

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—December 9, 2010

Vicar Notes:

At the Messiah concert the other night, I was struck by what a remarkable community this is. What hit me hardest was this: some of the people singing their hearts out were people who would say they were NOT people of faith. And yet there, as they sang or played, for that brief bit of time, they—we all—had a sense of being involved in something far bigger than ourselves.

I believe that one of the gifts the Episcopal Church often offers to people is this: we don't necessarily ask people to tie down that sense of mystery, of the transcendent. Those who have been hurt by religion—as I assume many of those people have been—can find a place to gently grow toward some of that divine joy.

That's one reason I'm so thankful to be a part of the Episcopal Church. This Sunday, in the diocesan cycle of prayer, all over the state Episcopalians will pray for "Spirit of the Wilderness, Grand Marais." We are part of a larger community—and I'm thankful for that.

As I'm in the Twin Cities at several different churches this weekend, leading retreats and preaching, I'll be answering questions about Spirit—celebrating our unique fellowship here in Cook County, but also our being part of the greater church in Minnesota.

Barbara and I took communion to Lorraine in her little house on Seagull Lake—the Spirit is there in that out of the way place, the Spirit is present with us on Sunday mornings, the Spirit is present at a Christmas concert.

Peace, Mary Ellen+



Don't Forget!

Bring food shelf food this Sunday!

December 18th: Spirit rings Salvation Army bells at Johnson's
December 21: Help needed for packing Portage food shelf food.

December 24th: Christmas Eve service

Ahead.....look out for a "Vicar of Dibley" night and a trip to the Trail Center for socials. Also, a fund-raising party. Not to mention Theology on Tap and collaboration with The Art Colony!



Be sure to check out the video of Spirit of the Wilderness at Convention on the diocesan website!!