

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: Dave C.
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Carolyn
Treats:

Readings this week:

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost, 23 July, 2017

First Reading: Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 **OR** Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17
Psalm: Above
Epistle: Romans 8:12-25
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

(To link directly to the readings (click) http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=151#epistle_reading



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

When we were in South Africa, Suzanne and I stopped at a craft center called *Tea Bag Designs*. A woman named Nomsa showed us the different studios and exhibits of art made with decorated tea bags. A video showed how the center had come out of the huge needs of nearby *Imizamo Yethu*—an ‘informal settlement’—really a slum with houses made of corrugated iron and canvas.



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

Just before we left, we thanked Nomsa, and she said to me, “This morning as I prayed, I asked God to send someone today who might help buy presents for our Sunday School Christmas party.” Intrigued, I asked her about the Sunday School and she told me that her church served *Imizamo Yethu* and that a large Sunday School was part of their ministry (along with a day school for the children). An annual Christmas party for the two hundred children was a highlight, with people in the church making special food for the children. They had never been able to buy presents for these kids, who had often not received a gift in their lives.

Back home I followed up with Nomsa and she put me in touch with the pastors of her church—Eddie and Busi Tsana. I sent them a check from the Lilly fund as ‘seed’ for an ongoing connection with that area and with *Tea Bag Designs*, asking if they would send some pix from the party. When they did, it was a delightful unabridged video of the party, which began with about an hour and a half of worship--singing and dancing--and then eating, and finally the presents! Each of the children was called forward to receive a gift which had clearly been chosen specifically for them and wrapped. They all took their presents and held them wrapped. Then they held them up for a picture, saying “thank you!!” and opened them.

The Tsanas, Nomsa and their church have continued to pray for Spirit of the Wilderness. My hope is that sometime we might take a group out to South Africa and worship with them, and do some follow up with that community and the Tea Bay Designs.

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

Returning in the fall.

Vicar:

Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone: 218-387-1536

<maryellenvicar@gmail.com>

Assisting Priest:

Carolyn Schmidt

Phone: 218-387-1806

<madrecj@aol.com>

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

<https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness>

[SpiritoftheWilderness](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness)

Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604

I would like to send them money for presents for the children again this year. I invite you to join me in bringing so much joy to kids in tough circumstances, while supporting a ministry to people in great need, while underlining our connectedness as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please write a check to SOTW with Hout Bay in the memoranda line. Karl will be happy to put these in a special fund. I'd like to send a check for around 800.00 dollars by the beginning of September. If you are mailing this in, Box 1115 GM 55604.

Dinner for International Students at Evangelical Free Church:

On the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 7- 9pm - please come and have a meal and talk to the students! They need to know people are interested in them and care. Bring some fresh vegetable dish - don't add dairy etc . There are lots of Muslim kids so they do not eat ham, pork etc. Ruby's Pantry will help provide some free gift certificate shares to help provide food for the dinner and Jean Eisenberger will be cooking but can always use some help on the Monday before. Let me know if you need more information Beth Kennedy: bkennedy@boreal.org

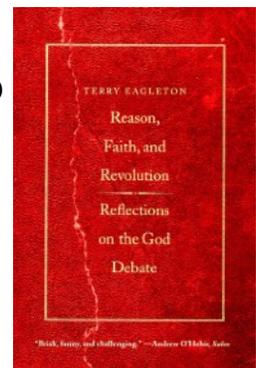
Notes:

- 1.) On Monday, August 7th, at 7 PM, **Mary Ellen** will be reading from her forth-coming book "OMG" for the Full Moon Reading series at Drury Lane Books. She would to see some of your friendly, smiling faces in the group!
- 2.) Sermon workshop for those who give sermons or who would like to try: Sunday afternoon (either July 30 or Aug. 20). At WindCradle with a potluck lunch to begin, followed by a couple hours working on preaching skills and resources. Please let me know which of those dates would work for you. Mary Ellen
- 3.) **Save the Date:** Sunday, August, 27th. The annual Parish Gathering "Up the Trail" will be hosted by Dave & Patsy Coleman at their home on Clearwater. It will also be a 10th Birthday Party for SOTW. Details to follow.
- 4.) Would you like to be part of a team focusing on **pastoral needs** at SOTW? Suzanne will be organizing this —which may include visits, babysitting, meals, prayers, unpacking boxes--for those in need. Please let her know if you'd like to be involved! 387 1536
- 5.) Mary Ellen will be teaching 4 sections of **Deepening Roots** in the Twin Cities this next Sept. - May. Although many SOTW folks have taken the course, some haven't; if you or someone on the edge of church would like to take this once monthly 3 hour course, let me know, and we'll see if we can get a group together. Here's a brief description: In the *Deepening Roots* course, we read scripture as narrative and canon--processing questions of how we read and how the Bible can be our book. *Deepening Roots* aims for all participants to become astute Bible readers and informed theologians, who can think and speak meaningfully about God.



Sharing: What I am currently reading: **Mary Ellen**

Terry Eagleton, *Reason, Faith and Revolution*. When I read a review of this book, I was surprised--Terry Eagleton was THE literary critic we all read in PhD programs. In this books he takes on the atheists like Dawkins and Hitchens, arguing that they are irrational in their portrayal of Christianity. He goes on to talk about his sense of Jesus and Christianity as radical and important, though he takes many expressions of Christian faith to task for being sold out to consumerism. He's very well-read and witty, for example: "It is rather like saying that thanks to the electric toaster we can forget about Chekhov." (MEA)



NEW Math for Vintage Minds: 3 x 70 = 210 Celebration = Hillary + Bonnie Gay + Karl

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, July 30, 4:30 - 7:30

AKA "Lord, Standin' in the Need of Prayer ... Party" in the log cabin 4H Building at the Cook County Community Center 4th Ave West and 5th Street. All are welcome. NO GIFTS PLEASE. Pie Place food and wine provided – *not* potluck. Music of the 'good old days' mixed by Lee Stewart.

PS: The hospital was St. Mary's on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota, now known as U of M Medical Center. From April to July of 1947, 3 babies were born who did not meet each other until many years later in Grand Marais!

