

## *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:** Karen H.  
**Preaching:** Carolyn Schmidt  
**Presiding:** Carolyn Schmidt

### Readings this week:

**Second Sunday of Advent, 10  
 December, 2017**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-11  
**Psalm:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
**Epistle:** 2 Peter 3:8-15a  
**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8  
*To link directly to the readings (click)*  
[https://  
 lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//  
 texts.php?id=49](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=49)



### Advent Two: Dec. 10 (John the Baptist)

How might we 'prepare the way' for others to become part of the community of SOTW?

### Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

As we focus on what it means to be 'the beloved community' we turn from how we have been enriched, to how we can share the riches. How can we 'prepare the way' for others to join us at Spirit of the Wilderness?



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing  
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

Beth spoke on Sunday about how happy she is to be part of our little community, and how our stepping up—to sponsor Ruby's Pantry and with our Good Samaritan Fund—has made the feeding of many possible. (See Beth's notice for some other ways we can serve during this holiday season.) Our outreach—both in these practical ways and in terms of our 'presence' when we hold a gathering in Harbor Park, responding to some traumatic event—have given us a reputation. We are known to be a church that is out there doing important good work, being Christ's hands and feet. Most of us have had people say, "Oh if I were going to come to church, I'd come to Spirit of the Wilderness." But somehow they don't come. Or we have had folks who come once, seem to really like the welcome they receive, and then disappear, never to be seen again.

As we've agreed at Bishop's Committee meetings and retreats, we don't want everyone to come to SOTW. We don't want to become huge. But we do want people who we feel would find their lives enriched like ours have been by being at Spirit—we'd like them to join us.

Our focus for this week, then, is about how we might welcome others to be part of 'the beloved community.' I

**Forums: 2016 - 2017**

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

**Sunday, Dec. 3rd:** Forum on Mark's Gospel.

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Carolyn Schmidt

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

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challenge all of us to think about this question, maybe by asking some sub-questions.

- Are there barriers to coming to SOTW? (We may need to ask outsiders, because clearly these are not barriers for those who come....) These could include worship time, location, etc.
- Are there things we could do (without radically altering who we are) that would make it for visitors to come back?

Ponder and discuss these questions. We'll write down some ideas onto circles and put them up this Sunday. (I'm aware that many are going to be away this weekend; if you are you can write them next week on both.....) Or if you are one of our 'further afield folks' what ideas do you have?

Peace, Mary Ellen

**Coffee at Carolyn and Milan's**

Thursday, December 14 at 4:00 pm

1633 Croftville Rd

Coffee Conversation

Topic: How do I cope with my aging parent?

Who lives far away?

Who needs more help?

Who is drifting away slowly with dementia?

Come and bring friends too.

Carolyn Schmidt

[Madrecj@aol.com](mailto:Madrecj@aol.com)

**Notes:**

1.) **Dave and Shawn Howe** are planning an open house/ house blessing on Dec. 17th. It will start right after Church; but arrive as you are able up to 5:00 PM. Shawn will have a main dish prepared. Salads/sides/deserts are welcome. Bring your ice-skates, too.



2.) **Ruby's Pantry** is next Tuesday, **12 December, 2017**. Many volunteers are needed.

**Schedule of Christmas Services:**

Sunday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve

10:30-11:15 Advent Four Morning Prayer

5:30-7:00 Candle Lighting Christmas Eve,

Eucharist

Monday, Dec. 25th No service.

Sunday, Dec. 31st, New Year's Eve

10:30 Christmas I Eucharist.

Photos by  
Ellen Stubbs

**From Beth Kennedy:**

**Operation Family Christmas** has 100 families that need gifts and a grocery card for children this Christmas. North Shore Federal Credit Union will once again have a tree a tag with present ideas for each child - this year we also ask that you buy a Grocery gift card for each child because the Salvation Army will not give them the Johnson's gift certificate this year.

Won't you help buy presents and a Christmas meal for our local Cook County kids? ( think about the price of your Christmas meal and please match that amount)

The tags on the tree at the Credit Union will tell you age of child sometimes sizes and what they are wishing for! You will be amazed how often hats, mittens, and boots are on the list not just toys! Families put in an application to get us this information and then they pick up the unwrapped toys before Christmas so parents then can wrap the presents!

If you are out of town and want to help send a donation to Kids Plus - Operation Family Christmas PO Box 63 ( 501c3) Grand Marais, Mn 55604 Please help Cook County kids have a Merry Christmas!

If you wish to help a Cook County SENIOR CITIZEN or adult who have need with a gift certificate for a food card- send a check to Spirit Of Wilderness church POBox. 275 Grand Marais, Mn 55604 We will buy the grocery cards and then give to Social Services to hand out to maintain confidentiality.

We hope to give at least \$25- \$ 35.00 to each person. Ruby's Pantry free gift Certificates will be given to each of these groups of people and kids and users of Food Shelf but it costs us \$20.00 per gift certificate to pay for transportation of the food and trucks etc. Donations to Cook County Ruby's Pantry can be sent to POBox 5 Grand Marais ,Mn 55604 or donate on Dec 12th at Ruby's food distribution at High School Help us make Cook County kids, families, and Seniors HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



