

WILDERNESS WORDS

Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 313-673-6519 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: Karen H.
Preaching: Carol M.
Presiding: Carol M.
Coffee Hour:

Readings this week:

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, 2 October, 2016

First Reading:

Lamentations 1:1-6 and Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137 OR Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 37:1-9

Psalm: (above)

Epistle: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10



Reflections:

Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) 2016 by Lee Stewart



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

Sounds as if it could be dull ... all those whereas and wherefores and Resolved etc...

Sounds as if it could be powerful ... Story weaving, story sharing, Circle of the Beloved and more.

Our Vicar, Mary Ellen Ashcroft and I drove down to Faribault MN on September 16 for the weekend Yearly Convention of ECMN. It was held at Shattuck- St. Mary's School, a beautiful campus, beautiful stone buildings, reminding me of castles in England –

I have been to conventions before but not in a while. The last one I attended was in 2010 when Spirit of the Wilderness Church became part of ECMN.

This one was different than any I had been to in the past. The theme was Engaging God's Mission of Racial Reconciliation. And it was much more engaging! The format was one of praying and sharing in and amongst the business of elections and finance. The feeling was one of spiritual renewal and growth focusing on Racial Reconciliation. We were at tables of 6-8 and with people that were not of the same churches (as much as possible). I think that there were about 300+ people in attendance.

We were asked to bring a special object – one that was sacred to us to share at our table to help to get to know each other. It really worked. I learned a lot about those at my table. At my table of 7 there were three with rocks, two with water and one paddle and one family four generational picture. The stories around these sacred items were memorable.

The Conference invited a powerful storyteller, Valerie

Forums: 2016 - 2017

Forums — we grab our coffee and treats and spend an hour learning.

Oct. 16th — Stewardship

Nov. 13th — Matthew

Dec. 4th — South Africa

Jan. — Immigration

Feb. — Sacraments

March — Arts and social change

April — the Ten Commandments

Tutson*, story weaver, she calls herself. She wove stories in the “in between times” throughout the convention.

The homilist on Saturday was The Reverend Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows** a priest from Chicago. Her message for reconciliation – Eat meals together— as often as possible. Builds a healing bridge for all involved over sharing food.

Jennifer took us deeper into the subject of reconciliation, spending time practicing listening and telling more about our stories. This time we all spoke about our feelings about racial reconciliation... what excites us – what holds us back. This was much harder and some at my table were able to voice some personal painful stories. This is based on the belief that the root of reconciliation is understanding.

In Bishop Prior’s letter of welcome, he says that his hope is that every faith community will create spaces for this story telling within the faith community and with neighbors. And that this will lead us into action around racial reconciliation throughout the year.

The ministry updates were also stories... from young adults and from those staring mission opportunities and mission innovation. One that stood out was the Circle of the Beloved. A new ECMN Chapter of the National Episcopal Service Corps. They are involved in community on the Northside of Minneapolis. This organization addresses racial reconciliation through solidarity, kinship and humility crossing lines of difference. Hearing about this was exciting and different.

I loved participating in this Convention and was reminded again of the wider Anglican community of

faith and what it is working toward.

* Valerie Tutson story weaver, Storytelling as a Communication’s Art. Her focus is on folktales, personal and historical stories, emphasizing black tradition and first person Bible stories. She has a television show- Cultural Tapestry. She is committed to building bridges across race, class and culture.

** The Reverend Jennifer Baskerville- Burrows, Director of Networking for the Dioceses of Chicago. She looks for ways to work to dismantle systemic racism-- working in many different areas. She is a contributor to several books including *What We Shall Become: The Future and Structure of the Episcopal Church*.

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>

Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604