

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: Suzanne
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Carolyn
Treats:

Readings this week:

**Third Sunday After Pentecost,
 25 June, 2017**

First Reading: Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 **OR** Jeremiah 20:7-13 and Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18
Psalm: Above
Epistle: Romans 6:1b-11
Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

(To link directly to the readings (click) <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=147>



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

What do you expect from church?

If I had a dollar for each time someone has told me that their “church” is in the woods or on the water, I’d have a big stash. And you know, I love communing with the divine in woods or on water.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

But “church?” Maybe we expect the wrong things from church. I/you/we may experience God in church—but that’s not the main reason to go on Sundays.

Why go to church? Because in a church (at its best):

- You will be able to make a difference in the world, improving the lives of the marginalized in a way you couldn’t on your own.
- You will be forced to grapple together the gospel’s radically counter-cultural ideas, countering our society’s insatiable individualism and consumerism.
- You will rub shoulders with people unlike yourself-- called to love them and work with them.
- You will be reminded that your mind is not the whole world—that there may be mysteries beyond your ken.
- You will get to know people well enough to support them, and they will be able to support you when you need it.

When churches fail it’s because they offer the opposite—a group of like-minded people who make you feel better in your paranoia, opportunities to pat yourself on the back, reminding yourself that you deserve what you have, and a chance to remind yourself how right you are.

We go to church because we have promised in baptism

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

(with God's help) to continue "in the apostles teaching, the breaking of bread, the fellowship and the prayers." And like so much in life, it's the 'showing up' that matters for our own growth, and for the good of the community—in and out of the church walls.

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Another David Johnson capture.

**Notes:**

- 1.) This Sunday: Leaf cutting and drawing after church. Bring scissors.
- 2.) July 9th will be leader training/refreshing after the service.
- 3.) This Sunday: 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.) Look out for a chance to help Shawn and Dave & Kyle and Sarah with their moves over the next month.
- 6.) 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. 
- 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/>