

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

April 17 2015

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

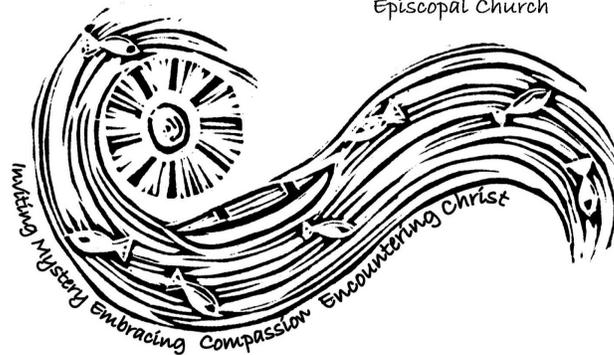
Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604

spiritwilderness@boreal.org

Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone 218 387 1536

Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

On our road trip, Suzanne and I visited her family and saw a lot of country. We also spent some time with friends in Ohio, where I led a retreat and did some services at a large Episcopal church on the Sunday.

The church (at which I did services and preached, and which also sponsored the women's retreat I led) is a 'successful' church, with a large congregation and a budget about ten times as big as ours. It had a gorgeous sanctuary and an array of fabulous Easter flowers. The rector is a fine man.

At the same time, they have just lost a second priest—which a church this size has almost always been able to afford. Now there are very few churches anywhere that can pay a second priest's salary.

Talking to people from this church—who are just beginning to wake up to the fact that we're in a new era in terms of how we do church—was fascinating. I realized that it is so easy to want to put a band aid on it—for everyone to want to—the congregation, the clergy, the bishop—and to put off the time when they'll have to face the reality that we must be a different kind of church. One person I talked to there told me that in many dioceses, the main job of bishops is to close down struggling churches.

This different church will need to be ministry centered and not clergy centered. This shift will probably only happen from necessity, and we can only hope and pray that by the time people are willing to make the change it won't be too late to save the Episcopal Church.

I'm thankful to be in a church and a diocese that has already turned toward being ministry centered.

Blessings, Mary Ellen

Ruby's Pantry coming to Cook County!!

Ruby's Pantry—a program to help stretch food dollars and cut down on food waste—begins soon here. Spirit of the Wilderness is the sponsoring church. Training is this next Tuesday at 5:30 pm at the high school. Although Ruby's Pantry will usually be held on the second Tuesday of each month, for its first time it will be the second Thursday of May, the 14th. (Because of a school concert previously scheduled for the 12th.)

This will be a great opportunity, not only for us to serve our neighbors, but for us to be present in the community. There are many ways to be involved in Ruby's Pantry. If you have questions, please contact some of our people who are on the core committee—Ginny Padzieski, Jane Schinners, Karen Halbersleben, Beth Kennedy, and Suzanne Sherman.



This Sunday:

Leading—Suzanne
Preaching—Carol
Presiding—Mary Ellen
Music—Layne and Bob
Treats—?????

Want to bring treats for next week? Please let Beth know:
bkennedy@boreal.org.

How about joining us for the Second Annual Spirit of the Wilderness Women's Canoe Trip this summer?
Please let me know if you're interested and we'll start thinking about a time to make this happen!
Who can come if we go in July?

Celebrants wanted! During Mary Ellen's sabbatical. We are looking for 3-4 supply clergy to serve and preach, giving us a different perspective. If you know someone you would like to invite please send me the name (and contact info if you have it). Milan.

Adult forums:

- April 19th—Anglican or Episcopalian??? (Mary Ellen)
- May 17th—Life: quantity or quality? (Ellen Stubbs)
- May 31st: Historical Service—1670. (Karen Halbersleben)
- June 7th: Sacraments—(Mary Ellen)

Interested????

UK trip led by Karen Halbersleben and Mary Ellen Ashcroft **April 26-May 11, 2016**

UK literature discussion group begins in June.

For more info contact Karen or Mary Ellen.

Mark your calendars:

April 21st, 5:30 pm—Ruby's Pantry Volunteer training.

May 6th—6:30 pm Bishop's Committee

May 14th—First Ruby's Pantry Distribution

May 17th—SOTW @ Care Center

