

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: Layne
Presiding:
Coffee Hour:

Readings this week:

Second Sunday in Advent
4 December, 2016

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Epistle: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

Thanksgiving

Our tradition includes a large gathering of family, friends, a few we hope to know better. Suzanne performs her magic, making the table festive and welcoming. We ask everyone to share something for which they are grateful.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

This year I decided to go to the Twin Cities to celebrate with Steve, and had driven half an hour when he phoned from the Mayo Clinic with the news. The specialists agreed with his University of Minnesota oncologist that there are no more treatment options. He will need hospice care.

In the midst of this I am grateful.

- For time. We wished desperately for more. But while it's been a heart wrenching seventeen months, it has also been remarkably rich. I've had bouts of despair, but also times of amazing connection with Steve, Andrew and Susannah and their spouses. And we pay attention to those moments. Would we have hugged and said 'I love you' through tears this much if we'd had another forty years? No, we would have assumed we could do that tomorrow, or next month.
- Not just time, but beauty. The crescent moon hanging in the sky right now is lovelier than any I've ever seen. Something about the presence of death, the fleeting quality of life—makes each beauty glisten, glow as if lit from within.
- For comfort. Hugs from family and friends, people from the church, the community. The stranger who held me as I sobbed after Steve's Gilda's Club performance. Places to stay. Phone calls—"just checking in..." Gas cards that appear.
- Grandchildren. Making snowmen, creating decoupage boxes, pouring imaginary tea, throwing rocks into the big lake—kids keep me in the moment.
- For perspective. What really matters? The list is remarkably short. The whirl of distraction--pushing, buffeting,

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

Dec. 4th — History & Meaning of Advent

Jan. — Immigration

Feb. — Sacraments

March — Arts and social change

April — The Ten Commandments

May — Prayer.

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dizzying—fades to a distant rumble. Connection, each fleeting beauty, love, love, love—that's it.

There will be times of despair and agony ahead on this journey we would never have chosen. But I feel people's prayers holding me: I sense those everlasting arms and am thankful.
MEA

Notes:

1.) The Forum on 4 December will be done by **Carolyn Schmidt** on History and Meaning of Advent.

2.) Although not an official SOTW function, there will be a gathering on **December 12th** to follow up on the election at Beth Kennedy's — more details to be announced, but save the date.

3.) **Saturday, Dec. 3rd**, SOTW is ringing bells at the IGA for Salvation Army. Please indicate to Mary Ellen if you'd be willing to sign up for an hour or two during the day.

4.) **Tuesday, December 13th, Ruby's Pantry.** Save the date.

