

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

June 30, 2015

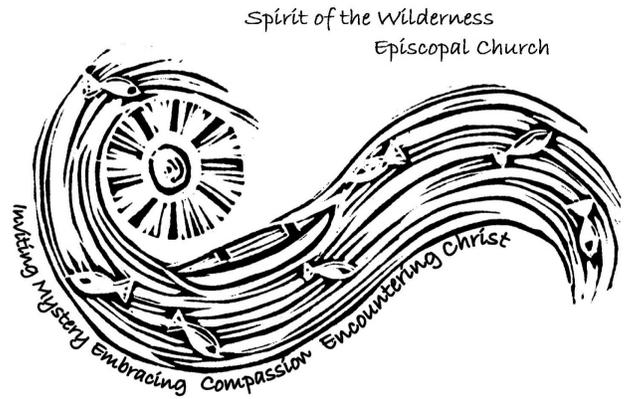
www.spiritofthewilderness.org

Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604

spiritwilderness@boreal.org

Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone 218 387 1536



Vicar's Report

July 1st a group of around a hundred people sat outside Drury Lane Books for a full moon performance. The full moon missed its entrance but everything else was wonderful as Yvonne Caruthers played her cello against the backdrop of a smooth Lake Superior.

She is a fabulous cellist so it was great to hear her play. But what impressed me most was the way she involved the audience. She told us the “Readers Digest Condensed Version” of Wagner’s Ring Cycle—with the rather bizarre story intermingled with the musical themes on cello. Then she played a couple of Finnish pieces—Finlandia and one by a Finnish woman composer.

Then she reminded us that it was the 150th anniversary of The Civil War and played some songs popular than and invited us to sing along—Stephen Foster’s “Way Down Upon the Swanee River,” Beautiful Dreamer,” and others. We sang a very sad song that was wildly popular at the time and “Eating Goober Peas.”

Yvonne played a medley of patriotic songs with the group singing along, and then the official songs of the armed forces, inviting people to stand if they are family members had served in them. It was very moving to see people standing proudly “Army,” “Navy,” “Air Force,” etc. She finished with Tchaikovsky’s 1812 overture, with the group supplying the cannon noises.

We all applauded her. It was a wonderful evening—educational, funny, moving, with everyone participating as well as listening. We looked around the gathering with joy. We didn’t even miss the moon much.

This was a wonderful evening because it was so highly participatory. Yvonne could have easily performed pieces that would show her expertise and make us gasp at her talent and skill. Kind of like the way many priests and choirs do church on Sundays—perfect, expert, lovely.

Instead she gave us something much better—a highly participatory evening from which we all went feeling connected and fed. More like we try to do church at SOTW.

They say concert attendance, like church attendance, is declining. Not if we reform worship and concerts to be more involving.

Blessings, Mary Ellen



Good Samaritan Fund!!

Sue Sutphin suggests that folks have a jar out at home for the Good Sam Fund—and bring the proceeds on Sunday.

Or if you have some occasion your celebrating—birthday or anniversary, etc.—make a special contribution.

Save these dates:

July 1st: Bishop's Committee, clinic, 6:30-8:00 Please get any concerns/ideas to wardens Milan Schmidt or Karen Halbersleben.

July 14th: Ruby's Pantry!

July 12th: Post church social at Hedstrom's House of Holy Happenings—we'll have a visitor who is on sabbatical from Baltimore and wants to know more about SOTW.

July 19th: Adult forum—Amber Todd presenting on her interfaith work at Hamline University.

Aug. 2: Adult forum—Mary Ellen will present on her sabbatical plans.

August 3-5 Women's canoe trip

August 16th: Adult forum on end of life issues with Milan and Ellen.

This Sunday:

Leading: Amber
Homily: Ellen
Presiding: Carol
Treats: ?????

Please let Beth know if you'd like to bring treats—387 1314.

Banner!!

At the ordination I saw many churches carrying banners—SOTW needs one!

Who would like to work on this?

