

## *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:** Milan  
**Preaching:** Mary Ellen  
**Presiding:** Carolyn  
**Treats:**

### Readings this week:

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost, 17 September, 2017**

**First Reading:** Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 *or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21* OR Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103: (1-7), 8-13  
**Psalm:** Above  
**Epistle:** Romans 14:1-12  
**Gospel:** Matthew 18:21-35

*(To link directly to the readings (click) <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=159>*



### Reflections:

*By Mary Ellen*

*Reflection—Sept. 11*

I’ve realized my favorite thing about *Spirit of the Wilderness*: we can bring **ourselves** when we come together to worship. Maybe this sounds obvious, but I’ve sure been to many churches where you put on your best clothes, your best face, your upbeat self—before you walked in the door. What’s left outside? Deep stuff—your joys, your anxieties, your sorrows, your fears.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing  
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

When we were sending off Layne and Rolf and Ella for their pilgrimage yesterday—it felt so poignant to remember Ella with us as a little dancing tot, who we now send off on this adventure; to honor Rolf and Layne’s vision in putting their ad in the paper. We celebrate their journey, but it’s also a bit scary to go on this kind of trip. Yet they know they are not alone: that we go with them.

While we all felt concerned about Hurricane Irma, there were folks yesterday who had loved ones in the path. Or were waiting to hear if storm surge would wipe out their home. What do we do with those fears? Bring them to church.

Someone asked me how I understand a God who would allow these natural disasters, and I had to answer, “Well, I don’t, really...” But I know--we know--that we can find God’s presence in these times, at all times. From the time of my Steve’s diagnosis I have felt held by the love in our church, and I have felt able to bring my roller coaster feelings with me to worship.

At the Care Center yesterday, I talked about the metaphors for God in the Old Testament that could be summed up as “God, my evacuation center.” God is spoken of as a rock, a shield, a refuge, a strong tower, a fortress, a hiding place—all images of safety in the midst of danger.

It is a great gift that our safe place, our shelter from the storm is in God, but God “with skin” in our church community.

**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

**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](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

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

Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604

**Notes:**

1.) **Ruby's Pantry** distribution is this **Tuesday, September 12** at the Community Center one more time!! 3:00 is a good starting time! Hope to see you there.



2.) **On Saturday Oct. 14**, women from Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in St. Paul (who will up here on retreat) will offer an egg-roll making class. Maximum size is 20. Cost will 20 dollars each (will help defray their retreat expenses...) RSVP to Mary Ellen by Sept. 26th, and then I'll open it to the greater community. [maryellenvicar@gmail.com](mailto:maryellenvicar@gmail.com)

3.) **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)



