

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: Ellen
Presiding: Mary Ellen
Treats:

Readings this week:

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost, 30 July, 2017

First Reading: Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or *Psalm 128* OR 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136
Psalm: Above
Epistle: Romans 8:26-39
Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

(To link directly to the readings (click) http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=152#gospel_reading



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

In Praise of Imperfection

Last Sunday there were a few hitches during the service. The Psalm was changed last minute; the music box knew a slower version of the Gloria; we forgot till the last minute to grab the young bell ringer. The week before, there were a few hitches: I forgot to tell Milan who was leading that Henry is really into carrying the cross, and



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

Imperfection in church?!?!

Imperfection is one of our greatest gifts—without it we wouldn’t be who we are. People would be afraid to lead, to chalice, to preach, to read. Kids would not want to bring up the bread or put out the candles.

That’s crucial. But even more important—when you aim for perfection, you can so easily forget what really matters—the love, the connection, the worship. Last Sunday a couple visiting from Florida said afterwards, “Wow. This was amazing. We felt so welcomed and so much spirit!!!!” Our friends Lisa and Bernard were visiting from Columbus; at dinner with other guests that evening, Bernard said, “I’m not a church goer myself, but if I lived here, I would go to Spirit of the Wilderness—it feels so authentic, so real.”

I’ve been at churches where the Monday staff meeting is about what went wrong...we should have waited longer here, or made sure the organ introduction was clearer, or that the sermon was too long or short or.....

That doesn’t mean we don’t aim to do our best. I work hard on my sermons; Karen and Bob work hard on their music; Layne does a great job with the box. People work on their leading.

But we don’t sweat the small stuff, and compared to our connection, our worship, our blessing people on their engagements, on bringing the prayers of the wider community—most everything else fades.

My grandson Henry’s comments encapsulate this idea of church. When I pointed out St. Mark’s Cathedral to him and said, “This is where Babka got ordained.”

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

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

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“What’s ordained?” he asked.

“You know how Babka does some special things up front in the service.”

“Yeah.....I must be ordained too, because I carry the sticks (cross) and bring up the bread.”

This is exactly where the church must be, and must be going—with the focus on belonging, active involvement, love. I’m so thankful that we get to experience this week by week at Spirit.



In thanksgiving -
from the art fair.

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.) **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.
- 3.) 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
- 4.) Does anyone feel called to put together a new directory? We could sure use one.
- 5.) We need to have a church cleaning party before a large funeral Aug. 4th can you stay after church this Sunday and help?

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





Many Blessings last Sunday:
6 birthdays (including a new
grandchild for Rolf & Layne);
an engagement, and 2
special anniversaries.
Photos by Ellen Stubbs

