

## Wilderness Words



## Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—March 17, 2011

### Vicar Notes:

On Tuesday I led a workshop for spiritual directors, pastors, and seminarians entitled, *Forming Ritual*. As I prepared and presented to about 60 participants, I was struck by the need for us to use our tradition, and at the same time incorporate new ways to enliven and personalize those traditions.

It seemed to me that in our Ash Wednesday evening we did just that: we used the service from *The Book of Common Prayer*—reciting Psalm 51, imposing ashes, saying together the Litany of Penitence—all part of our rich tradition. And while these are wonderful, I can't help but feel that when that service is followed "by the book," it lacks space for individuals to really search their hearts and listen to God's speaking. And so we made time for that, with time to sit quietly, to confess privately, to resolve—and to express those in a tangible way.

I can't help but feel that this is one of the best things we can do as a church: take our wonderful tradition, use it, and shape spaces in it for our expression. That's what we do in our Sunday services with all the different people involved. As we continue in our life together, this "enlivening," this "space-making" can be a further part of our being the Episcopal Church in Cook County.

Peace, Mary Ellen+

### Please Pray!

- For the situation in Japan and the Middle East.
- Please pray for the Danielson family during this time of grieving for Audrey.
- For vision for our Bishop's Committee.



Shy Suzanne  
(the birthday girl)  
at Dragon boat!

Are you doing your  
push-ups  
Team  
Spirit of the Wilderness???

- **Tuesday, March 22nd: House Warming and Potluck Social** @ Kathy Sullivan's house—6:30-8:00.
- **Wednesday, March 23rd: Bishop's Committee** regular meeting; (Please get agenda items for the Bishop's Committee to Rolf by March 18th.)
- **Sunday, March 27th: Bishop's Committee Retreat** 12-6—WindCradle.
- **Monday, April 4th: Food Shelf**
- **Wednesday, April 6th: Adult Forum** @ WindCradle on the gospel of Matthew
- **Sunday, April 10th: Art Colony Collaboration, exhibit** opening-
- **April 12th, 14th, 17th, and 24th:** Need volunteers to be at the Art Colony for extra open hours.
- **April 21st: Seder Meal; April 22nd: Good Friday; April 23rd: Easter Vigil; April 24th: Easter!**
- **May 21st: Feed My Starving Children** food packing.