

The Beacon



WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 882-9874 www.westcharltonupc.org May, 2011

Pastoral Reflection:

Pastoral Reflection: *Let's Begin Treading Lightly this Easter Season 2011*

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. Genesis 2:15

Coming out of the Lenten Season we have reflected on what it means to live based on Christ's ministry. Some of us gave up an item or two that we considered a treat. As we move into the Easter Season, this Easter Calendar urges us to take this spiritual discipline a step further: to refrain from some practices that damage God's earth, while learning about earth care issues and taking action that will honor Christ's teachings about caring for creation. Throughout the season of Easter we can learn about eco-justice (assuring justice for creation and all humans that live in it) and be challenged to take action on the issues of waste, energy, water, consumption, and food. There are ideas for action that we can take on as a congregation and as individuals.

Our call to eco-justice is rooted in the human vocation of tilling and keeping the garden and Christ's teachings to work on behalf of the most vulnerable, for environmental impacts are felt most by those living in poverty.

The more we do our part to till and keep the garden, the more we work for eco-justice.

To share about your journey while "Treading Lightly for Lent," visit the Presbyterian Environmental Ministries Facebook page www.facebook.com/pcusa.environment

Follow Environmental Ministries on the Eco-Journey blog at <http://presbyterian.typepad.com/ecojourney/>

For more information contact: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Environmental Ministries www.pcusa.org/environment

2nd week of Easter—May 1st-7th

-As much as possible, **eat local produce that is in season.** Food that is out of season often travels hundreds or thousands of miles to get to you, using large amounts of fossil fuels for transportation. Find local food sources at <http://www.localharvest.org/>

-Do some spring cleaning today and **give unneeded items to a local ministry for reuse.** If you need a new item or clothing, **buy second hand.**

-Work with our congregation to protect God's creation and become an **Earth Care Congregation.** Learn about the program <http://www.pcusa.org/environment/>

-Find ways to **reduce your use of paper:** stop unneeded catalogs, request online billing, and request that companies stop sending you junk mail go to <http://www.catalogchoice.org/>

3rd week of Easter—May 8th-14th

-**Wash clothes with a full load and use cold water.** Washing full loads can save 3,400 gallons of water a year. Heating water accounts for 90% of the energy your washing machine uses.

-Learn about **conflict minerals** that are sometimes used in electronics. Find places that responsibly recycle electronics, and learn which companies are concerned about conflict minerals <http://earth911.com/news/2010/08/03/new-legislation-monitors-conflict-minerals-in-gadgets/>

-**Check your tire pressure** to be sure that your tires are properly inflated. Properly inflated tires can improve your gas mileage by 3.3%.⁸

-Buy coffee from the **Equal Exchange.** This coffee is raised in a sustainable manner and farmers are paid a fair price. <http://www.pcusa.org/coffee>

4th week of Easter—May 15th-21st

-If you have a lawn, learn about low impact landscaping and using native plants. **Stop using pesticides and herbicides,** which damage water quality. <http://www.plantnative.org/>

-Have a church event at a Camp and Conference Center and experience God's creation.

-**Switch to non-toxic cleaning products** like baking soda. This is eco-friendly, healthier for you, and cheaper. http://www.eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm

-Take a **shorter shower** today. Make this a routine and buy a **low flow shower head**. Older showers use 7 gallons of water a minute, versus 2.5 gallons a minute for low flow models.

5th week of Easter—22nd-28th

Learn about environmental racism and research issues in your community. <http://www.nccecojustice.org/justice>

-End “phantom” loads: use a **power strip** to turn off electronics that use energy even when they are off, like TVs, DVD players, and computers. Unplug cell phone chargers when they are not in use.

-Learn about the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s **Campaign for Fair Food** and ask groceries to address exploitative wages and working conditions for farm workers <http://www.pcusa.org/fairfood>

-**Plant seeds for a garden**, even a window garden. If it’s too early to plant in your region, plan for your garden <http://www.almanac.com/content/beginners-vegetable-garden>

6th week of Easter— May 29th-June 4th

-**Find resources for incorporating earth care into our worship** from the Web of Creation

<http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/resources.htm>

-Help reduce the number— approximately 100 billion— of single use plastic bags used each year in the U.S. Carry **reusable bags** with you.

-**Never dump anything down a storm drain**, and find a **proper disposal site for household hazardous wastes** like paints, motor oil and pesticides. <http://www.earth911.com/hazardous>

-**Take action to end the root causes of Hunger**, many of which are linked to environmental justice issues.

Visit the Presbyterian Hunger Program Take Action page <http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/take-action>

7th week of Easter—June 5th-11th

-**Check your doors and windows for leaks** with a ribbon or feather and add weather stripping if necessary.

-Learn more about home sealing http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=diy.diy_index

-**Compost food scraps** and use them for gardening rather than sending them to the landfill <http://www.howtocompost.org/>

-**Take the environmental lifestyle changes** that you have made throughout Lent, and make a plan to integrate these into your life for the long-term. Share about your journey with friends and family.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom

Happy Birthday to all those who have a birthday in May including the following:

*Mary Goldstein, 1st
Bryan Pustolka, 3rd
Michelle Michaels, 11th
Thomak Pustolka, 14th
Brooke Quandt, 16th
George Weed, 16th
Lynn Prentice, 16th
Josephine Holt, 20th
Susan Phemister, 21st
Rebecca Wood, 22*

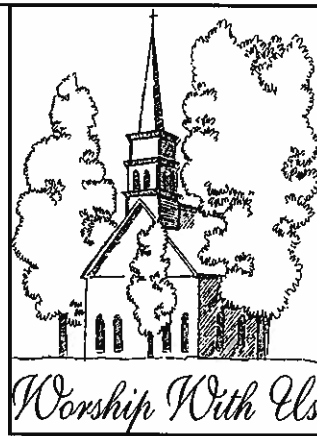
*Jonathan Wood, 22nd
Donald Grupe, 22nd
Rev. Thomas Gregg, 24th
Tristan Phemister, 26th
Betty Denison, 27th
Stephen Thomas, 27th
Marian Clark, 29th
Rachel Jones, 29th
Lynn McConchie, 31st
Kyle Prentice, 31st*



MAY

Lay Worship Leaders

1 Bonnie Donnan
8 GERALYN De La Fleur
15 Ray Greenhill
22 Aileen Donnan
29 Sharon Bellamy



Greeters: Mary Jane & Paul Byrd

May Chancel Flowers are given by the following:

May 1 Marshal & Penny Heritage:
In memory of Marion Garrison
May 8 Helen and John King:
In honor of Mother’s Day
May 15 Fred Lachtrupp:
In memory of his parents
May 22 OPEN
May 29 OPEN

From the WCUPC Women's Association

The West Charlton United Presbyterian Church's Women's Association supper meeting will be held Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the church's dining room. Joyce Crawford will cater a sub-sandwich and salads with a strawberry shortcake dessert and beverage for \$7.50. Please bring your own place settings.

The evening's program will be presented by the director of the Charlton School for Girls, Don Marshall. He has some very interesting comments on the history and commitment of the school to the girls and the community that it serves. Since the school is a part of Charlton and Saratoga County, I think it will be a very enjoyable program. Please plan to attend and enjoy a hearty evening of good food, friendship, and knowledge.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH DONNA LOU ARNOLD (882-6416)
OR FRAN ROWE (882-6516) BY MAY 29, 2011.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 4, 2011

- Session gave Tom and Chris Nelson permission to meet and get information from Life Touch, which is a company that takes pictures for a church directory and will set up an on-line church directory.
- Session gave permission for a box to be placed in the Chapel for receipts from anyone who eats at Friendly's in Saratoga Springs. These receipts will be collected monthly and taken to the Saratoga Friendly's where they will donate 10% of the receipt to the church.
- Two to three hard copies of the Presbyterian E-News will be made available to those who don't have email.
- The kitchen sinks weren't draining. The septic was pumped and the sinks seem to be working now.
- The Direct Distributors have finished their work with the telephone directories and the use of our dining hall.
- The elevator has been fixed at no cost to the church.
- Tom said there is discussion of a youth ministry being formed with approximately seven local churches here and west of Sacandaga Road.
- There will be a Praise Worship service that will be held the last Sunday in July and August. The services will involve some contemporary Christian music.
- Plain envelopes will be put in the pews for visitors or members who have forgotten their envelopes and wish to make an offering.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Treasurer's Report

	Local Fund	
Balance 3-1-11		-\$6,602.30
	Receipts;	12,208.00
	Expenses:	11,025.21
Balance 4-1-11		-\$5,419.51

~ WCUPC May 2011 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service Sunday School & Child Care 11:45 Adult Bible Study Flowers: Penny and Marshall Heritage	2 7PM Session Meets	3	4 7PM Deacons Meet	5 National Day of Prayer	6	7
8 Mother's Day FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service Sunday School & Child Care 11:45 Adult Bible Study Flowers: John & Helen King	9	10 Louise Smith Circle 9:30 AM	11	12	13	14
15 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service Sunday School & Child Care 11:45 Adult Bible Study Flowers: Fred Lachtrupp	16	17	18 Helen Killough Circle 7:00 PM	19	20	21
22 RURAL LIFE SUNDAY 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service Sunday School & Child Care 11:45 Adult Bible Study Flowers:	23	24	25	26	27	28 Women's Association at Maplewood Manor 2:00 PM
29 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service Sunday School & Child Care 11:45 Adult Bible Study Flowers: Lynn and Linda McConchie	30 Memorial Day	31	Notes: Tom – Board of Pension Conference 5/3 through 5/5 Tom – Continuing Education 5/8 through 5/13 Tom – Vacation 5/14 through 5/28			