

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

May 22, 2014

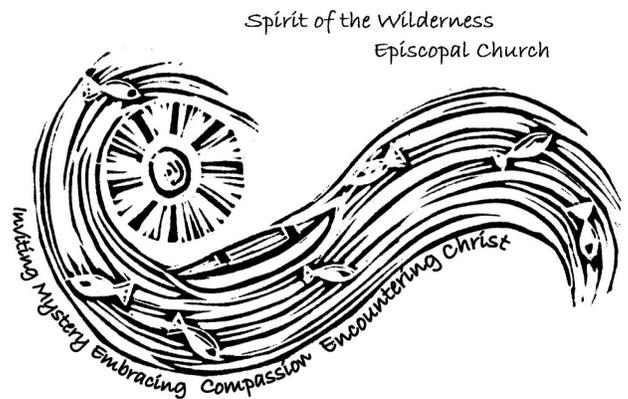
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Vicar's Report

Spirit of the Wilderness is our church. And yet we are also part of a larger church—the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, and the National Church, and the world wide Anglican communion.

Our belonging to the larger church brings blessing and responsibility, like most commitments. We are required to send in 11% of our budget to support the central church—quite a stretch for a small church like ours. At the same time we are supported by the larger church—Bishop Brian and Rolf Lowenburg-DeBoer who visited this winter, and Michael Pipkin who is coming to see us soon. (Please pray about this visit when the Bishop's Committee will be discussing with him our pledge and ways the larger church can support us too.)

One thing our being part of the world wide Anglican communion gives us is connection—with Christians all over the world whose life experience and faith expression may be very different from ours, but who still use (roughly) the same liturgy as we do.

The other gift of being part of this world wide Anglican communion is the fact of our history. We are deeply rooted in a particular tradition—one that values certain things which may be expressed in a number of ways. For example, I love the way we invite people to “come as they are” to church and to the table: they can be in process—doubting and believing, sad or happy, etc. This is exactly what Queen Elizabeth I promoted in her great Anglican Settlement—basically saying, “Don't kill each other. I don't need to know what you believe, but show up for church on Sunday.” Show up and worship... This is a great tradition to be part of!!

Many of us, though, don't know a huge amount about the church's history. To begin to remedy this, we're going to have an historic service on July 13th. From 10:00 Karen Halbersleben will introduce some of the issues at the time when that first prayer book was used (around 1662). Then we will use the original prayer book and some original hymns as if we've switched back the clock. Afterwards we will eat “age appropriate” treats and discuss what we experienced and other issues of the time. This should be very instructive and fun—invite a friend!

As I was looking for the 1662 service on the Church of England site, I found “Forms of Prayer to be Used at Sea,” which I thought might be handy for our dragon boat team. Here's part of one to be used during storms: “We confess, when we have been safe, and seen all things quiet about us, we have forgot thee our God, and refused to hearken to the still voice of thy word, and to obey thy commandments: But now we see how terrible thou art in all thy works of wonder; the great God to be feared above all. And therefore we adore thy Divine Majesty, acknowledging thy power, and imploring thy goodness.” I admit, not exactly a prayer I'd pray on deck in an ocean storm (or on the harbor), but fascinating to be part of a tradition that did pray this prayer on the water many times!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Coming Up!

Tuesday, May 27th, 7 pm—Howard Hedstrom speaking about 100 years of Hedstrom's Lumber at CCHE.

Thursday, May 29th, Centering prayer at Lee and Karl's.

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

Tuesday, June 3rd, 4-7—visit from Michael Pipkin, Missioner for Finance in the Episcopal Church in MN.

Wednesday, June 4th, 6:30—Bishop's Committee at Schmidts.

Sunday, June 8th, 5:00—Social—any ideas about where and what?

Sunday, June 22nd, Welcome Sunday—who will you invite?

Outreach News:

Kody's Closet—We've delivered a couple of bags to the social worker who will be distributing items to students in need at the high school. Please put additional toiletry items (shampoos, conditioners, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, bar soap, shaving cream, lotions for girls for shaving, etc.) into the box at church.

Ruby's Pantry: This outreach opportunity will begin in September and will involve SOTW providing 8 volunteers one Saturday per month. More info on this soon, but for now please pray about being involved in this great scheme for meeting hunger needs. Let me know if you want to be on the list.

Mentoring: The YMCA has hired its youth coordinator, so this will be another opportunity beginning in September, to mentor students after school.

Good Samaritan fund: We need to continue to find ways to put money into this fund, so that we can be faithful to our commitments, but still have enough in our operating fund. Here are some ideas:

- Work at the First and Second Thrift and send your earnings to Good Sam fund.
- Schmidts are planning a lemonade stand at their Croftville Road house on July 5th. We'll need posters, cookies, dog treats, folks to sit at the stand, a tent, etc. How would you like to help?
- Hold some special event that only you could think of!



Coming Soon to a venue near you!!

(Fresh spring leaves)

Anyone interested?

In a Deepening Roots class in Grand Marais next fall?
In a short (3 nights) Boundary Waters trip next summer?
A fiction discussion group?
Let me know....

Adult Forums—Notice changes

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

Sunday, July 13, Historic service. Karen Halbersleben.

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

Readings:

May 25th, 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 22-31

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

I Peter 3: 13-22

John 14: 15-21

In the Acts passage for this Sunday, Paul quotes some of the Greek poets and says of God, "In him we live and move and have our being." He then goes on to talk about the resurrection which the Athenians think is pretty silly. Why?

Sunday, May 25

Leading: Layne

Homily: Carolyn

Music: Karl

Presiding: Mary Ellen

Treats: ??????