

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: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Carolyn
Treats: Esme/Mary Ellen

Readings this week:

Fifth Sunday in Lent, 2 April, 2017

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm: Psalm 130
Epistle: Romans 8:6-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45

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



Reflections:

By Karen Halbersleben

"This is a triumph," a friend from the community said to me during Friday night's art show opening.

That emphatic word stayed in my mind as I mingled among nearly 100 folks who were enjoying the art, the food and wine, and being with friends on a gloomy evening in March.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

Certainly, I thought, this show represents a triumph for Spirit of the Wilderness Church and the way that we seek to be present in our community; a triumph for all our members who labor long and hard to make this wonderful event happen every spring.

The show is also triumph for our remarkable community, filled as it is with artists young and old who kindle their spirit and ours through their creativity. How blessed we are to have such talent in our midst!

And, I found as I wandered through the exhibit, this particular show represents a triumph in the way that we highlighted the artwork of young Native American artists from Grand Portage, whose depiction of their clan symbols and the written narrative that accompanied their art moved and instructed me. How marvelous that the work of these gifted children serves as the centerpiece and spiritual heart of our show this year!

Above all, over the years, I have come to see our art show as a triumph of vision. I remember when I first started attending Spirit of the Wilderness nearly four years ago, and met with Mary Ellen to learn more about the church. When she told me about the art show that the church organizes each spring, I thought to myself, "This is odd." I wondered both why a church would choose an annual art show as its headline event in the community, and how such a tiny congregation could mount a large and complex undertaking. Needless to say, as I have attended SOTW's art shows over the years, I have learned the answer to each question. Under Mary Ellen's strong, integrating vision of how God works within our hearts and in our community, I now see that the art show serves to call forth and celebrate the Spirit as it is found in the

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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ways we understand and portray the world around us. Our church calls us to worship God in so many ways! And, as part of a church that actively seeks to be Christ's hands and heart in the community, I have learned that no undertaking is too big for SOTW to tackle. Organizing a complex monthly food distribution program? We can do that. Marshaling our resources to support Health and Human Service's work with the needy in Cook County? No problem. Launching an art show that has become a signal annual event in the life of our community? Oh, yes. In triumph, oh yes.

**Notes:**

- 1.) Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017, Bishop Prior will be visiting the SOTW. Following the service at Maple Hill we will travel to the Johnson Heritage Post to share our Art Show with the Bishop. Then we will gather at Padzieski's for a soup lunch prior to his departure.
- 2.) Maundy Thursday: Seder on Thursday, the 13th, at Hedstrom's House of Holy Happenings — look out for a sign-up sheet for this. This can be a good time to invite guests as we explore the Jewish festival meal and the origins of our Eucharistic feasts. 5:30 - 7:30 PM.
- 3.) Good Friday we have our annual interdenominational cross walk and service. We'll meet at the Congregational Church (6:00 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 Mary Ellen preaching. (psst: It would mean a lot to MEA to see you there.)
- 4.) Easter Sunday at Maple Hill.

Potpourri of Art Show Activities. Photos by Ellen and Dave C.



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