

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: Suzanne
Preaching: Carolyn
Presiding: Mary Ellen
Coffee Hour:

Readings this week:

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 30 October, 2016

First Reading:

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 119:137-144 OR Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7

Psalm: (above)

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

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



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

When I get up in the morning, I sit in a particular chair with my cup of tea. Half an hour later, I get some coffee. I work through my routine-- writing, praying, being silent. Then when Suzanne gets up she joins me and we read something inspiring together and pray for those we know and love.



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

I need this pattern to my day. Occasionally it varies in some way—we have a regular phone call on Wednesday mornings at 7 AM, for example. And when I’m away I do my part of the routine, and Suzanne does hers. But the rhythm is strong enough that even the variations feel like part of the pattern.

By now, this pattern has become so much a part of my daily routine that it feels natural, like waking up, showering, coffee. It’s great to have this pattern that grounds me, especially in tough times. This pattern ‘forms’ me, helps me know at a deep level that I **belong**.

This pattern is true of our corporate life as well: we come together to worship week by week—a rhythm that is crucial for forming us. I remember a friend saying that we go to Sunday worship, not because we **have to**, but because **we belong there**.

The idea of belonging seems important—I underline and explore my belonging with God in my daily morning routine; I underline and explore my belonging with God in my church family, Sunday by Sunday. And even though our church family is not perfect, nor is our worship perfect—we belong. Like any human family with relatives that are odd—not me of course—or people who bring strange food, we show up because we belong.

This echoes the monastic vow of stability, which recognizes the value of being in one place to form us.

Just as our Sunday Eucharist pattern stays the same, but shifts with the church seasons, so my morning quiet shifts. In the summer I get up to the sun already up and the lake blue. As we move into

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

Nov. 13th — Matthew

Dec. 4th — South Africa

Jan. — Immigration

Feb. — Sacraments

March — Arts and social change

April — the Ten Commandments

May — prayer.

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fall, I often get up while it's almost dark and watch a stunning sunrise. And if I sit in my chair for long enough, the sun pours in. By the winter solstice, I know the sun will be rising just to the right of the tree I look at all year, and then it will begin to make its way back, rising somewhere out of my sight.

While seasons change—both outside in our world, and in our church life—we have the patterns—daily, weekly and seasonal—which help ground and form us, and give us a sense of belonging. In South Africa, one of my favorite phrases that people used (despite myriad hardships and problems) could be translated: **We are staying here.**

We belong here.

MEA

Notes:

1.) **Empty Bowls** is **Nov. 10th** and lots of help is needed!

2.) **Ruby's Pantry** is **Nov. 8th** — Election Day!



3.) There will be an interdenominational **Thanksgiving** service on **Thanksgiving Eve** at 6:30 at the Congo Church. Mary Ellen will be preaching; would love for there to be a lot of SOTW folks there!

Yes, it's that time already!

Daylight Savings Time

On Saturday night, set your clocks **BACK** one hour to get to church on time!

