

# Earth Notes

A Newsletter for Earth Ministry Colleagues

October - November 2003

Dear Colleague,

As the days grow wetter, I pray that you are well. I appreciate these words from author, Kent Nerburn, during this season of creation's wet rejuvenation:

*It is good to know such rain. It calls us to examine the landscape of our hearts... We are enclosed, at once denied the joy of distant vistas and protected from the intrusions of unseen events. It is now that we truly know ourselves as creatures of the earth: the heavens in their relentless indifference are pounding upon us with a purpose that transcends our time and scale.*

During this season, we also begin to prepare for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and for a new year. Attached to this email, you'll find a helpful Thanksgiving bulletin insert from the National Farm Worker Ministry. We'll have other take-home, creation-care resources for Advent and Christmas available for you at our bi-annual **Colleague Consultation on Saturday, November 15.**

Our main focus for the Consultation will be to discern and create pathways for greater support among Colleagues. We will engage in enjoyable exercises to help us better understand how to draw upon our communal strengths in order to meet the unique needs of our congregations. This will be an especially helpful event for those Colleagues who may feel alone in their efforts or who are experiencing particular challenges in their congregations. During the Consultation, we will also have times for Colleague Sharing – inspiring opportunities to hear about what's happening in congregations throughout our region. At 12:30 we'll eat lunch – please bring money for the fine food at Seattle U.

Immediately following this lunch, we will have the fourth of our **Greening Congregations Workshops**. This workshop will focus on *Environmental Advocacy* and will feature Rev. Paul Benz, Director of the Lutheran Public Policy Office (WA), and Pam Johnson, Field Director for People for Puget Sound. The workshop will explore the importance of creation-care advocacy (especially within congregations), effective tools for advocacy, and the four “environmental legislative priorities” for 2004. All are welcome to join us for lunch and the workshop.

We hope to see you on November 15!

Warmly,

Tanya Marcovna Barnett

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## Events for Colleagues and Congregations **Saturday, November 15: Colleague Consultation and**

**Greening Congregations Workshop.** Consultation: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Workshop: 1:30 – 4 p.m.; Seattle University, Student Center, Room 210 (*see directions on the next page\**). Suggested donation: \$5 (to help cover

cost of materials, please bring money for lunch on campus). Our biannual time of sharing and learning with fellow Colleagues will be followed by a Greening Congregations Workshop on environmental advocacy. Please come for all or part of the day and encourage others to do so as well. Please **RSVP** with us.

**Tuesday, November 18: Washington Religious Leaders Conference on Global Warming and Energy Policy.** 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Washington Association of Churches, 419 Occidental Ave. South, Suite 201. This conference will focus on how the Northwest can be a leader in climate solutions and discuss “overall religious responses and more specifically congregational responses” to global warming. The conference will feature presentations from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment and the Northwest Energy Coalition. Please **RSVP** with Rev. Monica Myers at [environment@thewac.org](mailto:environment@thewac.org).

**Friday, November 28: Buy Nothing Day.**

The day after Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping day of the year in the United States. Buy Nothing Day is a grassroots campaign that uses this day of frenzied buying to question and challenge our society's unsustainable consumer habits. Buy Nothing Day can be an effective way for individuals and congregations to emphasize the spiritual meaning of Advent and Christmas. For more information, go to

[www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd](http://www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd)

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## Highlighted Resource

*The Cry of Creation: A Call for Climate Justice*  
Produced by Earth Ministry and the Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign

If you want to gain an overview of the concerns about global warming, its moral implications, and what you can do about it, this booklet is for you. This twenty-eight page booklet contains an overview of the issues, relevant essays, theological and ethical perspectives, and a three-session study guide for small groups. Copies are available through Earth Ministry for \$5. For more detailed information, or to order copies, go to:

[www.earthministry.org/climatejustice.htm](http://www.earthministry.org/climatejustice.htm)

## Stories and News from Colleagues

- Colleague Rev. Leroy Hedman (Georgetown Gospel Chapel, Seattle) recently received an award from King County: the “Super Star Master Composter” of the year award. Congratulations Leroy !! If you would like to learn more about composting and gardening (especially on congregational grounds) from Leroy, you can contact him at (206) 767-3207 or [d-hedman@juno.com](mailto:d-hedman@juno.com).
- The Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle recently hosted two presentations entitled “Coffee with a Conscience,” which highlighted the social and ecological benefits of purchasing Fair-Trade (and shade-grown, organic) coffee. As a result of these events, you can now join an email listserv that helps connect congregations, which serve and/or sell these coffees, with one another. To join, go to [www.ipjc.org/fairtrade.htm](http://www.ipjc.org/fairtrade.htm). The listserv is intended to help congregants share their coffee “success stories” and discuss challenges that may arise in congregations.

A warm welcome to our newest Colleagues:  
Mary Maxon – Emmanuel Episcopal, Mercer Island  
Mary Peppard – St. John Vianney Catholic, Kirkland  
Judith Streaty-Ryan – St. Leo Catholic, Tacoma  
May you be blessed in all of your creation-honoring efforts.

## Eco-tip

### *For the Holidays: Fair Trade Chocolate and Cocoa*

(Submitted by Colleagues Yvonne Wilhelmsen and Barry Ryan. Portions excerpted from [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)).

Recent investigations have found child slavery in the Ivory Coast, where 43 percent of cocoa beans come from. At the beginning of the 21st century, the children of West Africa are trapped in conditions that were supposed to have been eliminated in the 19th century.

In addition, cocoa workers who *are* paid receive wages that leave them at the edge of poverty and starvation. Global Exchange’s cocoa campaign is demanding that large chocolate corporations take immediate steps to end child slavery and poverty wages by committing to purchase at least five percent of their cocoa as Fair Trade Certified.

As with Fair Trade coffee and tea, purchasing Fair Trade certified cocoa and chocolate ensures that poor producers are paid a fair price for their harvests. Fair Trade prohibits abusive child labor and forced labor. This certification also ensures that careful environmental standards are upheld in the production process.

To support Fair Trade cocoa and chocolate:

- Ask M&M Mars and other corporations to offer Fair Trade chocolate. You can send a free fax to them at: [www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/actnow.html](http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/actnow.html)

(continued in next column)

- Look for and buy Fair Trade chocolate and cocoa products at local natural foods, co-op, and other food markets. For on-line purchasing information, go to: [www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/retailers.html](http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/retailers.html)
- If you don’t find Fair Trade chocolate and cocoa in your local food stores, you can ask for it. For tips on doing so, go to: [www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/FairTradeAdvocates.pdf](http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/FairTradeAdvocates.pdf)

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## Prayer for Thanksgiving

*This prayer comes from the attached bulletin insert, “A Thanksgiving Reflection from the National Farm Worker Ministry.” We hope that you will consider using this insert (or portions of it) at Thanksgiving time.*

Generous God, we are blessed with an abundance and variety of food, and for this we are grateful. At the same time, we are aware of the suffering of our farmers and farm workers. Help us to do all we can to work with farmers and farm workers for justice and fairness, so that they and their families may share in what they bring to our table of plenty. Amen.

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## Action Alert

### *Interfaith Climate & Energy Campaign: Call for Power Plant Clean Up*

As the Senate begins debate on regulating America’s power plants, Earth Ministry, the Washington Association of Churches, and organizations and congregations throughout the country are asking people of faith to speak out in favor of legislation that includes carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas emission causing global warming, as a regulated gas. Please consider sending a letter to our Senators and encouraging others in your congregation to do so as well. To send a letter, go to:

[www.protectingcreation.org/action/index.asp?step=2&item=1842](http://www.protectingcreation.org/action/index.asp?step=2&item=1842)

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### **\*Directions to the Colleague Consultation & Greening Congregations Workshop:**

Seattle University, Student Center, room 210


From I-5

- Take the James St. exit off I-5 (coming from the north, exit 165; coming from the south, exit 164A).
- Turn east up the hill past Broadway and look for the “sky bridge” connecting the Cherry & 11<sup>th</sup> Street garage with the Student Center. Visitor parking is available in this garage (on your right, just after sky bridge).
- Park and walk across the sky bridge over to the Student Center. Room 210 is on the second floor.

For more detailed directions, go to:

[www.seattleu.edu/home/campus\\_community/visit\\_campus/Bus Information:](http://www.seattleu.edu/home/campus_community/visit_campus/Bus%20Information)

<http://transit.metrokc.gov>

 Many blessings to you this autumn. 