

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

May 29, 2014

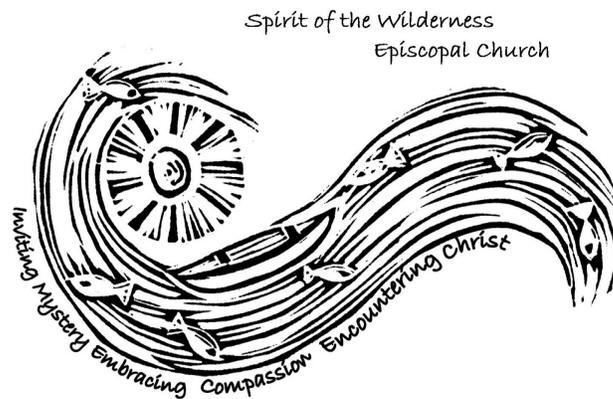
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Vicar's Report

We're all thankful for the phenomenal weather—(YES!! That's why we live here!!) Last Sunday we headed outside after the sermon to finish our worship outside. Birds joined our praises!

Last weekend my almost two year old grandson Henry was visiting and we began his effort (along with every other child of any age) to throw all the rocks on the shore into Lake Superior. His wonder at the lake was something to see.

Early Saturday morning my new little grandson Cameron Peter was born. Soon he and his older brother Tucker will join in the project.

I've had some lovely visits with Spirit of the Wilderness folks—some who are new, some who have been away—and am impressed by God's work in their lives.

And I'm thankful for the gift of a seminary friend's visit from London and the wonderful chance to exchange ideas. (A group of people in her parish in the East End of London are establishing with her an intentional community focusing on prayer—they have many outreach ministries and are feeling the need to more fully support those in prayer. One of the ministries is "street pastors"—lay folk who go to 'hot spots' to help people who are drunk or drugged get home safely!)

All of this, and we celebrate Ascension this Sunday, and it seems appropriate to me. Ascension is about the beginning of a de-centralizing. All that wonder and God-ness which is in the person of Jesus goes away, and then comes again in the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost. The wonder and God-ness is spread and diffused in a wonderful way.

Blooming spring flowers, grandchildren throwing rocks into Lake Superior, new people in church, ministries going on in Cook County and other parts of the world—the wonder and God-ness spreading.

We are part of that spreading through being who we are, where we are, At work, in our neighborhoods, the grocery store, etc.—we are showing forth Christ.

June 22nd is a special opportunity for us to make that spreading a little more concrete—when we have our Welcome Sunday. Consider who you would like to invite. Sue Sutphin is organizing posters and other aspects of our Welcome Sunday festivities. Ellen Stubbs will be delivering a message. Karen will be there with her guitar.

Spread the good news!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Coming Up!

Thursday, May 29th—5:30 for 6pm—Centering prayer at Lee and Karl's.

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

Sunday, June 15, noon-1:00—Matthew revisited, Carol Mork.

Tuesday, June 10th, 6:30—Bishop's Committee Meeting at Lee and Karl's.

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

Saturday, July 5th, Lemonade stand to raise money for the Good Samaritan fund—at Schmidt's. Sign up sheets at church.

Saturday, July 26th—Dragonboat races. (Please sign up with Karen Kobey).



Coming Soon to a venue near you!!

(Paddling ventures)

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.

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!

Anyone interested?

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

Adult Forums—Notice changes

Sunday, June 15 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 25, Ascension

Acts 1: 1-11
Psalm 47 or 93
Eph. 1: 15-23
Luke 24: 44-53

Why do you suppose the idea of the Ascension became so central to the church? What does this idea mean to you?

Sunday, May 18

Leading: Sarah
Homily: Suzanne
Music: Layne
Presiding: Carol M.
Treats: ??????