

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: Beth
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Mary Ellen
Treats:

Readings this week:

Trinity Sunday, 11 June, 2017

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm: Psalm 8
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

(To link directly to the readings (click) <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=142>



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

Inviting the Spirit

God’s plan is like the circles you get after throwing a rock into a still lake. God’s original call to Abraham, and then the wider circle of God’s deliverance of the people in Exodus. The prophets promising God’s promise to all, and then God’s fullest presence in Jesus. Jesus talks about how it will be better for the followers if he goes, so the Spirit can be sent.....



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

And then we get Pentecost—that gift of the Spirit described as wind, fire, multiple languages. We have experience with wind here in Cook County—think of that storm when waves were crashing across the road in front of Java Moose. Wind like that cannot be stopped—it’s wild. Fire, similarly, can be warming but also can be hard to control. These images of the spirit remind us that the Spirit cannot be controlled or contained.

Languages? Well, all these Jews visiting from all over the empire sure had the chance to hear the gospel in their own language and take the message with them. Or as Karen Halbersleben put it, “perhaps the Pentecost story’s emphasis on people hearing in their own language and that bit about speaking in tongues helps dramatize the RECOGNITION that something new and wonderful was in them and around them. Something they couldn’t attribute as anything other than the direct presence of God.”

No wonder Pentecost and Easter were the two main festivals celebrated in the earliest church, since these were the two that had changed everything—Jesus alive and the gift of the Spirit.

The Spirit changes the whole narrative bent of a story....reading along...seems predictable and then what??? That’s what the Spirit does. The whole message of Pentecost could be boiled down to this: the Spirit breaks in and cracks open the whole story for a new ending. Being broken open means that now God by the Spirit is available to everyone, not just a few. At this point Peter has no clue that this might mean gentiles will be given the Spirit...that happens

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

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later, but it is here at Pentecost that the Spirit is made available to all. The Spirit moves in unexpected ways, giving the same voice to a slave woman as a high class Roman senator. The Spirit changes the course of the whole movement.

If you think about it our prayer book doesn't leave a whole lot of space for the Spirit, except under controlled circumstances—baptism, confirmation, ordination. People are wary of the Spirit because you can't tell the Spirit what to do....

How can we invite the Spirit's presence in our everyday lives? (As I said in my sermon yesterday, it seems a shame to wait until we're being wheeled into surgery or in some other trauma....) The assumption in the New Testament is that we can be filled with the Spirit's peace and love. God's plan—to scatter the Spirit amongst the young and old, slaves and free, male and female—holds.

As you waken in the morning, breathe deeply, "Come Holy Spirit." When you get into your car, or open a door into a new place, breathe deeply, "Come Holy Spirit." When you feel overwhelmed, breathe deeply, "Come Holy Spirit." Before you eat a meal, breathe deeply, "Come Holy Spirit." Before you go to sleep at night, breathe deeply, "Come Holy Spirit."

For Gay Pride weekend, SOTW will join a march on June 24th, meeting at 2:15 in the UCC parking lot. We will proceed down to the library, where at 3 PM there will be a premiere of Patrick Scully's *Leaves of Grass*, summoning up the spirit of America's great poet, Walt Whitman.

**Notes:**

1.) 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!

2.) June 11th - a brief meeting after church for those interested in helping out with our presence at the Grand Marais Art Fair. Fair Dates: July 8 & 9.

3.) Ruby's Pantry is next Tuesday, June 13th. The school is doing a lot of work this summer, including replacing the gym floor. Because of timing and cure time, we are unable to use it in June and July, so distribution on June 13, and July 11 will be held in the Community Center arena.

