

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: Carolyn
Presiding: Mary Ellen
Treats:

Readings this week:

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost, 13 August, 2017

First Reading: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b OR 1 Kings 19:9-18 and Psalm 85:8-13
Psalm: Above
Epistle: Romans 10:5-15
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

(To link directly to the readings (click) <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=154>



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

We, The Bishop’s Committee had a wonderful retreat, led by Rev. Letha Wilson-Barnard, on August 7th. I want to summarize it for all of you.



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

August 2017 Retreat. First we looked back at what the Spirit has done over these last ten years, including growth, community participation, people who’ve shown up with gifts, growth into new gifts, and recognition by the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. We affirmed the value of not being perfect, of being able to try things out, and in that being like the flexible, practical early Church.

What had compelled us to commit, we asked, and realized there were a number of things—including not having to be perfect, being encouraged by the community, seeing each other’s gifts, being in a small group, active participation in the larger community—not to mention the vicar saying, “Hey why not try this?”

This was echoed as we shared what keeps us committed, including depth, trust, communication and vulnerability. We also listed new ideas like our presence in the art fair, at Ruby’s Pantry, in our art show, in response to crises like the election and the Orlando shootings.

As we talked about what we would change, we agreed that we would like more kids in church, a physical presence in town, and more musical talent involved. We particularly want to keep high degrees of participation, our Anglican connections, dogs’ and kids’ presence in our services.

When we moved to thinking ahead, we listed a number of ideas, which our Bishop’s Committee will be pondering, prioritizing and working on:

- How do we move into the future with a strong financial base?
- How do we ensure that people in Cook County who would value being a part of SOTW know about us?
- How do we continue our arts emphasis, while expanding the spiritual and financial reach?
- How do we invite more young families?
- How do we keep our strong sense of community?
- What if we outgrow Maple Hill church?

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

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Photos by Ellen Stubbs & DMC

- How do we tend relationships with those who are only with us occasionally?
- How do we continue activities that build community?
- Cultivating our talented musicians and inviting others for more variety of music?
- Are there ways we could have a space/presence in town?
- How do we remain faithful with our pastoral care?

We're fortunate to have such a great Bishop's Committee. If you have input/ideas on any of these, please let members of the Bishop's Committee know. And keep all this in your prayers.

Notes:

- 1.) **Save the Date: Sunday, August, 20th.** 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. On that day Henry and Annemarie (Bob and Brenda Gordon's grandkids, parents Kate and Pete) will be Baptized. So this is also a celebration of our newest members. ca. 1:00 PM. Dave & Patsy will provide burgers, brats, potato salad, and some refreshments. Please bring other items to share. Details and a map next week.
- 2.) **Mark your Calendars** — a women's group from Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in St. Paul will be having a weekend retreat up here Oct. 14-15; they will participate in our worship on that Sunday. On Saturday evening — to help fund the retreat — they will offer a Hmong cooking class. More later...



