

WILDERNESS WORDS

Interim Editors

Patsy and I will serve as Interim Editors of the Spirit of the Wilderness "Wilderness Words" newsletter. If there is anything that you would like to have included: 218-388-9903 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: David Coleman
Preaching: Lee Stewart
Presiding: Carolyn Schmidt

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be included in the e-mail Prayer Chain please contact Patsy Coleman: PColeman@chem.wayne.edu
 Prayer requests are added and updated in real-time among the participants.

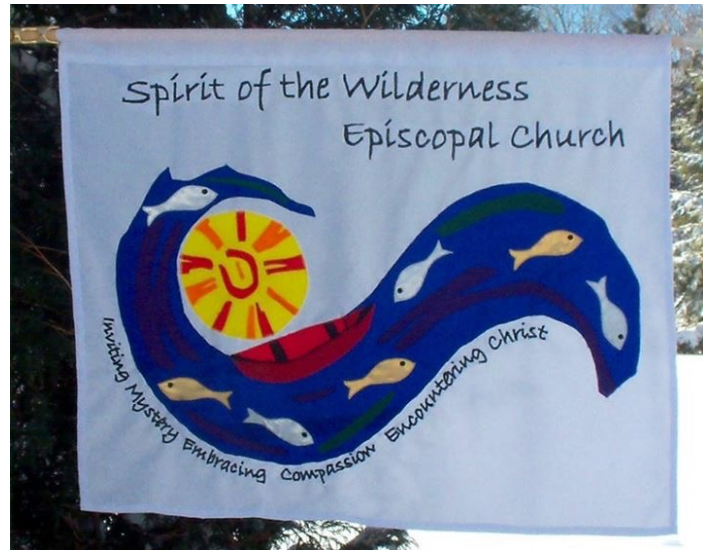
Erv Brown:

Please pray for The Rev. Erv Brown, a long time member of the SOTW community. He is having major cancer surgery at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore this Friday.

Vicar: Mary Ellen Ashcroft
Phone: 218-387-1536
Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

<https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness>



From the Senior Warden:

When our kids were growing up I remember hearing a story about a wise parent. The two children were fighting over a piece of pie. Who would get to cut THEIR piece first? The parent said to the first child, "you get to cut the pie" to that child's great delight. Then to the other she said "and YOU get to choose the piece!" This struck me as much more useful than Solomon's "half a baby" ruse. It really promoted fairness. The problem is, sometimes we don't get to cut the pie or choose the piece. We don't even get to be the wise parent. We are left with what seems like the crumbs, or even an empty plate. It just isn't fair! And who in their right minds can say with honesty "it's only pie"?

As most of you are aware, Mary Ellen is struggling with major illnesses in her family. We long to be there with just the right words, the right solution, or at least a hug, but all we can do for now is hope. That is no small thing. We will hope and pray for a miracle (or several). We can also be "God with skin on" and lighten her load. We planned on stepping into many of her roles already because of her upcoming sabbatical. We will just start early and if necessary go longer.

This issue of the Newsletter is the first of the "Sabbatical issues." Pastoral care folks will be assigned beginning next week. (If you have a conflict



Save these Dates:

August 9: Bon Voyage Party for Mary Ellen at Clearwater Lake - Postponed

August 11: Ruby's Pantry

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

Cook County International Workers:

If you are interested in connecting with one of the international workers for dinner or a hike or fishing or whatever you want to share, call Lori at St. John's Catholic Church, 387-1409. Please be aware that their free time is limited and be open. This would be a great ministry. From Kathy Sullivan

with your assignment, find someone to swap with.) Meetings and small groups will continue to go on at the assigned times. We will find celebrants to fill in when Mary Ellen was scheduled, or do Morning Prayer. We will keep as much to the plan as possible. The Bon Voyage will, of course, need to be postponed but I'm sure we can find an appropriate date once we know more.

Mary Ellen touches each of our lives. Pray for her and Suzanne as well as Alice, Steve and the entire family. Send messages and love but to not expect return messages or replies. We know she loves us.

Mary Ellen and Suzanne, if you think of ANYTHING we can do for you let us know. Most of all, know that if you need to drop something, someone else will pick it up. (Message to the congregation: watch for falling responsibilities. If you see it, pick it up!) Remember, all of you, that God loves you; SOTW loves you.

"By this all will know that you are my disciples, that you love one another as I have loved you." Jesus has given us the path. Let us take courage and walk it together.

Milan Schmidt

Pastoral Care Committee Assignments: (week starting) July 26, Ginny; August 2, Hillary; August 9, Ellen; August 16, Hillary; August 23, Ginny; August 30, Carolyn.

A HelpingHands Website has been established for Stephen & Anna: <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/731255/login/reset/a3f531b3a114604d1387096224e20d99/>



We pray for: Mary Ellen with Anna, Stephen's wife holding their son Henry (now 3 years old), Stephen, Suzanna (ME's daughter and her baby). Stephen & Anna's baby Alice wasn't born at the time of this photo. Fortunately she has returned home from NICU.