

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

January 29, 2015

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

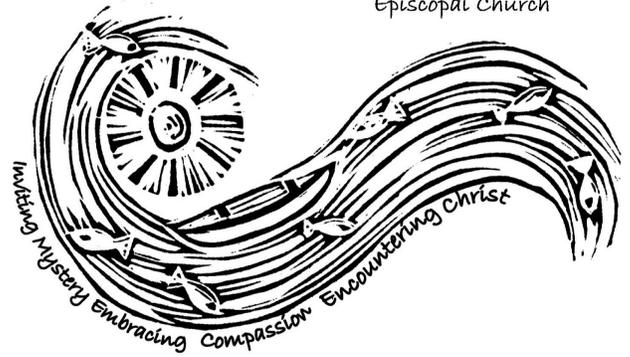
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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

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Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

We're moving ahead on being the sponsoring church to bring Ruby's Pantry to Grand Marais. Here's the gist:

Ruby's Pantry is a service that takes food near expiration (or that would be wasted for some other reason) and trucks it to a site, where volunteers make it available for locals. Food that would be wasted isn't; people who would like to see their food dollars go further are able to. A win-win.

The distribution of Ruby's Pantry happens in a site once a month. People receiving food pay 20 dollars and receive about a hundred dollars worth of food. A number of people from Cook County already go to the distribution in Silver Bay, which happens on a Saturday. Ours would most likely be on a weekday.

The idea of bringing Ruby's Pantry here has been discussed by different groups over the last months. Several of us have visited sites and watched the distribution process. We've researched various sites in Cook County for possible use, etc. Last Monday a group of us met to take next steps. This coming Monday, the coordinator for the Silver Bay site will come and speak to us at CCHE, and give us an opportunity to ask questions.

From my perspective, Ruby's Pantry in Grand Marais will give us a chance to do a number of things:

1. Support sustainability through less food waste.
2. Support folks in our county who would like to see their food dollars go further.
3. Give us a "hands on" way to serve our neighbors.
4. Unite members of the community who will be volunteering at the distribution.
5. Provide a venue for offering other services—as people gather for the distribution, people will be available to offer a number of services such as health screenings, prayer for healing, financial advice, etc. (Hillary has great background on this kind of integrative model for offering services.)
6. Provide for people in a way that is less us/them than many programs. (Many volunteers register for food shares themselves.)

Ruby's Pantry demands lots of volunteers—for planning, setting up, distributing food, clean up, etc. About sixty per distribution! Ruby's Pantry also asks that a church partner with them as sponsor. We would like to do this. Volunteers would then be drawn from other faith communities and other people in town who would like to help.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. We hope to get it going by May. If you have serious concerns please let someone on the Bishop's Committee know before our meeting on Feb. 4th. If you'd like to be involved, please get on board!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

This Sunday:

Leading—Dave Coleman
Preaching—Mary Ellen
Presiding—Carolyn
Music—Bob and Karen
Treats—Shawn

(If you want to bring treats for next Sunday, please contact **Beth Kennedy—387 1314.**)

Adult forums:

Feb. 7th: What does it mean to be part of the Anglican church? (Mary Ellen)

Feb. 22nd: Mark's gospel—the passion narratives (Carol Mork)

March 8: on The Minor Prophets. (Hillary Freeman)

March 22nd: The history of the Episcopal church in Minnesota. (Ben Scott)

April 19th: Medical issues and mortality. (Ellen Stubbs)

May 17th: Historical Service—1670. (Karen Halbersleben)

June 7th: Sacraments—(Mary Ellen)

If you have a prayer need—for yourself or someone else—you can go up for prayer on Sunday. Or you can put your prayer need onto the Prayer Chain. To do this, email Patsy Coleman, and she will send it to those who are committed to pray. If you'd like to be part of the prayer chain, please send your info to Patsy. 'pmcole@comcast.net'

South Africa Book and Movie Group—CCHE

Save the dates and **invite a friend.** 6:00-8:00

January 29—Watch Andre Brink's--*Dry White Season*.

February 5-- Discuss Nadine Gordimer's-- *July's People*.

February 12-- Watch Athol Fugard's *TsoTsi*.

Mark your calendars:

Monday, January 26th, 5-6—meeting about Ruby's Pantry—CCHE.

Wednesday, February 4th—6:30 Bishop's Committee—speak to wardens Milan or Karen H. with concerns to be raised.

Saturday, February 7th, Region meeting in Hermantown—contact Carolyn if you're interested.

Wednesday, February 18th, 6:30-8:00 at WindCradle—Ash Wednesday service/retreat.

Saturday, February 21st—sleigh ride—sign up with Kathy; dinner at Trail Center.

Tuesday, March 10th—Illuminations art show materials will be dropped at Johnson Heritage Post. (Help needed!)

Friday, March 13th—show opening including presentation on the St. John's Bible.

Saturday, March 14th—class (time TBA on the St. John's Bible.

Sunday, March 15th—SOTW at the Care Center.

Wednesday, March 18th—worship committee meeting—concerns to members Lee, Karen K, Ginny or Layne.

Lessons for Epiphany IV

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

I Corinthians 8: 1-13

Mark 1: 21-28

There's a lot about love and calling and sacrifice in these passages. What stands out to you?

Check out SOTW's facebook page—thanks Dave Coleman for your work on this!!