

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
July 9, 2014

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Vicar's Report

Sunday's service was lively, with a visit from some wonderful children—including little Mollie for whom we had prayed, an extra offering to replace the washed-out lemonade stand, and a puppy blessing! I am constantly amazed by the wonderful worship we share week by week.

This coming Sunday's historic service promises to be engaging and informative—I've already learned quite a lot in preparation for it! Our forebears in the faith were human like we are, but they worked hard to try to keep what was good about Roman Catholicism and learn from what seemed good in the Reformation.

The following Sunday we'll have an opportunity to honor Hedstroms and the 100 year anniversary of the company, which in so many ways is a shining example of who we are called to be as faithful people in rooted in this community.

And then the following weekend is our Dragonboat extravaganza—rehearsal and parade on Friday, races on Saturday and service on Sunday. (I've just finished making a dragon stole, because—believe it or not—none of the places that sell stoles carry dragon ones!)

All of this joy, celebration, fellowship and fun. And yet as vicar I'm aware of some of our needs as a church community. While people are generous, financially we sometimes “fly by the seat of our pants.” To be good stewards of our joys, our calling as a church—we need to find ways to build on a more solid foundation. Just as we know that in our household financial lives, we're meant to have a ‘rainy day’ fund, we as a church need to be growing in our responsible stewardship.

On July 23, Michael Pipkin, missionary for finance in the Episcopal Church in MN, will be visiting. I've told him our concern that start up churches like SOTW need to be more fully supported or else there won't be many of them! The Bishop's Committee will be meeting with him so that he can hear our story and help us think in the longer term about our finances. I would also like a few people who would like to especially focus on this area, meet with him to talk about setting up some kind of rainy day endowment fund. Please let me know if you'd like to be involved with this. It's not as much fun as Dragonboat, but really crucial so that we have something to hand on to those who come after us.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Historic Service this Sunday, July 13th, 10:30:

Going to church in Whitby in 1570, you would surely wear a hat of some kind—so grab one (any hat will do). This will be a great learning experience, and a fine opportunity to bring a friend!



Paddles UP!!

Please contact Karen to get your name on the list to paddle. (stonefly5@msn.com) 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.

Sunday, July 13
Historic Service—
see you there!

Blood drive at the Senior Center next Tuesday (2:30-5:30) and Wednesday (9:00-4:00). They need more donors, so please go and give.

Coming Up!

Sunday, July 13, 10:30-12 Historic service. Karen Halberleben helps us understand our tradition, setting the stage before and leading a discussion after a historic service.

Thursday, July 17, 6 pm, Centering Prayer at Schmidt's.

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).

Saturday, Aug. 9th—Regional meeting here in Grand Marais—more details to come.

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

Sunday, August 17—SOTW at the Care Center.

August 27-29—SOTW women in the Boundary Waters (we have 5 signed up...let me know if you want to go)

July 13 Readings:

Genesis 25: 19-34
 Psalm 119: 105-112
 Romans 8:1-11
 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

In our Romans passage, Paul writes this: "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." How do you experience this in your life?

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?
- 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.)