

## *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:** Howard Hedstrom  
**Preaching:** Lee Stewart  
**Presiding:** Carolyn Schmidt

### Readings this week:

#### **Third Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading:**  
 Zephaniah 3:14-20  
**Psalm:**  
 Isaiah 12:2-6  
**Epistle:**  
 Philippians 4:4-7  
**Gospel:**  
 Luke 3:7-18

(Click on citation to go to the reading.)

### Vicar's Reflections:

#### Waiting

Many/most/all of us find waiting very difficult. I think of the Frog and Toad story, in which Toad plants

seeds, but can't wait for them to come up. He shouts at them, sings at them, peers at them. Finally he falls asleep, and when he awakens they've come up!

Waiting is hard for us as humans, but especially hard for us in this era. No wonder we are 'sitting ducks' for advertising, which constantly presses us to 'get it now' 'next day delivery' 'while they last.' A few months ago I could wait (not very patiently) for my slow internet. Now, with broadband, I'm used to getting info instantly!

And while most of us know—at least at some level—that what is worthwhile grows slowly, we find it difficult to wait for it—whether it is tomatoes or a relationship or healing.

I think of a favorite philosopher/theologian Simone Weil (pronounced Vay) who wrote that sin was in our 'snatching'—when we just grab what we want. From the Garden of Eden to our personal decisions to our foreign policy we see this snatching. According to Weil, waiting is what we're called to, and waiting is about trust. It's when we recognize that there's much we cannot make happen, so we open our hands and wait.

In Psalm 32, the psalmist puts words into God's mouth:

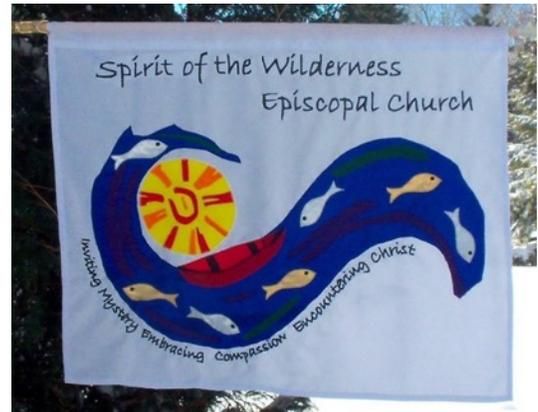
"Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;

Who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Maybe in our world, God would have said, "Don't be like a bad dog that needs to spiky collar and who nobody likes to walk because it pulls so hard." A long walk of faithful discipleship is pretty much the opposite of a mule who has to be 'jerked around' with a bit or bridle or a dog who runs off.

Part of Advent is waiting, assuming that whatever is good may take some time, that we're in it for the long haul, that we want to grow in our sensitivity to God's way.

Peace, *Mary Ellen*



**Save these Dates**

**Tuesday, December 15:**  
Ruby's Pantry Gathering at Solbakken. See Flyer.

**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.

**Vicar:**

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

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*Pastoral Care Committee Assignments:*  
(week starting) December 13, Carolyn Schmidt.

**RUBY'S PANTRY GATHERING**

**Where:** Solbakken Resort on Superior  
4874 W Hwy 61 Lutsen, MN  
For more complete directions:  
[www.solbakkenresort.com](http://www.solbakkenresort.com)

**When:** December 15, 2015 5:30

**Reason:** To celebrate the holiday season with everyone who has helped out at Ruby's Pantry distributions.

**How:** Please bring a dish to pass. Ruby's will provide ham and rolls, coffee and water.

Dave and Shawn Howe have graciously offered Solbakken Resort for our get together. Thanks much!

Please come dressed casually...For volunteers and their family.

**RSVP:** Barb Spaulding [lbspaulding@boreal.org](mailto:lbspaulding@boreal.org)  
By 12-10-15



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