

## Wilderness Words



## Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—July 20, 2011

### Vicar Notes:

Last Sunday there was a church social at Greenwood Lake. Many regulars couldn't be there—with this season filled with work, vacations, out of town guests, etc. But others were there: the group from Trinity Excelsior who had been into the Boundary Waters and shared in our service, for example. And it was wonderful to see Nikki's parents there. And several new members...

It was a wonderful social! Barbara and Reed's hospitality was great, and that cool lake on our hot bodies was the best! We swam, ate, swam, ate... and chatted about everything....

Afterwards a couple of us talked about the unexpected—how the people that we might have expected at the social were not there, and how those we might not have expected were! And how it was still great.

And I was struck by how that is a theme in scripture—that you never know who's going to come! Jesus tells the story about a banquet prepared, and then going out to the "highways and byways" to find guests.

I believe that part of being church in Cook County is about our being willing to welcome surprises—to open our doors (both literally and metaphorically the doors of our hearts) to the stranger who was not expected.

And, like the writer to the Hebrews says, "Welcome strangers, for in doing so many have entertained angels without knowing it!"

Blessings, + Mary Ellen



### Dragonboat— July 29-30

#### Upcoming Events:

- July 26—Bishop's Committee Meeting—get any agenda items to Lee, Rolf or Mary Ellen.
- Dragonboat parade July 29th, races July 30th—paddle or cheer!
- Look out for a date later in this week that we might help Carolyn and Milan unpack!
- August 2nd—Worship committee meeting—please send any concerns to Lee, Layne or Mary Ellen.
- Annual meeting will be held sometime in later August.

#### 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.