

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

August 29, 2014

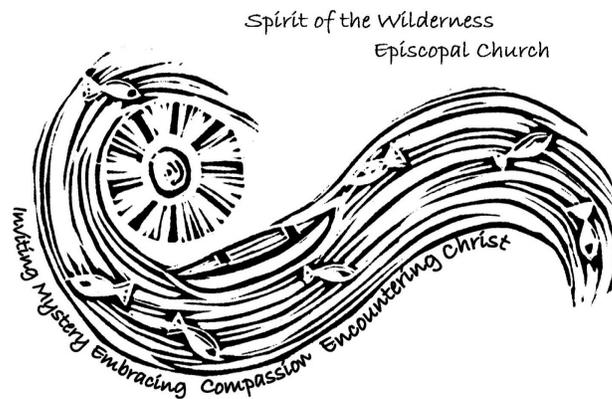
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Vicar's Report

Someone visiting SPIRIT from an Episcopal church in the Twin Cities last Sunday said to me, "You know, you're legendary."

"What?!" I asked.

"Legendary," she said. "People talk about *Spirit of the Wilderness*. They say when you're traveling to the north shore, be sure to visit *Spirit of the Wilderness*. You're legendary."

What does it mean to be 'legendary'?

Are we so different? If so, in what way?

How can we continue to be who we are—the good that may make us 'legendary' without either succumbing to pride—"we are from the legendary church!"—or getting stuck in a rut?

Our meeting after church last Sunday—a check in on where we're at—gave us a chance to look at some of areas we want to grow in—ongoing involvement and training to support that, stewardship for this year and on into the future, ongoing learning and deepening, outreach, Bishop's Committee growth, presence in the community, etc.

One thing that became clear was the need we have to spread out some of the jobs—so that snow shoveling or altar linen, for example—don't become onerous tasks for any one person.

At our social last Sunday afternoon, we had a lovely time sharing, laughing, and eating. On our women's canoe trip this week, we did more of the same—can't have too many of these joyful times together!

Many people signed up last Sunday for new roles at *Spirit of the Wilderness*. but we'll bring the sheet again this Sunday to catch those who didn't have a chance.

In our Old Testament reading for Sunday from Exodus 3, I'm struck by the fact that God says to Moses, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." This God has deep roots in the tradition. And yet a few verses later, God calls Moses to something new. And God says my name is, "I AM WHO I AM." Or another way of translating the Hebrew is "I AM BECOMING WHO I AM BECOMING." This same God goes back to the beginning but is continuing to become and to call in new ways. That's the God we follow.

Blessings, Mary Ellen



Poplar
Lake
social...

Thanks
to Ron
and Sue!

Coming Up!

Sept. 14, 28 Centering prayer at Schmidt's.

September 3rd, 2:15-5:00—Tea and presentation by Karen Halbersleben on some of England's queens at Naniboujou Lodge. Sign up with CCHE for this fund raising treat.

Sept. 10th, 6:30—Bishop's Committee

October 5th—Blessing of the animals at Church—invite friends with four or two legs.

October 12th—Rescheduled forum—How were the books of the Bible chosen?

November 7th and 8th—"All Hearts are Open" liturgy workshop at St. John's Linden Hills—let me know if you're interested!

Look out for the movie group starting up again this fall—watch and discuss a movie together.

This Sunday:
 Leading—Karen
 Preaching—Mary Ellen
 Presiding—Mary Ellen
 Music—Karen and Layne
 Treats??????

August 31 readings:

- Ex. 3: 1-22
- Psalm 124
- Romans 12: 9-21
- Matthew 16:121-28

The passages for this Sunday are all counter cultural—about losing life to find it, loving enemies, and discussing with God. What stands out to you from these?

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.)