

## *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:** Sarah Stover  
**Preaching:** Mary Ellen  
**Presiding:** Carolyn S.

### Readings this week:

#### **Second Sunday after the Epiphany, 7 January, 2018**

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

**Psalm:** Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**Gospel:** John 1:43-51

*To link directly to the readings (click)*

<https://>

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

[texts.php?id=61](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//texts.php?id=61)

Candle for Ellen and Karen



### Reflections:

*By Mary Ellen*

*Reflections from a Surgical Waiting Room*



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

Sitting with Karen as Ellen was prepped for her brain surgery, we shared Ellen stories with an old friend of theirs who drove us to the hospital.

After a couple hours, a decades long friend of Ellen came and sat with us. We had a chance to go and see Ellen before she was taken in to surgery. I said to the nurses in the room, “Would you like to pray with us?” They turned in surprise, “Yes, yes...” and joined hands with us as we prayed for Ellen and for all involved in the surgery. There were few dry eyes.

Then the waiting, as hour passed hour. We were physically present, but we deeply felt the care and prayers of many people: it was so lovely to have this sense of being held in God’s peace.

Make no mistake: this was really a tough time, to be there while we knew our dear Ellen was being operated on.

But as I looked around the room, I saw a woman completely on her own, as her son was in for cancer surgery. Another young woman curled in a fetal position as her husband was taken in for surgery. She had a translator who occasionally reported to her. A woman with two teenage daughters sat with a terrified look as her daughters tried to do homework and scrapped with each other. Her husband’s surgery was as long as Ellen’s.

When we left the Surgical Waiting Room, after about six hours sitting there—I spoke to the woman who was waiting while her husband’s surgery continued. His was a brain tumor, too. They were from North St. Paul.

Stuff happens. Less than a month ago, Karen and Ellen had no idea they were going to be walking this road. Stuff happens. But it needn’t be faced alone. The isolation of many of these people loomed enormous—their fear and stress was palpable.

Karen said she felt lucky to have so much support. “Yes, be grateful,” I said. “But you have given of yourselves to so many people, building friendship and community. You have invested in people and love. This is not luck.” Community, friendship,

**Forums: 2017 - 2018**

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

**Sunday, Jan. 21st, 2018:**  
 Mark's gospel--our gospel of the year--briefly after the service.  
 Led but Mary Ellen. Jan. 21st

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**Prayers for Ellen Stubbs & Karen**

**Kobey:** Ellen is home (in good spirits and very happy to be there) following surgery. The surgery went very well. She will be meeting with specialists over the next few days to solidify the next actions (radiation and perhaps chemo) over the next few weeks: To contact: 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 for cards. Calls are discouraged for now.

connection are built, and are then in place when we need them.

We are not meant to face life alone, but with our lives woven together. Woven together, we can face most anything. Woven together there are moments of joy and glimmers of grace within the tough times.

Appreciate and build community; invest in what really matters—loving connection.

**Upcoming:**

- 1.) **Jan. 21:** Forum on Mark's Gospel, after the service.
- 2.) **Jan. 28:** Spirit of the Wilderness Annual Meeting. Likely gathering afterwards at the SkyPort Lounge. Watch here for details.
- 3.) **Date TBD:** Homily class by Mary Ellen for those who would like to give it a try.
- 4.) Donations are still needed to cover the Ruby's Pantry shares that were gifted to many needy individuals during December. Please see Beth Kennedy.

