

## *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:** David C.  
**Preaching:** Milan  
**Presiding:** Mary Ellen

### Readings this week:

**First Sunday after Christmas Day, 31 December, 2017**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3

**Psalm:** Psalm 148

**Epistle:** Galatians 4:4-7

**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

*To link directly to the readings (click)*

<https://>

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

[texts.php?id=55](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//texts.php?id=55)



Candle for Ellen and Karen

### Reflections:

*By Mary Ellen Ashcroft*

In England, the greeting is “Happy Christmas.” Here it’s “Merry Christmas.” Songs tell us to have ourselves a ‘merry little’ one, tell us it’s the ‘hap, happiest time’ and bring us good tidings.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

With all these Christmas wishes, it’s worth asking: Well? Did you have one? I notice that after Christmas day people say to each other, “How was your Christmas?” and the answer is usually, “It was nice...” or “Quiet...” After all the hype leading up to Christmas, seems a little under-whelming.

Maybe we have the wrong words—‘merry’ or ‘happy’ sound a bit superficial, as if indeed it is all about getting the presents we wanted. Even Scrooge, who ‘knew how to keep Christmas well’ celebrates that first one after his conversion by reaching out to connect with relatives, to help those in need, to be someone who loves and is loved.

Have yourself a ‘meaningful’ Christmas? A ‘connected’ Christmas? A Christmas in which the implications of the incarnation strike you anew?

At our service the other night and our gathering on Christmas Day, it was the love, the connection, the meaning—even with those who are at a distance—that really matter.

**Prayers for Ellen Stubbs & Karen Kobey:** As many of you know Ellen had a recent CAT scan that shows she has a tumor in her brain. She had an MRI today and will meet with the neurosurgeon tomorrow. Please pray for them--for healing for Ellen; for peace for both of them.

Here are some ways to contact them: Karen: [stonefly@boreal.org](mailto:stonefly@boreal.org)  
 Ellen: [estubbs290@aol.com](mailto:estubbs290@aol.com)  
 Their twin cities address is 247 Wildflower Ct., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

**Forums: 2017 - 2018**

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

**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

**SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

at Historic Maple Hill Church, four miles up the Gunflint Trail

*All are welcome and invited to celebrate with us this Christmas season*

Sunday, December 24

- 10:30 A.M. - Morning prayer

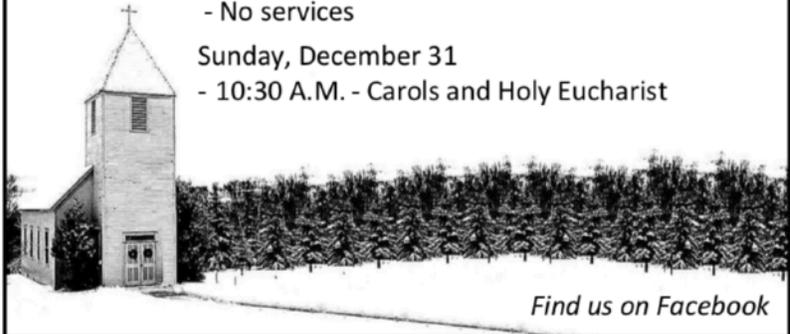
- 5:30 P.M. - Carols, lessons and Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 25

- No services

Sunday, December 31

- 10:30 A.M. - Carols and Holy Eucharist



*Find us on Facebook*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Thanks to Karen H. for the photo.

