

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: Karen H.
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Mary Ellen
Treats:

Readings this week:

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost, 3 September, 2017

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b OR Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8

Psalm: Above

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

(To link directly to the readings (click) http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=157#epistle_reading)



Reflections:

By Carolyn Schmidt

Last Saturday, on a gray cold day, a group of people gathered in Harbor Park. First a few, then more gathered. There were many familiar faces and there were some I didn't recognize. We came to Stand Against Bigotry and Hatred. People carried many different signs, I wish I had a picture of the signs, the variety was inspiring.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

At a little after 10 am we began to speak out what was in our hearts and on our minds. Over and over there were appeals to reach out to people we hate or fear or just disagree with and to find common ground and mutual respect. One man asked the question; "What does Black Lives Matter mean in this community where I am raising black children." He simply asked us to think about it.

People spoke about their fear, their uncertainty, their quiet anger and their hope for change. And they spoke about being persistent in resisting the urge to pull apart and to hate. There was a powerful question put to us: "What would we do if there was another group gathered here with Neo-Nazi signs." Someone recalled years of marching for various causes. She wanted to celebrate the changes we have seen and to never give up. One person excitedly jumped up and down and yelled "Peace and Love for everyone," several times.

People then began to talk about what could be done. Letters and phone calls were mentioned, and speaking up when we are confronted with hatred and bigotry. Several people talked about trying to form conversation groups with people who do not see eye to eye with each other right here in Cook County. Can we find a way to gather people to find common ground between groups of people in our own community? (civilconversationproject.org)

I felt an urgency and a yearning from everyone. The need to act and not just let things happen. Or as one person said: "You can't Not act if you care."

So, what is next?

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

Sept. 17 – *Climate Inheritance Resolution* Nordic Nature Group-- Olya Wright and others.

Oct. 22 — *Evolution and Faith* MEA

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Notes:

1.) **Ella's Book:** Most of us know that Ella and Layne and Rolf are leaving on Sept. 14th to walk the famous St. James Campostella Pilgrimage route in Spain. It's a long hike (500 miles) and Alyssa and Jon were saying that Ella's nervous. Besides giving them a public send-off on the Sunday before, I'd like us to make a book for Ella, with readings to encourage her on her way. (She could, of course, share them with her grandparents.)

Please look for poems, verses, sayings to be put into a book for her. If each of us did several, we could come up with almost one a day! Ginny Padzieski ginnypadz@gmail.com will put these together...

Please keep this secret from Ella until that Sunday, the 10th. (MEA)

2.) **Thanks!:** Also great thanks to people ... we have raised money for Christmas presents for the kids at the Sunday School near Hout Bay what joy that will bring!!! (MEA)

3.) **Kyle Stover** left yesterday and will shortly be in Montana fighting forest fires there for three weeks. Prayers for Kyle and for all those working to bring this devastation under control.





Photos by Ellen Stubbs

