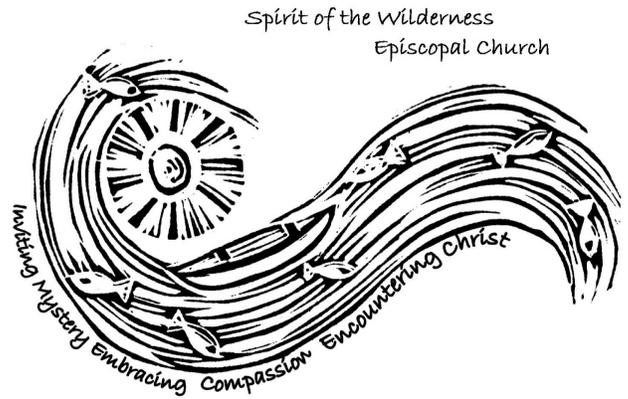


Wilderness Words

Newsletter—
July 13, 2015

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Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft
Phone 218 387 1536



Vicar's Report

When we have visitors, like Lori and John who visited from Baltimore this last Sunday, it gives us a fresh glimpses.

We get a view of ourselves as a church by inviting in outsiders. As we went around the circle and talked about some of the qualities that make Spirit of the Wilderness different from other places we've worshiped, we hear things we might have forgotten. I loved hearing from Karl and Lee that we don't "go to" Spirit of the Wilderness, we "belong." Different voices, high degree of participation, dogs. The joys of not having a building. We know this but it's a good reminder. Also, as Howard reminded us, there's something that touches us spiritually when we are there together in worship. And we spoke of our involvement in the greater community, as we recounted our involvement with The Good Samaritan Fund, Ruby's Pantry, and Mariano's Closet. We gave thanks that Reed and Barbara Holaday pushed us to prioritize that outward looking so that we could be a healthy church. Peter Fergus-Moore spoke of our sending him and Joyce off to be World Council of Churches peace monitors in Palestine, and welcoming them back, wanting to know more.

These are all good reminders of where we've been and of some of the qualities of our life together. We also got a view of the larger church by hearing from Lori about St. John's in Baltimore, and how they've been working to find innovative ways to meet the challenges of a huge building and a shrinking congregation. Their response, holding their worship in a senior assisted living site, has proved to be a gift to many. We're hoping that we can have an ongoing relationship with this congregation, whose life is so different from ours.

It's crucial for us, way up here in the north woods, to remember that we are part of the greater Episcopal Church, with congregations in very different situations. And part of the worldwide Anglican church, with brothers and sisters scattered all over the world.

Thanks to all who attended the social, and especially to Hedstroms for hosting another Holy Happening at their house!

Blessings, Mary Ellen



Lori and John Babcock, visiting from St. John's in Baltimore!

Save these dates:

July 14th: Ruby's Pantry!

July 19th: Adult forum—Amber Todd presenting on her inter-faith 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.

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

This Sunday:

Leading: Amber
Homily: Carol
Presiding: Carolyn
Treats:
Please let Beth know if you'd like to bring treats—387 1314.

Some ideas:

1. How about if we do our worship service in Harbor Park during the Art Fair weekend next year?
2. How about a gathering to brainstorm our tagline for WTIP?
3. Should we begin having an annual service of blessing for those who have lost their pets?
4. Ginny and Bob will begin running a small group in January—who would like to be part of it?