

Dear Colleague,

This summer season is bearing much fruit in Earth Ministry's life and in the life of the broader creation-care ministry of which we're part. I hope that you feel the Spirit bearing fruit in and through your life as well.

I would like to share four pieces of news with you:

- ☞ On May 31 many Colleagues attended our Greening Congregations Workshop, entitled "Greening Education for Children and Youth." We enjoyed a beautiful day together, and participants gleaned simple, hands-on exercises for inspiring children and youth to enjoy and cherish creation. If you would like any of the printed resources from this day, please contact me. (We suggest a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of printing/postage.)
- ☞ Many Colleagues attended the National Council of Churches Eco-justice Conference (June 20-23): "Enough for All." We were delighted to see so many Colleagues (among the other 308 attendees) and to be able to hear inspiring stories from many of you. The conference featured many other excellent presentations including those from Sallie McFague; David Korten; three Colleagues: Rev. Leroy Hedman, Sharon Kenyon, and Ruth Mulligan; and many others. It was truly a community-building experience for us as staff, and we hope that all who attended went away inspired. (If you missed this event, the Presbyterian Church will host a similar event in August 2004, in Tacoma. Everyone is welcome.)
- ☞ As you probably know, since January of this year, our staff has had more limited funding/time with which to carry out programs. This challenge has birthed exciting opportunities for us to work more with volunteers. For example, in February, we convened a small, diverse group of Colleagues to help us think about pathways through which all Colleagues could offer support one another. This group, the Colleague Support Team, has been meeting on a monthly basis throughout the year. The following Colleagues make up our great team: Rev. Leroy Hedman, Cherie Holman, Orrin Johnson, Ruth Mulligan, Jeanne Rehwinkel, and Joel Sisolak. This fall, we will invite all Colleagues to take part in simple, enjoyable ways of supporting one another. If you have any questions/ideas about this visioning team, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- ☞ I'm excited to tell you that our new Director, Rev. Roger Hudson, will join our staff at the beginning of July. If you're in the neighborhood, please feel free to stop by the office and welcome him.

Fruitful summer blessings to you,

Tanya Marcovna Barnett

Events for Colleagues and Congregations

- Thursday evenings, July 17 – August 14:** "Caring for God's Creation" Series; 6:30 p.m. simple meal, 7:30 p.m. presentations; Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N 70th St, Seattle; \$5 per session, \$15 for series. For more information, contact Colleague Orrin Johnson at (206) 778-0458. Speakers/topics include:
- ☞ July 17: Heidi Wills, Seattle City Council – "Greening Seattle"
 - ☞ July 24: Tanya Marcovna Barnett, Earth Ministry – "Food & Faith: Beyond Food as Fuel"
 - ☞ July 31: Barbara Johnson, Master Recycler – "Closing the Loop: New Innovations in Recycling"
 - ☞ August 7: Paul Racette, WSU Cooperative Extension – "Restoring Salmon Habitat"
 - ☞ August 14: Bob Smith, Nature Conservancy – "Biodiversity & Advocacy"

Saturday, July 26: Reflection and Restoration along the Duwamish River; 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. For location and more information, please contact us. RSVP.

Friday-Sunday, August 15-17: Mt. Rainier Wildflower Field Trip (Day Trip and/or Overnight), optional camping at Cougar Rock Campground. A wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in the splendor of Mt. Rainier's wildflowers and enjoy fellowship with other Earth Ministry folks. *Space is limited* – RSVP. For more information, please call us or go to our web site.

Sunday, August 24: "Simplicity: Integrating Sustainability, Social Justice, and Spirit"; 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Seattle University Ballroom, 1001 E. James St., Seattle. The Simplicity Forum and Seeds for Simplicity will co-host this inspiring and practical conference featuring popular writers, filmmakers, and other leaders of the simplicity movement. For more information, call (877) 867-8833 or go to www.seedsofsimplicity.org.

Highlighted Resource

"Pesticide Free Zone" signs

You can declare your yard or congregation's grounds a Pesticide Free Zone! By posting a colorful Pesticide Free Zone sign, you can tell the community that you help to care for creation by avoiding pesticides. You can also be a resource for friends, neighbors, and relatives who use pesticides or who want to learn how to stop. The lovely, eight-inch diameter, aluminum signs are permanent and have two mounting holes that allow them to be attached to a stake, fence, or wall or hung from a wire. The cost is \$7.50 for Washington state residents, including shipping.

For more information and to order, go to www.watoxics.org or call (206) 632-1545.

Stories and News from Congregations

Please always feel free to email, call in, or send stories and news that you'd like to share with other Colleagues.

Colleague Ruth Mulligan, from St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral (Seattle), spoke at the NCC conference about several of St. Mark's recent creation-care efforts. One of the efforts – the congregation switching to fair trade/shade grown/organic coffee – was particularly inspiring. Ruth and the Ecology/Spirituality Group originally approached the parish's vestry last year about serving the more ecologically/socially-sound coffee. The vestry said that they would not do so because of their concerns about additional costs. Rather than giving up, the Ecology/Spirituality Group decided to host a "coffee tasting" after worship services so that parishioners could experience properly brewed (i.e., not in a big urn at the beginning of the day) "quality coffee." With such a favorable response from the congregation, the Group began to change the minds of the vestry – especially when the Group volunteered to brew and serve the high quality coffee themselves. Now, a network of volunteers serves the sustainable coffee every week – an effort that not only benefits coffee farmers, habitat, and birds, but also enhances the Cathedral's hospitality (i.e., people savor the quality coffee and linger for fellowship). (The Group also set up a donation basket to help cover additional costs of the coffee.)

The Group was also instrumental in two other recent efforts: hosting a fabulous, four-week series on the *Earth Charter* (thanks, in large part, to Colleague Dianna Amorde); and helping to infuse the congregation's outdoor "Rogation Day"* procession with a creation-honoring focus.



A warm welcome to our newest Colleagues!
Shelly Cleator – First Congregational UCC, Everett
Rev. Steve Grumm – Prince of Peace Lutheran, Seatac
Sandra Jones – Seattle First Baptist
Barry Ryan – St. Leo Catholic Parish, Tacoma
Bill Smith – First Congregational UCC, Tacoma
Blessings to you all!

Eco-tips

In the spirit of delighting in and cherishing God's creation, here are a few ideas for these summer months:

- ☞ Have a worship service outside. Consider "sunrise" and "starry night" services in addition to your usual service.
- ☞ If your congregation has picnics, consider including the prayer the adjacent column. You can also encourage people to bring their own dishes to avoid disposables.

(eco-tips continue in the next column)

* Rogation Days occur before the feast of the Ascension, and serve as occasions to bless fields, seeds, businesses, etc. that contribute to Earth's fruitfulness. To learn more, go to <http://www.env-steward.com/worship/rogation.htm>.

- ☞ As a group, visit a farm and/or farmers market (where you could purchase Eucharist/communion bread), then reflect on God's gifts of food, land, water, creatures, farmers, etc.
 - ☞ If your congregation hosts a summer retreat, children's program, or other outdoor events, consider having creation care as an emphasis for all or part of the event (e.g., invite someone from Earth Ministry's Speakers Network to your retreat).
 - ☞ Join Earth Ministry for a "Reflection & Restoration" event to help restore vital local habitats and to revitalize your spirit! (For information, call [206] 632-2426.)
 - ☞ With youth (and others), take a hike in one of our local wild areas. Consider having a worship service and/or time of silence – opening the senses to God's presence.
 - ☞ Bike or walk to worship services and meetings.
 - ☞ Consider a simple bulletin questionnaire – to be returned with the offering. For example:
 - ♦ "As a congregation, we could _____ to enjoy God's creation this summer."
 - ♦ "As a congregation, we could _____ to care for God's creation this summer."
- Announce or post the responses the following week.

Prayer

From "Blessing of the Stew Pot" by Alla Renee Bozarth

Blessed be the Creator and all creative hands which plant and harvest, pack and haul and hand over sustenance – blessed be carrot and cow, potato and mushroom, tomato and bean, parsley and peas, ... and blessed be fire – and blessed be the enjoyment of nose and eye, and blessed be color –	And blessed be the Creator for the miracle of red potato, for the miracle of green bean ... And blessed be God for the miracle of earth: ancestors, grass, bird, deer and all gone, wild creatures whose bodies become carrots, peas, and wild flowers, who give sustenance to human hands ... And blessed be God For all, all, all.
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Action Alert

Oil spill prevention is essential to the health of Puget Sound and its habitats and myriad creatures (including humans). One of the most important prevention efforts would be stationing a year-round tugboat at Neah Bay: that's where the fewest tugs generally are found, and where state officials and environmentalists fear a drifting vessel could run aground and spill oil across the waters of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Last year, Senator Patty Murray secured a special \$1.6 million appropriation for the tug. But, the Coast Guard is currently holding up this money.

You can write to Sen. Murray (address below), to thank her for her efforts to secure money for a full time tug at Neah Bay. Please also ask her "do everything in your power to make sure this money extends rescue tug coverage to protect Puget Sound and the Straits from a catastrophic oil spill." Thank you.

Senator Patty Murray • 2988 Jackson Federal Bldg.
915 2nd Ave. • Seattle, WA 98174