

## 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](mailto:dmc@chem.wayne.edu) or [pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu](mailto:pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu)

### This Sunday:

**Leading:** Lee Stewart

**Preaching:** Mary Ellen

**Presiding:** Ellen Stubbs

### Prayer Chain

If you would like to be included in the e-mail Prayer Chain please contact Patsy Coleman:

[PColeman@chem.wayne.edu](mailto:PColeman@chem.wayne.edu)

Prayer requests are added and updated in real-time among the participants.

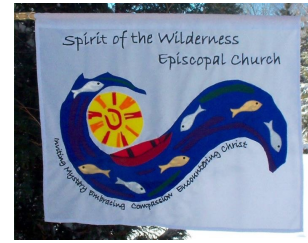
### Erv Brown:

Erv's 9 hour surgery at Johns Hopkins went well with removal of a kidney and no indication of additional cancer. Keep Erv and Tish in your prayers.

### From Mary Ellen:

In church yesterday I felt so loved and held by the community: clearly

everyone there had been praying for Steve, Anna, Alice and Henry, and for me. My burden was not only mine, but one held by all. What an amazing gift that is! To be loved and cared for in time of need—I am so thankful for *Spirit of the Wilderness*.



And thankful that we're part of a much larger community of people around the world who are joining in prayer for them. I love the thought that the Cathedral community in Grahamstown South Africa are praying (in 3 or 4 different languages), as are the shared ministry team at Holy Apostles (mostly in Hmong.) And while I don't believe that God is the kind of God who carefully counts the 'prayer votes' coming in and then does something—I do believe prayer matters and that love matters and that we are in some mysterious way 'held in the mercy.'

A time of trauma brings clarity. Things that seemed crucially important a few weeks ago seem trivial, even banal. What really matters—love, connection, care—seems much sharper. And the invisible connections—holding those in need to those who love them and even holding those who have never met them but care—seem tangible, visible. Like the luminaria in oceans that flashes bright when disturbed so you can see what you couldn't before—the love and the prayers blaze bright.

As Lee said so poignantly in her sermon yesterday, we are given, "Power to speak and heal; grace to know what's real; wisdom, insight and faith, love and understanding." And we become the body of Christ bringing that to each other and the world. Thank you so much for being that to me, and to Steve, Anna, Henry and Alice.

### Mary Ellen's Schedule:

Because of Steve's diagnosis I don't want to be away for such a long chunk of time as I'd planned. I've talked to the Lilly Foundation folks and gotten permission to take a few weeks of the sabbatical now, and then postpone



**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.

**August 30:** After Church Picnic at Sue and Ron Sutphin's cabin on Poplar Lake. Details to follow.

**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

the rest until 2016. During this fall, I'll be here most of the time with trips to the Twin Cities to support Steve and family, especially around chemo times.

Here's where I'll be on my briefer sabbatical coming up soon.

August 12: fly from Thunder Bay to London and then onto Glasgow.

August 14: Meet up with Letha and head toward Iona.

August 15-21: Iona retreat—we use quite a lot of Iona liturgy and music already and I hope to learn during this time. For more info see their website.

August 21-24: Letha and I go hiking in the Scottish highlands.

August 25: Letha and I fly to London and meet Suzanne.

August 26-30: Fly to Lyon. Old friend Jo Wells picks us up and we go to her cottage in the Alps for a few days.

August 30-31: Back to Lyon and then on to Cluny where we will spend a couple days visiting the Taize community. (We also use a lot of their music, so I hope we'll learn more....)

Sept. 1: Drive to Vezelay.

Sept. 2: Drive to Chartres and then Paris.

Sept. 3: Train to London; stay with Jo Wells. Letha goes on her way.

Sept. 4-8: Suzanne and I go to Lancaster to stay with Alex Logan (some of you will remember her from when she took a sabbatical and was with us at SOTW a few years ago.)

Sept. 8: Back to London to stay with friend Jill Mowbray.

Sept. 9: Fly back to Thunder Bay.

*Mary Ellen Ashcroft*

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

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

**Stephen has a wonderful blog for those who wish to follow: <https://direcolon.wordpress.com>**