

## *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](mailto:dmc@chem.wayne.edu) or [pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu](mailto:pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu)

### This Sunday:

**Leading:** Suzanne  
**Preaching:** Ellen  
**Presiding:**  
**Coffee Hour:**

### Readings this week:

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**11 December, 2016**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-10  
**Psalm:** Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55  
**Epistle:** James 5:7-10  
**Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11  
*(Click on citation to link directly to the*



### Reflections:

*By the Bishop's Committee*



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing  
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

The Bishop's Committee held its December meeting yesterday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and covered several important items that we felt were important to share them with the Spirit of the Wilderness community in this week's newsletter.

First, in addition to praying for Mary Ellen and her family, we need to do all we can to allow her to keep her focus with the family while the Bishop's Committee assures that the needs of our congregation are met. We assigned tasks to cover Christmas Eve and Sunday services, coordination of pastoral care needs that may arise, and to contact the Bishop's office.

We set the date and time for the annual meeting. It will be on Sunday, January 15, 2017 after the 10:30 service. Agenda items will include the election of Bishop's Committee representatives and approval of the budget for 2017. The following have agreed to serve in 2017 if approved by the congregation:

- Senior Warden – Karen Halbersleben
- Junior Warden – Bob Padzieski
- Treasurer – Rolf Linquist
- Vestry members – Milan Schmidt, Ellen Stubbs, Dave Coleman

If anyone else is interested in serving on the Bishop's Committee, please contact Karen Halbersleben at [khalbers@me.com](mailto:khalbers@me.com).

We discussed the potential budget for 2017. Here is the current outlook:

- Projected Expenses - \$ 56,765
- Current Pledges - \$50,758

**Forums: 2016 - 2017**

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

**Jan.** — Immigration

**Feb.** — Sacraments

**March** — Arts and social change

**April** — The Ten Commandments

**May** — Prayer.

**Vicar:**

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**Third Sunday of Advent**

This leaves us with a shortfall of about \$6,000. However, there are still some regular pledgers that we have not heard from, and we expect to receive \$500 - \$1,000 from visitors. We do not have many places to adjust our expenses. We agreed that we wanted to maintain Mary Ellen's compensation the same as 2016. Since we expect to have around \$10,000 in cash in our checking account at the end of this year, we agreed to proceed with the preliminary budget and cover any deficit from our cash assets. We also agreed to have the Stewardship chairs contact the regular pledgers that we've not yet heard from.

We agreed to have a document with the following stewardship information available on our website (<http://spiritofthewilderness.org>):

- Our Finances
  - o Where does our money go?
  - o How much do people give?
  - o What is our current financial outlook and goals?
  - o What and why should we pledge?
  - o How should we give?
- Stewardship Letter and Pledge Form
- Stewardship Sermon

Before we closed with a prayer, Milan took on the task to assure Mary Ellen that we miss her, but that we will be well until she is ready to return to us.

**Notes:**

1.) **Post Election Gathering for Solidarity, Hope, & Action.** (Shalom) All are welcome to gather for a potluck, **Dec. 12th, 5:30 PM at Kennedy's house**, We will share food and conversation to kindle hope and inspire action. Contact Beth for further information.

2.) **Tuesday, December 13th, Ruby's Pantry.**



3.) **Shower for Sarah & Kyle. Sunday, Jan. 29th at Solbakken.** Save the date!

