

## *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:** Suzanne  
**Preaching:** Ellen  
**Presiding:** Mary Ellen

### Readings this week:

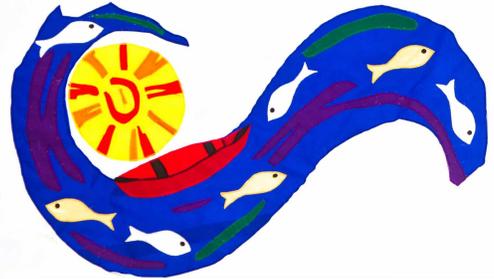
#### *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

**First Reading:**  
 Isaiah 62:1-5  
**Psalm:**  
 Psalm 36:5-10  
**Epistle:**  
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
**Gospel:**  
 John 2:1-11

(Click on citation to go directly to the reading.)

### Vicar's Reflections:

As I said on Sunday, I think we're really onto something here at Spirit of the Wilderness. As we practice being ministry-centered, we are finding people energized to follow their callings. The Spirit is present and it shows in our worship on Sundays, our times together outside church and in our activities in the community.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

I have no qualms about going away for three months. I'm not worried about Spirit of the Wilderness. You all are prepared to fly!

But the Lilly Foundation grant is meant to be a time of refreshing and learning, both for the pastor who has time away, and for the congregation. A break, for all of us, can open space for new ideas.

And so I wonder, what will you learn about who we are as a church? How will you be refreshed during this time? When my dear friend Letha got back from her sabbatical, one of the things she did was to sit down with individuals in the church asking them questions.

I'd like to do the same, asking roughly these questions:

- What did you learn while I was away?
- What can we as a church learn about our next steps from our experience during this time?
- What new ministries/practices do we want to put into place for this next phase of our life as a church?

Pay attention. I will come back with new ideas, I'm sure. And you will be gaining new ideas for our life together.

Blessings, *Mary Ellen*

**Save these Dates**

**Sunday, Jan. 17th:** Mary Ellen Ashcroft "going away Sunday" for partial sabbatical. Lunch after Church at the Trail Center Lodge. See Notes.

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

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**Notes:****1.) Ruby's Pantry:** from last evening:

287 people came and received an abundance of really good food. 92 people came and helped unpack food, distribute food and clean up -- 30 were new volunteers! Amazing!

Thank you!, We could not make this happen in our community without each of you!, Many of us think it is really fun and a great way to see friends and neighbors - and help everyone stretch their dollars! Many people have donated \$20.00 to pay for someone else so if you do not have the cash come anyway and we will give you a gift certificate - just ask as you check in at the cashier!

SOTW members were everywhere and participating fully.

**2.) Mary Ellen "going away" THIS Sunday, Jan. 17th.** A lunch will follow Church at the Trail Center. Cost is covered by the Lilly Foundation. Please let Ellen Stubbs <estubbs290@aol.com> know so that we can have an approximate count.

*Gunflint Mail Run*



*May you run with wonder and delight, as you journey under the sky. God keep you safe. And may God give us all even a touch of your energy and exuberance. Amen.*

## Sense of Wonder: Expressing this Place Call to Artists: 2016



**Spirit of the Wilderness  
Episcopal Church  
invites artists to participate in  
our 7th annual art show:**

**Johnson Heritage Post  
March 4-28**

Opening talk—Chel Anderson March 4.

Context shapes us: where we find ourselves affects us in ways of which we may be unaware. Artists are drawn here; some who wouldn't have called themselves artists begin to create art when they're here. Here's a chance to ponder how you as an artist have been formed by the landscape, atmosphere, light, seasons, and community along the North Shore.

Use these questions to spark your artistic juices for our annual show:

How would your artistic expression be different if you lived somewhere else?

How is your spirituality (and your artistic expression) rooted in this particular place?



Artists need to submit work with title, price and artist statement by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Questions: students contact Mary MacDonald; Bonnie Gay Hedstrom (387 2538) or Ellen Stubbs (663 7298).



New this year: not only will high school art students submit work, but younger students will also be encouraged by their art teachers and others to respond to the topic.