

## Wilderness Words



## Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—August 31, 2011

### Vicar Notes:

On September 11, 2001, it was the first day of classes at Bethel University. The attacks occurred just before the second class period of the morning. Many of the students in that class were first year students, away from home from the first time. We all walked in and sat in a circle and looked at each other—these students who didn't know me or each other, but we knew the world had just changed.

I said to them, "this is one of those rare moments in life that you will always remember where you were when IT happened." They stared at me like deer in the headlights. "Let's pray," I said, and we did.

A few hours later my daughter, a first year student at St. Ben's phoned me: "Mom, could you come and see me this afternoon." I drove out to St. Joseph, MN in heavy traffic—people with their windows open to the beautiful day—and a sense of dazed bewilderment on all faces.

After my daughter and I grabbed some supper, she told me there was a prayer service at the Abbey, and we went. We walked down one of the aisles and the monks were chanting a psalm, and I thought, "This is truth. All that holds our world up is here—a pattern or prayer that goes on, day in, day out, no matter what happens."

Ten years later—how did that day change us—as individuals, as a nation, as Christians? On September 11th, our service will give us a chance to consider these questions and to bring all of this to God as our service focuses on Remembrance and Hope. Please spend some time between now and then considering this anniversary and its implications for who you and we are.

Blessings,  
+ Mary Ellen



### Upcoming Events:

Over these next weeks, we're doing an "official" signing and info collection in preparation for our first annual meeting. If you won't be in church, let us know so we can make sure you're on the list!

- September 11th: 9:45- 10:15 Meeting with children.
- September 11th: Service of Remembrance and Hope, 10:30
- September 18—Annual meeting held after church.
- October 9th—Blessing of the Animals service, 10:30
- I'm putting together a Women's Spirituality Group for Fall—anyone want to sign up?

### Please Pray:

- For Beth's mom as Beth takes her back to the Mayo.
- Lorraine and Jerry in their new home in Duluth.
- For our life together as a church community, as we settle back into a non-summer routine.