

## 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](mailto:dmc@chem.wayne.edu) or [pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu](mailto:pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu)

### This Sunday:

#### Leading:

**Preaching:** Carolyn

**Presiding:** Mary Ellen

**Treats:**

#### Readings this week:

**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost, 10 September, 2017**

**First Reading:** Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149 OR Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40

**Psalm:** Above

**Epistle:** Romans 13:8-14

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:15-20

(To link directly to the readings (click)

<http://>

[lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)

[texts.php?id=158](http://texts.php?id=158)



### Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

Arts Idea

While I was on sabbatical in South Africa, part of my focus was on how the arts could be part of social change. Suzanne and I encountered two groups

we found inspiring. One, *Original Tea Bag Designs*, uses recycled tea bags which are hand painted “by formerly unemployed women.” Work is designed, assembled, shipped and sold in a craft center, with a number of workers; the tea bag painting takes place in people’s homes, as they add the crafting to other jobs or work while minding children. The economic impact, plus the sense of joy and empowerment, was remarkable.

*The Keiskamma Trust* began in an extremely poor area that had been badly hit by HIV/AIDS. Founded by a doctor/artist who began educating the community and getting necessary treatments to them, she then proposed an art project telling the community’s story, in fabric, stitchery, and yarn. Now the Trust employs people marketing, designing and making their lovely cushion covers, bags, wall hangings, etc.—and teaching youth these skills, thereby lifting the community out of dire poverty, bringing joy and empowerment.

For the last couple months I’ve been working on an idea which pulls together these sabbatical insights with some of our leadership areas as a church—in the arts and in outreach to our neighbors in need. I’ve met with the Arts Economy group, folks from AEOA and EDA, local retailers, folks from *The North House Folk School* and *the Grand Marais Art Colony*. Coming out of these meetings I have pulled together a board to oversee next steps. We have decided to start with a pilot program, which we are seeking grant money for.

In this pilot program, several area artists would be hired to design a piece (such as a birch bark or felted Christmas ornaments, a wooden top for children, or a distinctive lawn chair) and teach workshops for year-round residents to make similar artistic products to be sold locally. Program participants would be those who need more employment to make ends meet or who (from lack of affordable daycare) find working outside the home challenging. Participants would be given arts materials and ongoing support as



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

**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

they make their work, which would then be delivered to and sold by local retailers. In addition to boosting income, the program would build self-esteem, creativity and community among participants, many of whom suffer from lack of income and activity, especially during the non-tourist, non-construction months. Year-round artists/craftspersons would supplement their income while inspiring participants. Retailers in Grand Marais, who face increasing demand for locally made goods from a growing number of tourists would provide product for an already established market.

Please keep this project in your prayers, and if you have ideas you'd like to throw into the mix or ways you'd like to help out, let me know. Also, we need a name, so think on that!

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**Notes:**

**1.) Ella's Book:** Most of us know that Ella and Layne and Rolf are leaving on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ginnypadz@gmail.com) will put these together...

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

**2.) Sunday, Sept. 10th** - Send-off for Ella, Layne and Rolf!

**3.) Sunday, Sept. 10th** - SOTW at Care Center.

**4.) Kyle Stover** is in Montana fighting forest fires there for three weeks. Prayers for Kyle and for all those working to bring this devastation under control. Sarah could use a little helping hand at home after work with Reese, etc. Please contact her if you have a little time to assist. [sarahannstover@gmail.com](mailto:sarahannstover@gmail.com)



Photos by Ellen Stubbs

