

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to spring! At this “greening” time of the year, we hope that you’re finding new inspiration for your greening congregations vision and work. We want to wish you a festive and meaningful Earth Day – especially if you recognize it on other days of the year as well. If you plan to do anything with your congregation to celebrate Earth Day, please consider sending us photos, bulletins, and/or any “write-ups” of your events. If you feel comfortable in letting us do so, we’d like to feature these events on our web site, in *Earth Notes*, and possibly in *Earth Letter*.

In this mailing you’ll find a copy of the “Colleague Sharing” notes from our most recent Colleague Consultation (in February; sorry for the delay). The Consultation was very rich and hope-filled, and we spent most of our time sharing with one another about being in a creation-awareness/care ministry over the “long haul.”

You will also find a “Colleague Survey.” Please take some time to fill out this survey (if you haven’t done so already) – your feedback is *very* helpful for us as we consider how best to support all Colleagues’ efforts. Spring blessings,

Nancy Wright & Tanya Marcovna Barnett

### Events for Colleagues and Congregations

In progress: Wednesdays through May 15: The Global Economy, Justice, and You. 7-8:30 p.m., St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral (Bloedel Hall), 1245 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. E, Seattle. A provocative six-week series that includes presentations on basic global economics, “powerful voices from the third world,” and the global food system. For more information, call Earth Ministry Colleagues: Ruth Mulligan, (206) 706-9620, or Chris Christensen, (206) 363-6468.

In progress: Thursdays through May 23: Journey between Worlds: Economic Globalization and God Indwelling Creation. 7:30-9 p.m., Keystone Congregational, 5019 Keystone Pl. N., Seattle. Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda will lead this series on the reality of “economic globalization” and its impact on Earth’s capacity to sustain life. Six sessions, \$10 per session. For more information, call (206) 632-5218.

**Saturday – Sunday, April 20-21: Earth Day events.** In our previous mailing, we sent out details of some of the great things that are happening this coming weekend: Reflection & Restoration Days on the Duwamish and Cedar Rivers, the Community-based Solutions for Environmental Health & Justice Conference, and “Bike (or walk, carpool, bus) to Worship.” Please contact us if you like additional

information on these and other Earth Day events or go to our internet calendar at [www.earthministry.org/emcal.htm](http://www.earthministry.org/emcal.htm).

**Saturday, April 27: Beyond Guilt: Local Faith Communities Address Hunger and Poverty.** 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Mark Lutheran Church, 2109 College St., Lacey. George Johnson, author of *Beyond Guilt: Christian Responses to Suffering*, will present effective responses to the root causes of hunger, poverty, and ecological destruction. For more information, contact Colleague Diane Armbrust at (360) 456-8519.

**Sunday, April 28: Fair Trade Coffee Does Change the World!** 2:30-4:30 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church (church of Colleague Suzanne Gordon), 6512 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW, Seattle. Come for music, food, great coffee, and a presentation from Blanca Rosa Molina, President of “Cecocafen” coffee cooperative in Nicaragua. For more information, call (206) 246-0931.

**Saturday, May 4: Global Climate Change: A Faithful & Practical Response.** 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Meadow Way, Everett. This training event is for all congregational leaders (lay and ordained) and will focus on practical and economical solutions to accelerating global warming. For more information, call Colleague Jeanne Rehwinkel, (425) 488-4359.

**Sunday, May 5: Earth Ministry’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** 6:30-9 p.m. University Temple United Methodist Church (church of Colleagues Mark Poole and Al Ferkovich), 1415 NE 43<sup>rd</sup> St., Seattle. Please join us for this celebratory evening featuring the music of Linda Allen, presentations from Bill Meadows (President of the Wilderness Society), Rev. Rodney Romney, and Dr. Loretta Jancoski. Share the joy with us ... and bring a friend! For more information, contact us.

**Tuesday, May 14: Celtic Spirituality, Creation, and the Iona Community.** 7 p.m. St. Andrew Episcopal Church (church of Colleague Sharon Wilson), 111 NE 80<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle. Norman Shanks (the Leader of the Iona Community in Scotland) will share wisdom from the Celtic tradition on the relationship between spirituality and creation. For more information, contact us.

**Saturday, May 18: “In the Light of Reverence” Film and Forum.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Seattle University, Wycoff Auditorium. Sponsored by the Washington Association of Churches (and many others), this event features an excellent documentary film on Native American sacred land issues, a discussion with local Native Americans, and learning about ways to support the protection of sacred lands. For more information, call Shelley Means at (206) 625-9790 x 13 or go to [www.thewac.org](http://www.thewac.org).

## Highlighted Resource

At long last, Earth Ministry's

### ***Greening Congregations Handbook:***

*Stories, Ideas, and Resources for Cultivating Creation Awareness and Care in Your Congregation*

Many Colleagues already have the draft version of the Handbook, and many Colleagues generously offered feedback that has made this new version an even better resource (thank you!). The new, 225 -page Handbook is a "tool box" for all who want to foster creation awareness and care in their congregations. In comparison to the draft version, it contains additional readings (with accompanying study questions and bibliographies), a more extensive and better-informed section on "Where do we begin?" (with many Colleagues' stories and insights), several new practical resources (such as a sample worship service), and an easier-to-use format. We're offering this new version at a reduced rate to Colleagues: \$10 + postage (instead of \$18). Please contact us if you would like to order a copy and we'll send you one at the beginning of May. Thank you again for your help and inspiration with this resource!

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## Stories and News from Congregations

*Please see the attached the "Colleague Sharing" for stories and news. We know that many congregations will celebrate Earth Day, below are but a few examples of what Colleagues are helping to inspire. (Please continue to let us know of items that you would like to share with other Colleagues.)*

- Mark Poole and Al Ferkovich, Colleagues from University Temple United Methodist (Seattle) are coordinating an Earth Day worship celebration/service this coming Sunday. It will include a blessing of the animals/plants/bikes etc., a cosmos-honoring slide show, encouraging people to take alternative forms of transportation to worship, and more.
- Margaret Kitchell, Bruce Shilling, and a host of other Colleagues and members from Plymouth Congregational (Seattle) will host fifteen different "creation care festival Sunday workshops" this coming Sunday. From "earth prayers," to food issues, to interpretative dance, to a presentation with Seattle Tilth and other local non-profits ... this day will be packed with opportunities to connect faith with care for creation. The day will also include a creation-care sermon and songfest, a "rock cantata" on the biblical creation story, and a plant exchange.
- Colleague Tom Buxton and others from East Shore Unitarian (Bellevue) "Earth Corps" will also host an Earth Day worship service featuring Fritz Hull (from the Whidbey Institute) and acknowledgement of the Earth Corps group as an Earth Ministry Greening Congregation Partner. Tanya will give a presentation on food sustainability. Members will also engage in the reflection and restoration day on the Cedar River.

*Welcome! to our newest Colleagues ...*

Holly Boone – Epiphany Episcopal, Seattle  
Al Ferkovich – University Temple UMC, Seattle  
Orrin Johnson – Woodland Park Presbyterian, Seattle  
Marilyn Mastor – St. Pauls Episcopal, Bellingham  
Jordan McCall – Marine View Presbyterian, Tacoma  
Mary Nolting – Lake Burien Presbyterian, Seattle  
Cindi Rezabek – Newport Presbyterian, Bellevue  
Tandi Rogers – Unitarian Universalist Church, Tacoma  
*... richest blessings on all that you envision and do!*

## Eco-tip

**Support your local farmers markets** ... they're nourishing for communities, farmers, the land, and our own bodies! When you do so, you will make a significant contribution towards farmland preservation, more ecologically-sound farming practices, equitable pay for farmers, and greater food security in our region. Many of our local markets will open soon (if they haven't already) – you can go to [www.wafarmersmarkets.com](http://www.wafarmersmarkets.com) or watch for the May edition of *Earth Letter* to learn about locations, opening days, and much more. Happy farmers market -ing!

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## Meditation/Reading

*The Song of Solomon ("Song of Songs") 2:10-13*

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;  
for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth their fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

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## Action Alert

### **Ask for a Clean, Sound Energy Bill**

The U.S. Senate is currently taking up a sweeping energy bill. You can send a message to speak out for the coral reefs, estuaries, other wildlife, habitat, and peoples who stand to suffer the most from the global warming, pollution, and habitat destruction caused by our country's seemingly insatiable demand for oil.

To make your voice heard, you can go directly to the World Wildlife Fund's web page on this issue at <http://takeaction.worldwildlife.org/action.asp?step=2&item=1109>.

*Have a blessed "Creation Sabbath,"*

*Earth Day, and Spring!* 