

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: Suzanne
Preaching: Milan
Presiding: Carolyn

Readings this week:

**Seventh Sunday of Easter,
 8 May, 2016**

First Reading:

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm:

Psalm 97

Epistle:

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Gospel:

John 17:20-26

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

Reflections:

by Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Reporting to the Lilly Foundation

At a Sabbatical planning meeting, someone said, "This is an ideal time for us to step back and reflect on who we are and who we want to be." Well, who are we? Who do we want to be? Can we answer those questions more clearly than we could before?



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

When we applied for the Lilly Foundation grant, here were some of our concerns about where our life as a church:

- Are we relying too much on our vicar so that we're not as 'ministry centered' as we'd hoped?
- Do we have systems and plans in place to continue to be a ministry centered congregation?

During my time away, did you find that to be the case—have we become less 'ministry centered' than we would like to be?

How did the systems and plans work while I was away? Are there ways they could have worked better?

We wrote that we hoped that this sabbatical time would involve people in ministry in a number of different areas of the church's life, perhaps new ones. I feel like I see some areas where people got more involved, but what do you think?

We also hoped that this sabbatical would help us build understanding and commonality with the broader Anglican church. I think that this goal will play out during the next year, as I communicate from my time away.

The Lilly Foundation asks us to answer some questions about the sabbatical and its effects on us as a church.

1. **How did you, as members of Spirit of the Wilderness, meet the concerns and hopes we expressed before the sabbatical?**
 - Are we as ministry centered as we would like to be?
 - Have we developed new areas of ministry?

Save these Dates

May 8th: SOTW at the Care Center. Carol Mork is Presiding, but lots of help needed. Please let Carol know.

May 10th: Ruby's Pantry Distribution. See notes.

May 24th: Ruby's Pantry Volunteer Appreciation Party. See notes.

July 3rd: SOTW at the Care Center.

Vicar:

Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone: 218-387-1536

<maryellenvicar@gmail.com>

Assisting Priest:

Carolyn Schmidt

Phone: 218-387-1806

<madrecj@aol.com>

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

<https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness>

[SpiritoftheWilderness](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness)

Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604

Reflections! It was great to hear 'many voices' during Mary Ellen's sabbatical. So we will continue from time to time. If you are willing to author an occasional Reflections for our Newsletter please let Mary Ellen know. We will again take over coordinating this after our return in early July.

- Do we have (or will we have) greater understanding/ commonality with the broader church?
- 2. What was the impact of the sabbatical on the congregation, pastor and family?
- 3. What did you, as members of Spirit of the Wilderness learn?
- 4. What surprised you?
- 5. What will continue from this time?
- 6. What will be incorporated into the life of our church?

Please think about and jot down answers to these questions. I will be asking you to share them in various ways. In June we will gather for a celebration and find ways to share your responses. In the meanwhile I will be asking for your responses.

A Request:

While on sabbatical I visited Lamula School with my friend Anne. She volunteers there in the Molweni township, teaching math, and reading and leading an extra curricular program at the end of the day on Tuesdays.

We worked with two classes—second and fourth graders, each with around sixty Zulu kids in one class. For the extra curricular time, half of the kids left and the others played educational games—did puzzles, junior scrabble, checkers, chess, opposites, etc. The kids loved it and you could see them learning....but the games were in short supply and were dog eared, with missing pieces,

I plan to mail a box of educational games and puzzles to Anne for use at Lamula school, and would invite you to dig out one from your basement or buy one to send. The kids are 6-9 years old and learning English.

We'll collect these at church and I'll plan to mail them in late May. Karen Kobey has decorated a box for games for kids to be put at the back of the church until end of May at which point they will be mailed. Thanks! *Mary Ellen*

Notes! Ruby's Pantry: Our May distribution is next Tuesday, May 10. 3:30 is when we can get working and unloading the truck. Someone will be in the cafeteria starting at 3:00

if you want to get your share number without waiting in line!! Please let me know if you can help this month, also, if you haven't RSVP'd for the Volunteer Appreciation Party on May 24, please do so as soon as you know. Thanks! RSVP to: lbspauling@boreal.org





The Spirit of the Wilderness Group (and friends) on Holy Island, UK, yesterday! Thanks for Howard Hedstrom for the photo.

