

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 or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: Lee
Preaching:
Presiding:

Readings this week:

**Third Sunday of Easter,
 10 April, 2016**

First Reading:
 Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalm:
 Psalm 30

Epistle:
 Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel:
 John 21:1-19

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

Reflections:

by Sarah Stover

This past week, the Gospel told the story of “Doubting Thomas”, which is one of my favorite encounters in the entirety of the Gospels. Why? Because I, too, am a doubting Thomas...



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

Allow me to explain.

I, by virtue of either nature or training, tend to be a touch skeptical. Perhaps “inherently curious would be a better way of looking at it. I want to know the why and the how of it all. This is perfectly fantastic in the realm of science – after all, that is the essence of the scientific method. This becomes a bit more difficult within the realm of faith, because... well... faith can’t necessarily be empirically proven by peer-reviewed studies. It is something one has to experience, something to believe when it can’t always be experienced by way of our senses. I know I have had profound experiences in regards to my faith, but I can’t use those experiences to either prove or disprove the existence of the risen Christ. I can’t use those experiences as concrete evidence of the existence of God, beyond the shadow of a doubt... mostly because it is in my doubt when my most deeply-moving encounters with God have occurred.

Many fear doubt. It can, and often does, shake the foundations of all we hold dear. This held true for Thomas and the other disciples – after all, their friend had just been put to death. So, Thomas, missing the first encounter with the risen Christ, asked for proof. Many chastise him for his lack of faith, but I applaud him... he was given tangible proof. Out of that, he proclaimed “My Lord and My God!” without question. Out of his doubt, Thomas was able to go forth boldly. This all brings me to the song “Doubting Thomas” by Nickel Creek. (If you haven’t heard this song, please go listen to it. It’s on YouTube.) In it, the trio sings about how they identify with Thomas. The bridge of the song has always hit home for me – “Can I be used to help others find truth when I’m scared that I’ll find proof that it’s a lie? Can I be led down a trail dropping bread crumbs that prove I’m not ready to die? Please give me time to decipher the signs, please forgive me for time that I’ve wasted.”

I have always wondered if I will be useful in helping others along on their faith journey, even when I’m not quite sure of my own faith (because I’m not entirely convinced I am a “good Christian” by any

Save these Dates

Tuesday, April 12th: Ruby's Pantry. *See Notes.*

Friday/Saturday, April 22nd/23rd: Race, Religion, and Relationships | Episcopal Church in Minnesota. *See Notes.*

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NOTE: During Mary Ellen's sabbatical leave Carolyn has graciously agreed to be contacted as needed.



stretch.) I have to walk in faith, believing I have a "soul-saving love", in spite of only being able to touch and feel that which surrounds me. I have to trust that I am forgiven, not only for the time I've wasted, but for all the other mistakes I've made. Living in doubt, therefore, is not something to be feared for me. Rather, it is a mere reality of life on this side. Nothing is safe from the grip of doubt, but that's okay. There is room for my questions... Oh me of little faith ;)

Sarah

A beautiful musical rendition of "Doubting Thomas by Nickel Creek: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH_4-lhEhBA&feature=youtu.be

Notes:

Ruby's Pantry coming next week Tuesday ! April 12 Volunteers please come at 3:00pm and park in the church lot !

Food distribution starts 5:00pm until 6:30pm \$20.00 cash per share - buy as many shares as you want! Bring a container and a cooler for frozen food! park in Elementary parking lot!

Last month many people were out of town including volunteers!



We need both people to come for food and volunteers to run the program! Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come and to help especially important when so many people are gone! Thanks!

Race, Religion, and Relationships Conference:

Race, Religion, and Relationships

April 22, 2016 - April 23, 2016
Northern Pines Camp, Park Rapids

Race, Religion, and Relationships: Building a Better Future in Northern MN will take place April 22-23 at Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids, MN.

For Details: <http://episcopalmn.org/apr-2016-race,-religion,-and-relationships>