

WILDERNESS WORDS

Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter:
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This Sunday:

Leading: Karen H.
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Carolyn
Treats:

Readings this week:

Pentecost, 4 June, 2017

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21 or
Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
or Acts 2:1-21

Gospel: John 20:19-23 or John
7:37-39

(To link directly to the readings
(click) [http://
lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/
texts.php?id=47#gospel_reading](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=47#gospel_reading)



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

First Experience of Church

A year ago, Henry (who has now been to any church half a dozen times in his young life) asked me on a Thursday afternoon if we could go to church. After I explained that church doesn't go on all the time, I asked "Why do you like to go to church?" "I bring up the bread," he answered.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

The last few Sundays I've been particularly noticing the kids in church and how we invite them to be present and involved. Ringing the bell, bringing up the elements, putting out candles — all important ways for them to be at the heart of our worship.

Yesterday was particularly meaningful to me, since (almost five year old) Henry was back in church for the first time since his dad died in December. And Alice (who is almost two) had her first ever experience of church.

Although we'd planned it so Carolyn Schmidt would be presiding, she was sick and had to bow out, so my experience was one of being Grandma/priest. I experienced the service with a kind of split screen—on the one hand a service familiar from years of being present to it (along with our particular expression of church at Spirit of the Wilderness) and seeing it as someone might for the first time through Alice's eyes.

Alice and Henry both helped ring the bell. Henry really wanted to carry the cross — although I'm sure he doesn't have a clue of its symbolism. When Karen and Bob started playing, "Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord ..." Alice watched with great eagerness. During Ellen's wonderful sermon, the cheddar bunnies were handy!

Having brought up the bread, Henry wanted to be close to the eucharistic celebration, although I'm sure he doesn't understand (maybe even less than me) the idea of "real presence." He stood between Marcia and me, eye level with the elements.

Both Henry and Alice wanted bread right away. "Henry, Jesus

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

June 4 — Prayer by Milan Schmidt

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Notes:

- 1.) This Sunday, June 4th - Forum after church on "Prayer" by Milan.
- 2.) Celebration of Reed and Barbara Holaday's presence at the Spirit of the Wilderness - June 11, 5 PM at Hedstrom's House of Holy Happenings. Hestroms' will cook a ham, so all are invited to bring dishes to share to go with that--we may be inside and out! More details to follow.
- 3.) June 11th - a brief meeting after church for those interested in helping out with our presence at the Grand Marais Art Fair.

loves you so much." Alice was like a little bird opening her mouth for me to put some in: "Alice, Jesus loves you so much." She began following me as I distributed the bread, hoping for more!

As we sang "Lord of the Dance" after communion, Alice and Henry danced and clapped. When she fell and bumped her head a couple folks came up to help her get up and dance again.

Putting out the candles. And Henry carried the cross back down the aisle.

Here are two wonderful children, who've already suffered a huge loss in their lives. What impression will they have of church from yesterday's service?

Friendly, loving people. A bear greeting them when they arrive. A place to sit at the center of the action. Being valued as active participants in the service. Eating great bread. Dogs. Fine, enthusiastic music that they're invited to be part of. Loving people again (and great treats) after.

I don't think there are many churches where kids can be so much a part of things. They don't understand the cross, the eucharist, the gospel procession, the prayers, the words of the hymns. Like us, their understanding is limited. But I sense that at a fundamental level, they feel the love and community and meaning. As a grandmother/priest I'm grateful.





Photos by Ellen Stubbs

