15 Quiet liturgical service at the dental office. (Bring a Book of Common Prayer if you have one handy.)

Good Friday, 6 PM Interdenominational cross walk begins at St. John's; service at 7 PM at the Evangelical Free Church with Dale MacIntyre preaching.

Easter Sunday service at 10:30—come prepared to celebrate!!



**Coming Soon to a venue near you!!**  
(Dutchman's Breeches, a lovely spring ephemeral flower.)  
(Ellen Stubbs pix)

### Outreach News:

Spirit of the Wilderness is preparing to have "Kody's Closet" at Cook County Grand Marais middle school & high school. Suggested as an outreach project by Mariano, Kathy Sullivan has been doing the ground work connecting with the school.

Kody's closet was started by a woman in memory of her son who had died. It is a "closet" in schools with hygiene items available free of charge to help students who don't have access to these products (as middle school & high school students these can be crucial for self esteem.)

Donated products include: Shampoos, conditioners, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, bar soap, shaving cream, lotions for girls for shaving, etc.

Please bring any of these new items to church & place in the box inside the door. We are not sure when it will start being available or what it will be called, but are very excited for this opportunity to help provide these items.

Thanks!

Val

### Adult Forums

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

**Sunday, June 8**, noon-1:00—Matthew revisited, Carol Mork.

**Sunday, July 6**, Historic service. Karen Halberleben.

**Sunday, August 10**—The Canon of Scripture—how were the books of the Bible selected? Mary Ellen.

No newsletter for the next two weeks since I'll be away.

### Mapping Mystery

**Thanks to all who helped with the show. If you'd like to help with thank you notes, please let one of the committee members know....Bonnie Gay, Lee, Karl or Mary Ellen**

### Easter Sunday, April 20th

Leading: Sarah  
Homily: Mary Ellen  
Music: Karen and Layne  
Presiding: Mary Ellen

### Easter Sunday, April 20th

Acts 10: 34-43  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3: 1-4  
John 20: 1-18

### II Easter, April 27th

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
I Peter 1: 3-9  
John 20: 19-31

### III Easter, May 4th

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17  
I Peter 1: 17-23  
Luke 24: 13-35

Ponder during this Easter season...what does Easter mean to you?