

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

April 30, 2015

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

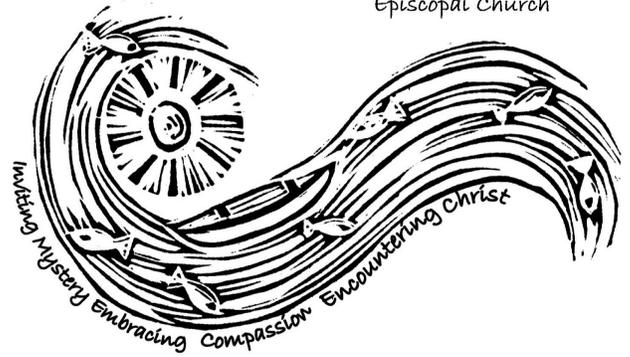
Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604

spiritwilderness@boreal.org

Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone 218 387 1536

Spirit of the Wilderness
Episcopal Church



Vicar's Report

This last weekend I was travelling on my usual Twin Cities run, followed by Clergy Conference. I had a lovely time with Holy Apostles—my last teaching session with the group who have been preparing for ministry every Sunday for three years. They will be ordained on June 20th. To celebrate our last time together they made a Hmong feast in my honor. As we finished I prayed for them and they gathered around and prayed for me. Although I couldn't understand most of their prayers, I felt very blessed. I'm so happy that we are part of the greater Anglican communion!

Clergy Conference was very encouraging too. Sara Miles spoke. She pointed out that the most important word in scripture is WITH. As a fairly recent convert, she emphasized having an open table in which all are welcome to come and be fed. She talked about how at St. Gregory's, San Francisco, they've started a feeding scheme which follows this trend—all are welcome.

This struck me as very much what we're doing at Spirit of the Wilderness. Our Sunday services have a strong sense of WITH—as we gather around the table, but also as so many people are involved in our worship. But even more profound, I believe, is our WITH in the community—as Ruby's Pantry begins we don't focus on what we are doing for others, but on working alongside so that all are fed. In our art show we invite participation.

There's a big shift happening in the church as a whole. I talked to a number of priests who spoke about their dwindling numbers and about how their endowments are keeping them open. Others talked about the high cost of keeping/repairing/reworking buildings. I feel so blessed that these are not our problems.

We were sharing around a passage from John's gospel—Jesus' resurrection appearance to the disciples by the sea of Galilee, when he asks them to put down their nets again and they catch so many fish they are afraid of tearing the nets. I told my small group that as we grow at SOTW, we sometimes feel a bit nervous that our "net will tear," that we'll lose something of our closeness.

It's a good (and unusual) problem to have. I spent some time talking to Bp. Brian, I told him about our growth—in numbers and in depth and in our outreach.

I thanked him for being this kind of bishop—one who is very excited about ministry centered churches. And I assured him of our prayers. Being a bishop is a hard job—with lots of problems ending up on your plate. I pray for Brian that he will be able to continue to think strategically about the whole church even as he deals with local issues. And that he will know that he is loved. Join me in these prayers.

Blessings, Mary Ellen



This Sunday:

Leading—Val
Preaching—Lee
Presiding—Mary Ellen
Music—Karen and Bob
Treats—?????

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

Here are some dates for the women's canoe trip—July 28-30—two nights with little portaging.

Let me know if you are in for those dates...We have four interested people as of April 28th. Mary Ellen

Adult forums:

May 17th—Life: quantity or quality? (Ellen Stubbs)

May 31st: Historical Service—1670. (Karen Halbersleben)

June 7th: Sacraments—(Mary Ellen)

Please pray for Barbara Holaday. Some issues have come up after her knee surgery, so she's still in the hospital. Also pray for Reed.

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.

Spring flowers—
aaaaahhhhh—pix by Ellen Stubbs.

Mark your calendars:

**May 6th—6:30 pm
Bishop's Committee**

**May 14th—First Ruby's
Pantry Distribution**

**May 17th—SOTW @ Care
Center**

Look for our Founders' Day
celebration coming up.

