

# Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

June 18, 2014

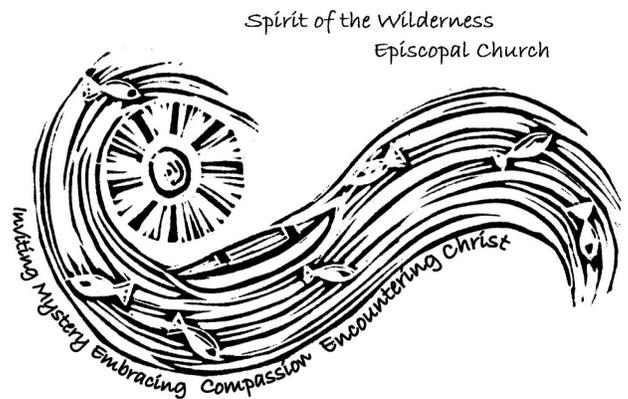
[www.spiritofthewilderness.org](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604

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

Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone 218 387 1536



## Vicar's Report

Why Welcome Sunday?

At one level it's practical:

- Because we've found that sometimes the extra push of having a "Welcome Sunday" may bring someone in the doors who has meant to come.
- Because it can be hard for someone to get out of a car and walk down that long path and come in the door, but if people are hanging around setting up barbecues and eating donuts, it may be easier.

But at a deeper level:

- Because we believe there are people out there in Cook County who would like to be part of a inclusive, sacramental, involved faith community.
- Because we believe that it really does "take a village" to raise a child. (In fact, it "takes a village" to raise any of us!)
- Because we've met people who have been hurt by church and perhaps assumed that it was no longer for them, but who deep down inside, long for meaning and even for God.
- Because we believe that some of what we've found at Spirit of the Wilderness—the connection, the involvement, the mysterious presence—is too good to keep a secret.
- Because we know that serving our community is better done by a group than by individuals.

And most profoundly:

- Because there are not that many churches that welcome dogs.

Consider inviting someone to church this Sunday!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Come and join us for **Movie Night**—a chance to watch and discuss a film together. Friday, June 27th, 7 PM at Ritalee and Bruce's house—15 Silver Fox Lane (off County 14, just above the horse farm); bring a snack and a beverage to share. We'll watch "Local Hero"—about a small Scottish town that resists and oil developer. See you then...



## Coming Up!

**Sunday, June 22nd, Welcome Sunday**

**Friday, June 27, 7 PM Movie and discussion**—come and join us as we watch “Local Hero.”

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

**July 7-8th—Community appreciation** days at Hedstrom Lumber Company.

**Wed., July 9th, Bishop’s Committee.**

**Sunday, July 13, 10-12 Historic service.** Karen Halbersteben helps us understand our tradition, setting the stage before and leading a discussion after a historic service.

**July 23rd, 4-8, Michael Pipkin,** missioner for finance visits with the Bishop’s Committee.

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

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

## Paddles UP!!

The SOTW Dragonboat team is taking shape but we still need paddlers. We need 22 folks to complete the team and have 18 signed up (thank you one and all). If you need a T-shirt (and T shirts are required to paddle) they must be ordered by July 1st. Please contact Karen by this Sunday, the 22nd to get your name on the list. (stonefly5@msn.com) If you’d like a t-shirt (even if you’re not paddling,) bring a check to Karen in the next two weeks. Our practice time is 3:00-4:40 on Friday, July 25th. Races begin 9 AM on Saturday. Checks can be mailed to SOTW, Box 1115. Here’s to another year of fun and comraderie!

## Readings:

June 22, Welcome Sunday

Genesis 21: 8-21

Psalms 86: 1-10, 16-17

Romans 6: 1b-11

Matthew 10: 24-39

Our Matthew passage could be called one of the “hard sayings of Jesus,” though I have sometimes found myself wondering where the “easy sayings of Jesus” are... Why do you suppose Jesus was so challenging in what he said and demanded?

## Sunday responsibilities—June 22—Welcome Sunday

Leading: Lee

Preaching: Ellen

Presiding: Mary Ellen

Music: Karen, Gina and Layne

Treats: everyone

## Several requests:

- We could use some **bibles** at church for our forums. Do you have one sitting around that you don’t use? Or if you’re in a thrift shop and see one would you pick it up? (All I ask is that they are not Gideon’s bibles which are King James Version—as they say, the Gideons want Bibles to be everywhere, but no one to understand them!)
- Continue to bring **toiletry items** for the closet at the High School, to put in the box in the back of the church. (And if you have a suggested name for the program, let someone know.)
- Anyone interested in working with Karl on helping us become a **Partner Site for “Creating Common Good”**—a practical conference for economic equality. It will be held in January 2015.
- Karen and Ellen are willing to help design a **poster** that we could put up in some local tourist spots, saying something about who we are as a church. Please give any ideas to them.