

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: Lee
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Bao Moua Thao

Readings this week:

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost, 15 October, 2017

First Reading: Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 **OR** Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23
Psalm: Above
Epistle: Philippians 4:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

(To link directly to the readings (click) <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=163>



Reflections:

By Lee & Karl

More on Engaging God's Mission of the Beloved Community

In this space on September 19th, we began to talk about the 2018 Theme for the Episcopal Church.



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

(www.episcopalchurch.org/reconciliation)

Our wider community of Cook County has been facing some painful racial events in the past few months, leading one family to move away to protect their children from discrimination. This is serious and when we are honest we know that this has been going on here for the entire history of Cook County.

This topic of how to be a Beloved Community is vital to our lives as we live and interact here.

At Convention, Heidi Kim, Staff officer for Racial Reconciliation with the National Episcopal Church, our sermon speaker and discussion leader reminded us that there are two commandments – to love God and to love our neighbor. To follow these commandments, we all mandated to confront structural issues of racism in our community.

The theme of Beloved Community is taken directly from the Martin Luther King, Jr. writing

"... in the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood..." (The King Center "The King Philosophy")

The Beloved Community is God's Kingdom on Earth. It is a vision for humanity in which there is complexity and difference but also peace and justice.

We took part in an afternoon of small group discussion on working toward a Beloved Community.

We discussed ways to learn -- finding resources: podcasts, books,

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

Oct. 22 — *Evolution and Faith*
MEA

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articles for individuals and groups, then how to participate by finding events, trainings, and opportunities to meet and learn with others and finally to reflect by sharing our stories with others in a safe space.

So, to begin the new year we are invited to focus -- reflect deeply on our community, both faith and neighbors -- and to ask in what way we are being faithful to the Beloved Community in kinship across lines of differences. As each community is encouraged to approach the goals in their own way, we are putting forth some ideas for discussion and action. We had four discussion points around this that we will share as we continue with this topic in the months to come. The four discussion points center around how we take action toward becoming a Beloved Community.

The first one of the four discussion points is **Tell the truth -Who are we? What have we done and what have left undone regarding racial justice and healing?**

Timely certainly and more to come!

PLEASE think and pray about what a Beloved Community means to you.

And more from the Bishop's Blog: <https://brianprior.com/2017/10/10/gospel-work/>

Notes:

- 1.) **Saturday Oct. 14** - Leading this Sunday is Bao Moua Thao, Hmong priest visiting from Holy Apostles, St. Paul along with women from the parish (who will up here on retreat).
- 2.) **Preaching Class** — please let MEA if you are interested and we'll set up a good time....
- 3.) We would like to have more different voices in our newsletter **Reflections**. Would you like to sign up--perhaps for once a month or once every two months? Please let Mary Ellen know.
- 4.) Save the Date: **Enneagram Retreat** Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 & 2. Location TBD. Led by Marcia Hyatt and Mary Ellen Ashcroft Early bird sign up: \$150.00. Space will be limited, so if you'd like to do the retreat sign up early with Mary Ellen



Photos by Ellen Stubbs (last two Sundays)



