

## Wilderness Words



## Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—July 7, 2011

### Vicar Notes:

Over the last week I've been pondering Roanridge Trust and the grants they make to small town churches. Under the umbrella of the National Church's center for Congregational Vitality, they want congregations to develop training programs that increase congregational vitality. But their other big emphasis is that these programs be shared via the web, so that other smaller congregations across the country can benefit from them.

As I looked at successful Roanridge Trust grant recipients over the last few years, I was struck by how much they are from within an old paradigm—which we would call “clergy centered” rather than one which is “ministry centered.”

When I consider our “congregational vitality”—which is so wonderful—I think that much of it comes from our being “ministry centered”—our sense of ownership and involvement together, rather than the more traditional mode of priest doing, congregation watching.

I'm very aware of God's work by the Spirit in our midst, and here in Cook County. How can this be shared with other congregations? It's not simply a matter of a training program as a paradigm shift—for clergy and congregations alike. Paradigm shifts don't happen through training programs—though training programs might help provide a structure which would give clergy and lay ministers the confidence to make the shift.

I believe part of God's rich blessing in our situation is not only for us at SOTW, or even for the greater blessing of Cook County, but also for the greater good of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, and perhaps even other similar situations across the country. More on this later.....

Blessings, + Mary Ellen



### Dragonboat— July 29-30

#### Upcoming Events:

- July 10 —Welcome Sunday at Spirit.
- July 17—Social at Holaday's at Greenwood Lake.
- July 26—Bishop's Committee Meeting—get any agenda items to Lee, Rolf or Mary Ellen.
- Annual meeting will be held sometime in later August.

**Sunday the 10th!!!**  
**Spirit of the Wilderness at the Care Center**  
**2 PM—need treats and folks to be there!**

#### Please Pray:

- For Lorraine—for peace and freedom from pain.
- For Jerry—for recovery from his car accident.
- For our summer visitors that they might experience soul nurture while they are with us.