

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: Rolf
Preaching: Lee
Presiding: Mary Ellen

Readings this week:

**Fourth Sunday of Easter,
 17 April, 2016**

First Reading:

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm:

Psalm 23

Epistle:

Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel:

John 10:22-30

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

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Reflections:

by Ritalee H. Walters

After the Miracle

After Jesus came back from the dead, the real work just began for the disciples. How could they accept what had just happened, much less translate their experience to the rest of their world? For all their time following this mysterious and charismatic man, the cool and funny older brother that everyone wants, now they would have to try to remember and distill all those conversations and teachings into an argument for belief. Just like all of us who lose someone we love -- a parent, sibling or friend -- who have only our limited encounters to last for the rest of our lives, relying on our wobbly memories for meaning and sustenance. We are still reading the apostles, and combing through their words. I can't imagine their resistance to beginning this task. For someone like me who is shy even about the word Christian, I sometimes struggle to articulate why I choose to participate in a church, or pray. My task is so small compared to that of the apostles, and virtually insignificant to the birth of a great teacher, and his resurrection. After such great news and cause for celebration, why do I carry on this little discussion? I don't have the answer, only gratitude for the conversation and the feeling that religion supplies the most beautiful vocabulary for describing our connection to each other. I'll end this reflection with the poem Love Dogs by Rumi.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

One night a man was crying,
Allah! Allah!
 His lips grew sweet with the praising,
 until a cynic said,
 "So! I have heard you
 calling out, but have you ever
 gotten any response?"
 The man had no answer to that.

Save these Dates

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

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



DavidRJohnson.Zenfolio.com

He quit praying and fell into a confused sleep. He dreamed he saw Khidr, the guide of souls, in a thick, green foliage.

"Why did you stop praising?"

"Because I've never heard anything back."

"This longing you express is the return message.

The grief you cry out from draws you toward union.

Your pure sadness that wants help

is the secret cup.

Listen to the moan of a dog for its master.

that whining is the connection.

There are love-dogs

no one knows the names of

Give your life

to be one of them."

Notes:

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

Little Red Robin Hood: Our own Ella and Liv Hedstrom are members of the cast of the delightful "Little Red Robin Hood" at the Arrowhead Center for the Arts starting Friday, April 15 and running Friday & Saturday this weekend and next, and both Sundays at 2:00 PM. Come out for a wonderful performance and support our youth.

