

# Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

May 13, 2015

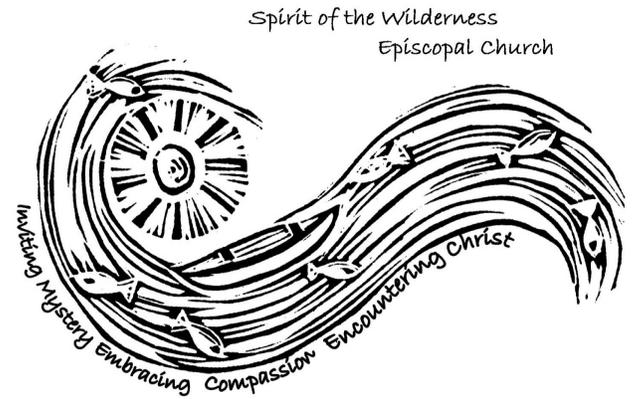
[www.spiritofthewilderness.org](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604

[spiritwilderness@boreal.org](mailto:spiritwilderness@boreal.org)

Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone 218 387 1536



## Vicar's Report

At SOTW we try to balance care for insiders with accessibility to those who have been wounded by church. Talking about this at worship committee this morning, I remembered that we had a sheet of FAQ's for newcomers a few years back I dug it out. What needs to be added or taken out?

❓ **Who is welcome?** All are welcome—kids, dogs, people from any faith background, and all levels of searching, doubt, and faith. If at first you want to watch certain parts of the service rather than join in, that's fine.

❓ **What is an "Episcopal Church"?** The Episcopal Church is part of the world wide Anglican communion. During the reformation, some reformers in England decided to try to take the best of the reformation—the people being able to read scripture and say the liturgy together—but keep the best of Catholicism (like sacraments, mystery, etc.)

❓ **What do Episcopalians believe?** Well...a whole variety of things. Going back to earliest days, there's been a strong emphasis on not worrying about signing on the dotted line of belief, but rather worshipping together. So if you feel like it's hard for you to believe certain aspects of the liturgy or hymns, you're not the only one. Give it a try and see what happens.

❓ **How is Spirit of the Wilderness different from other Episcopal Churches?** We are a new church and so we're trying to do things in a new way while still holding to some of the traditions and sacramental practices. As a "ministry-centered" church, we invite all who can to make music, read lessons, lead prayers, volunteer at the food shelf, and even deliver sermons. We are also aware that there are many churches in Cook County, and we want to be an option for people who have been hurt by church or are uncomfortable being told what to believe.

❓ **Are all Episcopal churches the same?** Not at all. All use the same shape of liturgy and have sacraments and priests, but otherwise some can be very "catholic" in their worship, some more protestant, etc.

❓ **What's a "vicar"?** As our vicar, Mary Ellen helps to facilitate our growth as a church, and functions as main story-teller in the sacraments. She is ordained in the Episcopal Church.

❓ **What about the Eucharist?** In the Episcopal Church we believe in "real presence"—that in some way we cannot understand, we are fed by receiving the bread and wine in this sacrament. Because Christ welcomed all to his table, we welcome all to ours.

❓ **How do I receive the Eucharist?** Come forward, stand or kneel at the rail. Hold your hands out for the bread, and then either dip it in the cup of wine or take a sip from the cup. (We have grape juice for those who would prefer that to wine.) Or come up and place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing.

❓ **What is "the peace" when everyone walks around and greets each other?** This part of the service goes back to the earliest church and was meant to be a way to make sure that any resentments or differences between people were resolved before taking Eucharist.

❓ **What about the Lord's Prayer?** We invite people to say the version of the Lord's Prayer they remember best. As a sign of our unity, we hold hands at Spirit of the Wilderness.

❓ **How can I get more involved?** We'd love for you to become a part of our community. Sign up to get on our weekly newsletter list; when you're ready sign up to read on Sundays, help with the food shelf, bring treats, or whatever. We have forums and socials monthly. We're glad you're here.

What do you think? Peace, Mary Ellen



## Women's canoe trip: August 3-5

Contact Mary Ellen if you want to come....

### Save these dates:

May 14th—First Ruby's Pantry Distribution

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

May 17th—SOTW @ Care Center

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

June 7th: Adult forum—Sacraments—(Mary Ellen)

June 28th: annual welcome service

### **Art to share!**

We're starting to exhibit some of our artists' work on the walls at SOTW; if you have a piece you'd like to share, bring it along.

### **This Sunday:**

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

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

### **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.**

### **THE VICAR'S BASKET**

Mary Ellen would love to take part of the SOTW congregation with her to South Africa. We can join her symbolically by contributing items for her to share as small gifts on her travels! I am starting a basket to collect bandanas, small cloisonné pins, and other items easily packed ..for her to take on her travels! Anyone wishing to contribute to this effort is encouraged to bring pins and bandanas reflecting the North Shore and Boundary Waters and put them in the Vicar's Basket located in the rear of the church!  
Karen Kobey

### **Toys for our kids!**

We could use some fresh toys for the area where our children sit during church. Drawing pads, washable markers, play dough, books, and other quiet toys. Please bring any and drop off at the front.