

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: Lee
Preaching: Milan
Presiding: Carolyn
Treats:

Readings this week:

Second Sunday After Pentecost, 18 June, 2017

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
OR Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100
Psalm: Above
Epistle: Romans 5:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

(To link directly to the readings (click)<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=146>



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

Farewell Reed and Barbara



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

Sunday was the feast day of St. Barnabas, and as I prepared my sermon I realized how crucial Barnabas was to the beginning of the church. I also realized how much like Barnabas Reed and Barbara had been in the life of our church, and how much this can be a challenge to us.

Barnabas is **generous, thinks strategically, a bit crazy** at times. Barnabas is okay **being in the background, supporting ministry**; Barnabas **stands up for the marginalized, he insists on second chances**.

There would be no Christian church without Barnabas and his behind the scenes ministry.

And I would argue that there would be no SOTW without Reed and Barbara’s ministry here. Today is their last Sunday with us....

They were here at the beginning, and like Barnabas, they have given **generously** all along the way.

Like Barnabas they brought their entrepreneurial background to bear, and acted **strategically**, in ways that have allowed us to grow, thinking about the future of the church when we were just getting going.

Like Barnabas, they have done a few things that might have looked a **little crazy** on the surface—like moving to Grand Marais to be here full time in December. They travelled from Tucson to Grand Marais—further than Barnabas’ trip from Antioch to Tarsus, but then he was on foot while they had a moving truck. Crazy: This can happen when you’re following God.

Like Barnabas, they have not needed to be up front: They have been okay being in the **background**. They have been **incredibly supportive** in all kinds of ways, of me, and of the church here.

And from early on, like Barnabas they **stood up for the**

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

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marginalized. I remember the meeting where they challenged SOTW to give away at least ten percent of our budget to those in need, that this would keep us from becoming self-centered. It's because of them, because of that challenge that we have our Good Samaritan fund, which has changed so many lives, and our way of being as a church here in Cook County, and has perhaps even led to some of our other outreach ministries like Ruby's Pantry.

And like Barnabas they have **believed that God can go on working** in individuals and the church. I see this in their lives, from when they said when they started the Deepening Roots course, and when asked why, said that they were 'cramming for finals'. I see it in their patience with God's ongoing work here at SOTW; I see it in their work at *Christ the King*, Tucson.

Wow. Reed and Barbara, we will miss you so much. But as we bless you on your way. Go-- knowing that you have been like Barnabas, literally making SOTW possible.

May we all be like Barnabas and Reed and Barbara, **giving generously, acting strategically, being willing to be a little crazy, being okay with being in the background, supporting ministry, standing up for the marginalized and believing that god can and will go on working.**

It's a big challenge to fill those shoes...but you have inspired us. We love you.

Notes:

- 1.) Ruby's Pantry is tomorrow, 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.
- 2.) July 9th will be leader training/refreshing after the service.
- 3.) SOTW at the Care Center June 25th.
- 4.) Art Fair July 8-9 : Please sign up with Sue Sutphin to bring treats and to be at our table during those days. If you'd like to help cut leaves, please let me know.
- 5.) We gave a book of pictures from the life of SOTW and the area (fabulous pix taken by Ellen Stubbs) to Barbara and Reed: many have signed it or sent messages. Having presented the book to them last night, I have kept it to include other messages. Please send any to Mary Ellen to put in, and then she'll send the book to them. maryellenvicar@gmail.com
- 6.) Look out for a chance to help Shawn and Dave & Kyle and Sarah with their moves over the next month.
- 7.) Many members of SOTW have been reading Richard Rohr's daily meditations from the Center for Action and Contemplation. If you haven't had a chance to read them yet, give it a try! <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/>



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.



Barb & Reed's last Sunday - Service & Reception. Photos by Karl Hansen.

