

## *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:** Lee  
**Preaching:** Ted Lewis  
**Presiding:** Mary Ellen

### Readings this week:

***Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost, 19 November, 2017***

**First Reading:** Judges 4:1-7 and Psalm 123 **OR** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

**Psalm:** Above

**Epistle:** Thessalonians 5:1-11

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30

*(To link directly to the readings (click) <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//texts.php?id=169>)*



### Reflections:

By Bob Padzieski

### Why??

When I took on my first management job, I quickly discovered the most important question to keep in mind was “Why?” If someone was proposing a different way to approach a design, if two people were having disagreements, or if an employee’s job performance suddenly dropped, it was important to understand what was behind something I knew I was expected to act upon.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing  
Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

“Why” seems to be the most often used word of many children of a certain age, so much so that it can be difficult to always thoughtfully respond. “Why” – because that’s the way things are. “Why” – because I said so. However, when we take the time to seek the answer and honestly reply, there is growth for both us and the child.

“Why” has been the question that has fired discoveries and inventions through the ages.

“Why” is the most important question to ask ourselves when we respond to our annual stewardship drive. Why do I support *Spirit of the Wilderness* with my time, my talents and my money? Why do I choose it as a place of worship? Why does it hold a special place in my heart and in my life’s priorities?

For me it’s three things. First, I was brought up to give a part of what I have and what I am to the church. Second, *Spirit of the Wilderness* is part of the Episcopal Church which has a theology that fits my beliefs and a liturgical tradition that touches my soul. Third, so many of our congregation actively reach out to our broader community to live out the Gospel rather than simply preach it.

Finally, contributing ideas to this newsletter is not a closed club. Just as when we gather around the table, all are welcome. I invite you to send a short note to Dave about why you support *Spirit of the Wilderness*.

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Those who worshipped with us last Sunday heard the homily

**Forums: 2016 - 2017**

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

Nov. 19th: *This Sunday!!* Ted Lewis, Restorative Justice Specialist and Trainer, on “Restorative Justice.”

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

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about the ten teenage girls and their cell phones. Stewardship letters were handed out, and the rest will be mailed out. If you’re interested in the [homily](#), or are not on our mailing list and would like a [stewardship letter](#), you can click on the link below to download or read:

[http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org/Spirit\\_of\\_the\\_Wilderness/Stewardship.html](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org/Spirit_of_the_Wilderness/Stewardship.html)

**Notes:**

- 1.) For a few days at the end of November, a consulting group called ARTSPACE is visiting and working with various art groups to get input for a more comprehensive art plan. On Wednesday, Nov. 29th, there will be a public meeting at the courthouse, and you are encouraged to come. I've ( MEA) volunteered us to bring treats! 7-8:30 in the Commissioners Room.
- 2.) Care Center is Nov. 26th. This is the Sunday after Thanksgiving.
- 3.) Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Bethlehem Lutheran--more details to follow.
- 4.) Dave and Shawn Howe are planning an open house/house warming for Dec. 17th ... save the date.
- 4.) Save the Date: **Enneagram Retreat** Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 & 2. Location: Lutsen Resort. 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





November 2017

Dear Friends in the Spirit,

Though no longer able to make the 1,800-mile trip to Grand Marais from her home in Florida, my Mom joined Spirit of the Wilderness Church one fine day this summer. Our church had prayed for her during the long, hard months of my father’s final illness a couple years ago, and she relished the pastoral calls she received from Mary Ellen over the telephone. Mom has felt upheld and supported by her SOTW church family and closely follows the life of our congregations through the weekly newsletter. She has found that distance is no barrier to SOTW’s loving fellowship!

This summer, when I sent her the pictures of the church doing a “Dinah Shore Kiss” of welcome, she was so excited that she printed copies to show her Florida friends. On the phone, after we finished celebrating this significant day in her life, Mom asked, “So when do you send the bill?”



Of course, we giggled at the way she had phrased the question. But, deep down, the Stewardship Co-chair in me knew that Mom had asked exactly the right question. Though we like to wrap it up in lofty phrases and strategically chosen quotes from the Bible, Stewardship season is indeed when the church

sends us our bill. Our bill from SOTW includes our financial obligations to our staff, to the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, and for our other basic operating expenses. Our bill helps fund the mission outreach that SOTW performs in this community. At its most basic, our bill represents our fundamental priorities as a Congregation: being the hands and heart of Christ here in Cook County.

“The Blessed Community” will be our church’s theme for this Advent season: a powerful message that I believe applies equally well to Stewardship. As I prepare to pay my share of SOTW’s bill this year, I am mindful of the of Blessed Community to which I belong. A Blessed Community begun by running an ad in the local newspaper. A Blessed Community that expresses the Spirit through the warmth of its welcome to all. A Blessed Community that is known throughout Cook County for its caring, activist, inclusive ministry. My financial commitment this year will convey both my sense of Blessing, and my love of this Community.

This Stewardship season: Claim the Blessing; Celebrate the Community. Ma, time to pay your bill!

Karen I Halbersleben  
Stewardship co-chair