

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

August 5, 2014

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

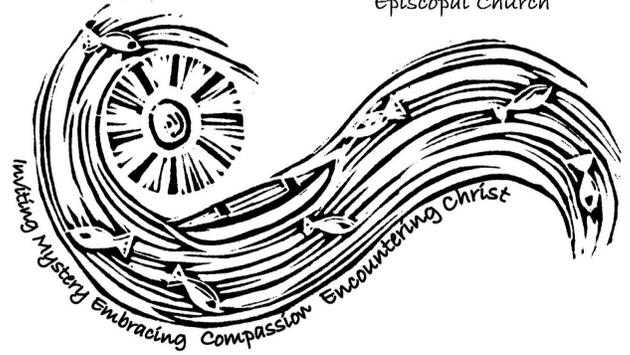
Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604

spiritwilderness@boreal.org

Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone 218 387 1536

Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

On Sunday, Carol Mork challenged us to ask the question: “Well what did you **expect?!?**” She pointed out that our **expectations** often fall short of what God intends for us—the women go to the tomb **expecting** to anoint a dead body and find an empty tomb. Jacob **expects** a quiet night before meeting his estranged brother and encounters God. The disciples **expect** to send the people home to get supper and instead they end up hosting a feast from five loaves and two fishes.

“Well what did you **expect?!?**”

What did Layne and Rolf **expect** when they put an ad in the paper asking if there were any Episcopalians out there? What did I **expect** when I felt called to leave Kalamazoo College to move to Grand Marais? What did any of us **expect** as we became involved with this church?

Over the next few weeks I want us to focus on this question, and where we are in the life of our community here.

Early this year I talked to members of SOTW about their sense of how things were going. One recurrent theme was that we need to regroup and rethink so that we remain as involved as we want to be—so that we don't become too clergy centered.

When we applied for the Lilly Grant, we realized that if it came through it would provide us with a great opportunity to make some changes in preparation for my being away. I didn't really **expect** for us to get this Lilly Grant, but I believe that this grant will push me and us to think in new ways about our ministry together.

When we started being church at SOTW I don't know that any of us **expected** to be where we are today. One of the other areas we are working on is to improve our financial stability, so that we're not always “flying by the seat of our pants.” Michael Pipkin's visit gave us some great ideas, and we will also be pursuing those in the next weeks.

Join me in asking, “What did you **expect?!?**” And in praying with openness and expectation about what God might have for us! God is able to do “far more than we can ask or even imagination, so open up those **expectations**.”

Blessings, Mary Ellen



Winner of
our
division!!!

Thanks to Karen
for being our
fearless leader,
to Sue for excel-
lent work on our
tent, to Ellen for
being our offi-
cial photogra-
pher, to all pad-
dlers and all who
cheered us on!

Coming Up!

Saturday, Aug. 9th—Regional meeting here in Grand Marais—9:30 set up at Community Room at Sawtooth Clinic. Meeting from 10-12.

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

Sunday, August 17—SOTW at the Care Center.

Sunday, August 24—Special “State of the Mission” meeting after church.

Sunday, August 24—Later in the day, a social at Poplar Lake!

August 27-29—SOTW women in the Boundary Waters (we have 6 signed up...let me know if you want to go)

August 10 readings

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10: 5-15
Matthew 14: 22-33

Look at expectations in these passages—What did they expect? What did they get?

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.)

Sunday, August 10th

Leading—Suzanne
Preaching—Mary Ellen
Presiding—
Treats—We’ve used up our lemonade stand treats so please sign up!

Welcome home,
Reed and Barbara!!!!