

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: Karen H.
Preaching: Sarah
Presiding: Carolyn

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.

From Patsy Coleman:

(On Healing Ministry)

The healing ministry began with Jesus. We see many examples of Jesus healing the sick in the Gospels. Two things stand out in this.



Someone, whether it's the sick person or a friend or relative, asks Jesus for help either verbally or physically – such as bringing the friend on a mat to Jesus, Luke 5:18 for example. The other thing is that Jesus never refused to heal anyone. He hesitated and asked questions when the person was a gentile such as the Roman centurion (Matt 8:5-13). But he then comments on the centurion's great faith and heals his servant. Healing ministry continued in the early church. There are several examples found in the Acts of the Apostles. The sick were brought and laid before the apostles (Acts 5:12-16). Healing was an expected part of the church.

So what caused this to change? In 313 Constantine declared Christianity a legal religion on the Roman Empire. By 380 Constantine's successor had declared Christianity as the official religion on the Roman Empire. Now if you were in the army and wanted to get promoted, you needed to belong to the official religion. Suddenly everyone was becoming Christian, not because of their great belief but because it was the socially acceptable thing to do. Prior to 313 being a Christian meant that you could be martyred for your faith. The people who chose to become Christians were extremely devout believers.

Over the years many other things happened. Priests stopped praying for people to be healed. It was in a strange way out of humility. If the priest prayed for someone, and they were healed, he'd been seen as something special and lots of people would start coming to him. Not wanting to stand out in any way (i.e. humility), he'd not pray. People were sent to the tomb of someone who had been

Vicar

Mary Ellen Ashcroft
 Phone: 218-387-1536
 <maryellenvicar@gmail.com>

Assisting Priest

Carolyn Schmidt
 Phone: 218-387-1806
 <madrecj@aol.com>

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

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

Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604

Save these Dates:

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 Below.

Oct. 18: Annual Meeting after Church.

Picnic Details:

We will host a "fun filled" potluck at our cabin on Poplar Lake, after the Sunday service, August 30th. I will make Cavatelli with and without meat. If you can bring something to help fill out the menu, great,

if not, please come anyway. If the weather is warm enough and you like to swim, bring your suit. We have a kayak and a canoe for anyone who wants to try their hand with those.

We hope to see then.

Ron and Sue Sutphin



known as leading a holy life. If they were healed after visiting the holy person’s grave, it didn’t draw attention to the priest. And people stopped believing that prayer could heal them. In the Roman Catholic Church extreme unction was an anointing of a very sick person who was about to die. There was no expectation that the person would be healed. Some people came to believe that healing only took place in Jesus’ time and in the early church because they needed signs and wonders to get people to believe and join the church. Now that church has been established, this wasn’t needed any more.

Things started to change in the early 20th century. The Azusa Street Revival in 1906 saw a return of many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, among them the gift the healing returned. This was the beginning of Pentecostalism and was not accepted by mainstream churches. However by 1960 what would later be called the charismatic movement started in the Episcopal Church. The Catholic charismatic movement followed in 1967. Since that time healing ministry has become more accepted and mainstream in a number of “historical churches”.

Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians (12:9) that one of the gifts of the Spirit is the gift of healing. There is no reason to think that this gift has disappeared over the years. Jesus told his disciplines that they would do more wonderful things that he did (John 14:12). So we should be expecting to see people healed by our prayers, just as they were in the days of the apostles.

Here at Spirit of the Wilderness we offer healing prayers during communion. Both laypersons and clergy participate in this ministry. You are invited to come up for prayers for yourself or another, and we will pray with you.

Pastoral Care Committee Assignments:

(week starting) 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>