

## *WILDERNESS WORDS*

### Interim Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 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:** Suzanne  
**Preaching:** Carolyn  
**Presiding:** Carol

### Readings this week:

**First Reading & Psalm:**  
 Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1 • Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22

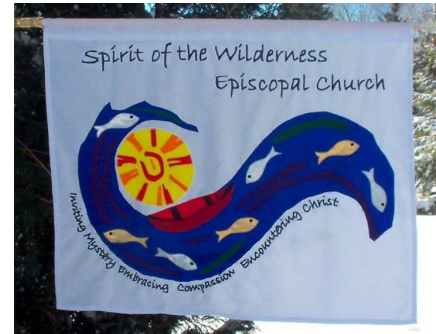
**Alternate First Reading & Psalm:**  
 Jeremiah 11:18-20 and Psalm 54

**Epistle:**  
 James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

**Gospel:**  
 Mark 9:30-37

(Click on citation to go to the reading.)

### Vicar Reflections:



Back from the first month of my sabbatical, I feel grateful for the opportunity to get away and get some perspective, but also for the welcome home. It does feel good to be back, thanks to you all!

Being far away--so far that it was difficult to get email and impossible to phone—gave me a chance to deeply reflect on life in general, for example the fact that there are many things I can't control! Just before I left, I thought occasionally, "Oh, my gosh, I need to call the worship committee (or the art show committee) together!" only to find that they had met very competently without me!

But being far away, and sometimes feeling anxious for news of my son, I realized that really there was nothing I could do anyhow but pray. This is often the case....but the time away sure helped me to remember that. Every day I pray the serenity prayer—"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." While I was away some of this became much clearer.

I feel like I also had the chance to look into the future. Europe is further on than the United States in terms of having become a post-Christian culture. In other words, Christian faith is more like it was in its earliest years---a radical alternative to the societal norm. It's unusual to be Christian, to go to church. Churches we went to generally had no one in them under the age of 70 and they were very traditional. For younger people it was as if it had not occurred to them that church might be for them.

On the other hand, the Iona Community attracts many youth (and others) from all over the world, and their message demands radical hospitality, outreach, and community. When we visited the Taize Community in France, there were two or three thousand young people from all over the world, exploring what it means to be Christian. They also have a message of radical hospitality, outreach, and community.

These communities are the face of the future. Their worship reflects their values of welcome. For example the Taize community's worship songs—which have spread all over the world and we use

**Save these Dates:**

**Sept. 27:** SOTW does Care Center.

**Oct. 18:** Annual Meeting after Church.

**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](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

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

SpiritoftheWilderness

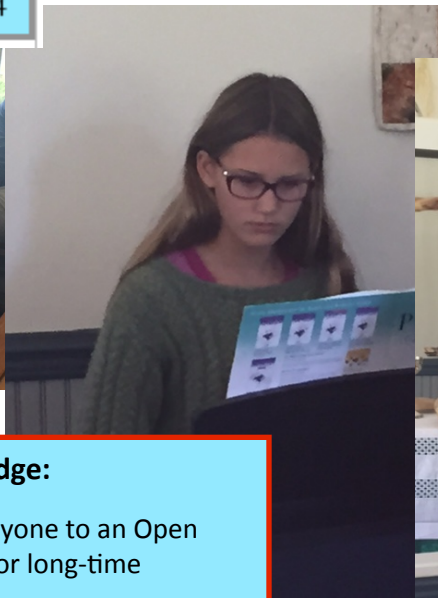
Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604

most Sundays—comes out of their need for simple music, because youth who are from all over the world and don't necessarily speak the same language are gathered and have no history with hymnody. The Iona community's songs—which we also use a lot of—reflect their need for songs that express their emphasis on radical hospitality, outreach, and community.

For many people who were visiting these two communities, the experience made them dread going back to their home churches, which are more focused on buildings and traditional worship. For me, there was a strong sense of our being on the right track—we are doing what needs to be done as we prepare for an increasingly post-Christian world. When we can't depend on people coming to church because that's just 'what you do' we will be sharing our radical hospitality, outreach, and community.

*Mary Ellen Ashcroft*

**Pastoral Care Committee Assignments:** (week starting) September 20, Layne; September 27, Beth; October 4, Beth; October 11, Lee; October 18, Lee; October 25, Dave + Shawn



**Open House at Solbakken Lodge:**

**Dave & Shawn Howe** invite everyone to an Open House and 60th Birthday Party for long-time employee Scott Benson.

**Saturday, Sept. 19th;** Open House @ 3:00 PM. Potluck @ 5:00 PM. Appetizers will be provided. Bring a dish to pass. Everyone is welcome!!

**“Dire Colon” Blog:** Mary Ellen's son Stephen is authoring a beautiful, powerful, searing, heartfelt blog describing his journey through this cancer. The latest entry: “Catharsis and Connection” can be read at **URL:** <http://wp.me/p6wBC2-g> You can subscribe to receive notification of updates as they are published. The entire Ashcroft family remains in our prayers.