

On Sunday August 6th, the people of Trinity Platteville and Trinity Mineral Point gathered in a group picnic shelter at Blackhawk Lake Recreational area for both spiritual and physical food. Many of you were there.

Our youth group led major portions of the service. We prayed together Eucharistic Prayer C, which always seems fitting in an outdoor setting with its statement: "At your command all things came to be." The prayer speaks of *interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home.*

That last phrase about the earth always captures my attention. The earth is fragile. Especially that thin ribbon of diverse plant and animal life, known as the biosphere, is fragile. So we shared and prayed Eucharist together in a quiet and natural place.

At the conclusion of that weekend, I could not help but muse at the way in which camping, canoeing, sharing good food, stories around the campfire, worshiping together brought us into a place in which relationships and community could be extended and developed.

God desires community, relationship. The very concept of the Trinity reveals a holy God in community and that reality invites us to also be together in community.

On September 9th-- and in advance as we prepare for an exciting evening of films dealing with *this fragile earth, our island home*--you and I will be invited to share and build community in yet another context. The community of the church will be asked to reach out and to relate to the community of Mineral Point and beyond as people (hopefully you) will gather at the Mineral Point Opera House.

Why do we do this? Well, for one, we worship ultimate Being whose reality and presence is linked to the vast reach of all things. Community exists not only between human beings, but profoundly between us and all things. Consider this quote from Job 12

*But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all humankind.*