

WEEKLY E-LETTER -- Aug. 20/15



Grace and Peace to you this day!

I hope you are able to find some refreshing coolness in your day. I've had to buy fans for the first time! It gives me a better idea how dreadful it must be when heat soars to around 50 degrees and thousands are living in refugee camps with scarce water. This makes me want to do more to work for better treatment of all those who have no safe home.

There is much work to do .One of the positive outcomes from the work of General Council last week was a decision regarding mutual recognition of ministry with Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea, with the United Church of Christ in the

Phillipines and also the decision to enter into full communion with the United Church of Christ USA. Such decisions means we are working across several cultures other than our North American one to be the Church. For me, it makes change seem less overwhelming knowing that we have strong partnerships with worldwide churches.

This Sunday we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion with our sister church St. Paul's. I hope you can be present.

I am happy to say that there will be two new opportunities for deepening faith this September, as follows:

EARTH MYSTICS

Beginning Sept. 13, 2015

Four Email Retreats focusing on Earth Mystics who call us to deep wonder and caring. Visit with the "Green saint" Hildegard of Bingen, the Sufi poet Rumi, artist Emily Carr, and songwriter and activist Carolyn McDade.

LANDSCAPES OF THE SOUL SMALL GROUP STUDY RESOURCE

A small group experience wherein we will journey with the ancient People of God exploring four sacred places.

These places help us deepen our soul and cherish our place in creation.

Please let me know if you have an interest in either of these. We'll establish a mutually workable day and time for the small group meeting.

One of the features of the very old churches I saw on my trip to Germany were pulpits, raised high (some very high) above the congregation. Some had staircases up to them with a locked door at the base! Here's a picture of one of them. Couldn't help but wonder what it would feel like to climb up there every Sunday!

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