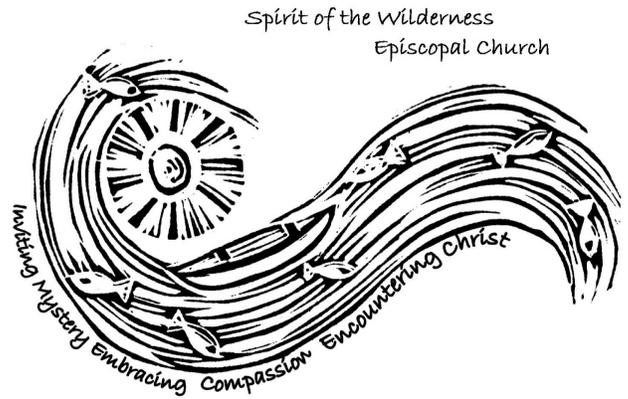


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
July 6, 2015

www.spiritofthewilderness.org
Box 1115 Grand Marais, 55604
spiritwilderness@boreal.org
Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft
Phone 218 387 1536



Vicar's Report

Yesterday Ellen Stubbs preached a wonderful sermon about our gospel passage. She helped us to see that God asks our cooperation. People didn't have miracles simply thrown at them—they were called to do what they didn't think they could—reach out your hand, get up and walk, etc.

And the mysterious passage, where we're told Jesus could do no miracles in his home town because the people there had no faith. What in the world does that mean?

I think, Ellen was right, that people had limited Jesus by thinking of him as just the home town boy, the one who had potential as a carpenter. What could he do for them?!

I found myself pondering, later in the day, how easy it is for us to limit each other by assuming that this person or that person is just _____.

Maybe we've been tempted to dismiss someone because of something they said or did months or years ago. Or we assumed they were different from us in some way. Even if we haven't expressed it, we have limited them. In our minds they become "just _____."

Or if we have expressed our judgment of them, our limiting might have affected others too.

What power limiting people has. Jesus—we're talking JESUS here—can't do anything because people have limited him. Who knows how our limiting people makes fewer miracles happen!

Like studies that show teachers who have been told certain kids are gifted tend to find excellence there, so we can give each other the gift of not limiting.

I challenge you as I challenge myself: when I find myself writing someone off in my thoughts or words, I will stop. The "well, she always..." or "well, he never..." or "he's just" will trip me up, and I will stop and open that person to the endless new beginnings that our faith offers us.

Blessings, Mary Ellen



This Sunday:

Leading: Dave C.
Homily: Carolyn
Presiding: Mary Ellen
Treats: with the meal at Hedstroms

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?

Social this Sunday!: bring something delicious to share... Hedstroms will provide a main dish.
After church...

Good Samaritan Fund!!
Please donate this summer!!!

Save these dates:

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 14th: Ruby's Pantry!

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 9: Social after church at Coleman's Clearwater Lake.

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

