

## *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:**  
**Preaching:** Lee  
**Presiding:** Mary Ellen

### Readings this week:

**Fourth Sunday in Lent, 26  
 March, 2017**

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13  
**Psalm:** Psalm 23  
**Epistle:** Ephesians 5:8-14  
**Gospel:** John 9:1-41

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



### Reflections:

*By Mary Ellen*

*Toward Holy Week*

As we move through March toward Holy Week, even our weather seems to be treating us to ups and downs and ins and outs. Warm and then chilly—is spring coming? Will there be more cross country skiing?



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing  
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

Like so much of our lives, there's plenty we can't control or even predict. Maybe that is one of Lent's main messages—don't even think you can control your life—you're mortal!

Still, we do have some predictability, brought to us by the seasons, the church year, and our annual art show. Our show—topic this year "Kindling Curiosity—Lighting the Creative Spark"-- happens this time of year every year, and always brings joy—with the creativity and the community of the show. I love seeing how we as a church community come together to make this happen! For me, our opening reception has a kind of glow to it. (March 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5 pm.) I love the stimulation of the opening presentation, with someone from the 'outside' (this year, Ken Bloom from the Tweed Museum in Duluth) bringing us thoughts and insights on spirituality and the arts.

Be sure to sign up with Bonnie Gay for dates and times to be there, welcoming visitors and answering questions if they have them. Invite your friends to come to the show.

Lent will then slide us on into Holy Week. Palm Sunday is a big one—the last day of our show at the Johnson Heritage Post as well as ushering in Holy Week, with a visit from Bishop Brian Prior. This is a gift for us to have this wonderfully supportive bishop come for a visit!

**Forums: 2016 - 2017**

**Forums** — immediately following services we grab our coffee and treats and spend an hour learning.

**April** — The Ten Commandments

**May** — Prayer

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On that Palm Sunday we'll have our service at church; I always think of Palm Sunday as "mood swings Sunday" where we rock from triumphal entries and Hosannas through doubts, betrayal, and to death. The Bishop will preach and preside at our service. Then we'll head down to the art show, to show him around, and then over to Padzieski's for a soup lunch, after which we'll bid him a fond farewell.

We'll have our Seder on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, at Hedstrom's House of Holy Happenings—look out for a sign up sheet for this. And this can be a good time to invite guests as we explore the Jewish festival meal and the origins of our Eucharistic feasts.

On Good Friday we have our annual interdenominational Good Friday cross walk and service. We'll meet at the Congregational Church (6 pm) and walk with the cross through the streets, stopping to pray at different churches. Then, at 7:00 we'll gather back at the Congregational Church for an hour-long service—liturgy planned by the Congregational Church, with me preaching. (It would mean a lot to me to see you there.)

By Sunday, we'll be ready for Easter!!

Please mark your calendars for all this—as we see each other through the uncertain weather and the uncertainties of life by moving from death to life.

**Notes:**

1.) Bishop Prior will be visiting SOTW on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017. Details for this, and for Holy Week activities are included in Mary Ellen's Reflection in this issue. Please add these to your calendar.

**Seeking the Spiritual Dimension in Art**

On March 24<sup>th</sup> – Spirit of the Wilderness’ annual art show--"Kindling Curiosity-- Lighting the Creative Spark"-- will open with a reception and presentation entitled "Seeking the Spiritual Dimension in Art." Ken Bloom, Director of the Tweed Museum in Duluth is known as an articulate spokesperson for the arts, bringing knowledge of many parts of the world together with his knowledge of art.

Many local artists as well as students at most local schools will have their work on display during this show, which annually challenges artists to explore themes on the crossroads of art and spirituality. This year’s focus hopes artists will consider what sparks their creative juices.

Here’s how Bloom describes his presentation:

Since cave paintings, artists have created pictures conveying belief, making tangible what would otherwise be unseen. Artistic imagery must evolve, as metaphors, communication mediums, spiritual symbolism, and audience literacy change over time and space. The desire to characterize forces greater than ourselves persists within the imagination, perhaps as a divinely planted creativity or as an intentional expression of inspiration. Or perhaps the spark is in the eye of the beholder! Bloom will present a selection of images that illuminate these thoughts.

"Kindling Curiosity-- Lighting the Creative Spark" will run through April 9<sup>th</sup> at The Johnson Heritage Post.

Volunteer Schedule (as of a couple of days ago). Please contact Bonnie Gay Hedstrom if you are able to assist. Training will be provided!

**2017 SOTW Art Show Volunteer Schedule**

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10am-1pm		Artists bring	Artists bring	Hanging	Hanging	24	25
1pm-4pm		art	art			Opening 5pm	
10am-1pm	26 XXX	27 <i>Ginny</i>	XXX	29	30	31	1
1pm-4pm	<i>Carolyn</i>		XXX		<i>Carolyn</i>		
10am-1pm	2 XXX		XXX	5	6	7	8
1pm-4pm			XXX	<i>Shawn</i>		<i>Shawn</i>	<i>Shawn</i>
10am-1pm	9 XXX	All done!					
1pm-4pm							



**CALLING ALL ARTISTS !**  
**KINDLING CURIOSITY**  
*Lighting the Creative Spark*  
 March 24- April 9, 2017

That twinkle of curiosity, the haggling paradox, that fire of wonder...what kindles it? In you, pushing you toward expression? Explore in clay, paint, glass, fiber, words, wax or photos.

Drop work at the Johnson Heritage Post on March 30 or 28. Maximum two pieces per artist.

Questions? Contact the Art Committee: Bonnie Gay Hedstrom, Ellen Stubb, Mary MacDonald or Mary Ellen Ashcroft.

Sponsored by  
**SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

From Carolyn Schmidt: Here is the flyer for our Mission Area Gathering. Everyone is invited. And I am driving over the night before. If anyone wants to come with me.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

**9 am – 3 pm**

**NORTHEAST MINNESOTA  
MISSION AREA GATHERING**

**Christ Episcopal Church  
520 N Pokegama Ave  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota**

**FOCUS TOPIC**

**Racial Reconciliation &  
Native American Communities**



Join with others from faith communities across the Northeast Mission Area to build relationships, exploring this year's mission opportunity of racial reconciliation and our Native American communities. Share together with our Bishop and ECMN Missioners in a day of storytelling, reflection and education to equip our faith communities to more fully live into our ministries of peace and reconciliation.

**NO NEED TO REGISTER**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**GATHERING BEGINNING AT 8:30 AM**

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

**CONCLUDING WORSHIP SERVICE - 3:00 PM**

Our NE Mission Area is made up of faith communities from Duluth to Moose Lake to Grand Rapids to International Falls to Grand Marais - and in between

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

520 N. Pokegama Ave  
Grand Rapids, MN  
(218) 326-6279

April 8, 2017

9 am – 3 pm