

## *WILDERNESS WORDS*

### 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:** Karen Halbersleben  
**Preaching:** Ellen Stubbs  
**Presiding:** Carol Mork

### Readings this week:

#### **Second Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading:**  
 Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4  
**Psalm:**  
 Luke 1:68-79  
**Epistle:**  
 Philippians 1:3-11  
**Gospel:**  
 Luke 3:1-6

(Click on citation to go to the reading.)

### Vicar's Reflections:

Most Episcopalians are ambivalent about Advent.

Not so for the early Christians. A common greeting, equivalent to our, "Hey, how are you?" in the earliest church was "Maranatha." It meant, "Come Lord Jesus." Those early followers believed that Jesus, having shown us what he wanted by his teachings and actions, had gone away for a little while, but would be back soon. When he came back, all would be sorted out and evil vanquished. There would be no more Roman oppression, no more slavery, no more disease and death. They were really excited about Jesus' second coming and so they gave each other high fives, "Maranatha!"

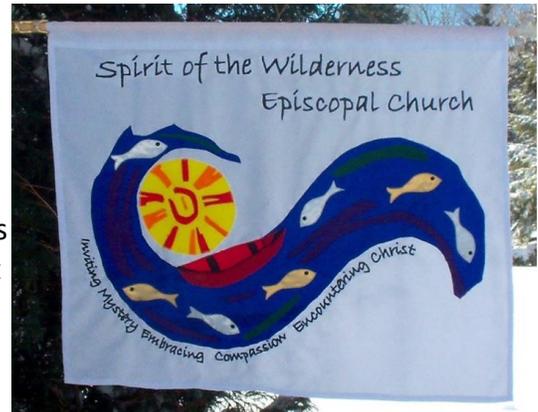
When our lives are comfortable, when things are going well, I suspect we are in no hurry for Jesus' second coming. Well of course, it might be a good idea in the long run, but later, much later.

But there have always been Christians living in tough times, who have said fervently, "Come Lord Jesus, and the sooner the better." Like slaves in the American south, or people who were part of the confessing church in Germany during World War II, many under apartheid in South Africa: this world as we see and know it has gone so wrong, we need Jesus to come back and make things right.

This sense of longing for Jesus' return may reflect our personal lives, as well. When we are suffering we may think about the deliverance that is to come.

During Advent, we can ponder what God intends for the world, what a world with God in charge would look like. Like those working for civil rights, or working against the Third Reich or apartheid, we are called to do all we can to further God's reign. We feed the hungry, work to end abuse and ignorance.

These are ways to keep Advent. But we can also personally keep Advent by considering where we as individuals are holding out on God being in charge. This week's readings talk about God as a



**Save these Dates**

**Tuesday, December 8:**  
 Ruby's Pantry. See Notes.

**Sunday, December 13:**  
 Forum after Church. Kris  
 Garey: Haiti

**Sunday, Jan. 3:** From  
 12:30-3:30, there will be a  
 gathering for all of our  
 preachers at WindCradle.  
 We'll lunch and talk sermons.

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refiner's fire and fuller's soap. God doesn't just save us and make us feel good; God calls us to be part of the solution to the wrongs in the world. And God calls us to look within and see what's keeping us distant from the 'tender compassion' we hear about this Sunday.

Peace, *Mary Ellen*

*Pastoral Care Committee Assignments:*

(week starting) November 29, Ellen Stubbs; December 6, Milan Schmidt; December 13, Carolyn Schmidt.

**NOTES**

**Ruby's Pantry:** Hi everyone! Our next distribution is next Tuesday, December 8. 5:00 - 6:30 at ISD 166. Please park in the back parking lot by the elementary entrance and don't forget your bins, cooler, boxes or bags. \$20 CASH per share, but you can get as many shares as you want. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at [lbspaulling@boreal.org](mailto:lbspaulling@boreal.org). With the holidays on us, it's a great time to stretch our grocery dollars!! Hope to see you on the 8th!!!

