

The Fourth of July celebration this year -- color guard, bands, horses, cars, tractors, root beer and hot dogs, dignitaries and more-- provided all of us with a sense of community coming together on a special day to celebrate, remember, converse and (in the case of many of you) to work together.

Our particular presence as a faith community on Independence Day has its own fairly long history. I came away from the day with a renewed sense of just how important times like these are. We both work and relax together, renew friendships and extend them, tell stories, scoop ice cream, grill hot dogs and circulate to socialize with our guests.

I have never heard the full story of how Trinity's Fourth of July sale of dogs and root beer floats originally came into being and am looking forward to hearing from someone in our congregation, but suffice it to say that, somewhere in the past, a new idea was envisioned, discussed and implemented. Perhaps for some it originally received a lukewarm reception. Perhaps there was concern about whether or not the idea would truly "work."

Often new ideas when they first surface seem a bit daunting. Even new ideas that capture our imaginations or convey a sense of energy can seem just a little bit out of reach. But faith is not just reserved for our personal devotional lives. It has a corporate quality and involves us in mutual mission. The willingness to reach out and trust requires that we carry faith with us into times of outreach that send us into the midst of our community.

On July 4th, the community came to us. People walked right by our pop-up shelters while we greeted them and said hello. Many stopped, purchased food and spent time together under the main tent at one of our tables. Our faith community and the wider community of Mineral Point and the surrounding area came together.

Now a new idea has surfaced: an evening of environmental films will be held on Saturday, September 9th beginning at 7 p.m. at the Mineral Point Opera House. As people walked by our food offerings on Independence Day, now we are asked to walk down the street on the evening of films on September 9th and bring our faith community and hopefully many others into the Opera House for a new venture--an exciting one that also may seem just a bit daunting.

We offered food to the community on the Fourth of July because we believe in helping others through the food pantry. Income raised on the Fourth will be directed there. Others work there, often on Mondays.

But now, an environmental film evening also is asking us to put faith and community together. By showing films dealing with the environment, we are encouraged both to remember and to proclaim that the great surround of the environment belongs to the ultimate source of all --the Lord of creation, God. Please take note of September 9th and of the announcements of ways in which you can participate in taking on this new idea and in seeing it into the future.

Fr. Brian

