

## Wilderness Words



## Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—November 18, 2010

### Vicar Notes:

I found myself filled with wonder at last week's conference on Missional Church. Here are some things that struck me, and a few questions they raised:

- Having a strong sense of Identity is helpful in a church—but often lacking in mainline churches. How can we underline a strong sense of our identity as Inclusive and Liturgical? Of people who are “inviting mystery, embracing compassion, and encountering Christ?”
- Many successful people are suffering from “Affluenza”—they have “made it” from the world's point of view, but somehow it's not filling them. How can we at Spirit find ways to touch those who are suffering from this mysterious illness?
- The idea of “missional church” is founded on the idea that God is at heart missional, that the Trinity is about reaching out and around. This idea of God as fundamentally relational, expressed in the Greek word “perichoresis,” could be translated, “God walking around the neighborhood.” How do we in our lives in Cook County reveal this relational God?
- Missional churches look for where God is acting, where the Spirit is moving, rather than having our own plan and asking God to please, bless it. Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work here in Cook County?

We are blessed not to have a building to worry about—we can really ponder how God is leading us to be church here in Cook County. I am grateful!

Peace, Mary Ellen+

### Don't Forget!

- November 21st: First potluck after church at Andrew and Jennye's
- November 23rd: 7-8 Creativity and Spirituality @ the Tavern
- November 24th: Thanksgiving Eve Service
- November 27th: Advent Wreath Making at the Art Colony
- November 28th: Brief forum on Matthew
- November 28th: Care Center Service 2 PM
- December 18th: Spirit rings Salvation Army bells at Johnson's
- December 24th: Christmas Eve service



- Further out....most of us who heard presentations on Nets for Life—the project to provide anti-malarial nets to people in Africa—thought we'd like to do a fund raiser. Maybe we can have another “Hope for Haiti” type event in February or March.
- Our collaboration with the Art Colony will once again be the two weeks before Easter....keep an eye out for more news about this.