

# Earth Notes

A Newsletter for Earth Ministry Colleagues

April 2003

Dear Colleague,

Since the last edition of *Earth Notes*, the world feels like a very different place. Among some of the helpful voices during this time, I recommend those in *Orion Magazine*, at [www.orionsociety.org/index2.html](http://www.orionsociety.org/index2.html) (Orrin Johnson also recommended *Orion* to fellow Colleagues.) Several of *Orion's* on-line articles (e.g., one written by Wendell Berry) provide powerful insights on our involvement the war in Iraq, and its vast ramifications on civil liberties, the lives of Iraqi citizens and American service people, the natural world, international relations, and government and economic norms.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, forty-five Colleagues came together for our biannual Consultation and our first Greening Congregations Workshop, focused on "Greening Worship." It was a time for expressing concerns with one another (e.g., "how do we help our congregations remember creation in a time of war?") and working towards healing responses. We explored the idea that "worship is an action of world-making" as it can actively model healthy, just relationships with other people and with all of creation. (If you would like the handouts from this workshop, please let me know. We suggest a \$5 donation for copying and postage costs.)

Our next Greening Congregations Workshop, "**Greening Education for Children and Youth**," will take place on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. We encourage you to invite anyone who works with children and/or youth and wants to help them grow in their love and care for creation (please see details below). Also, please note that the **National Council of Churches' Environmental Justice Conference** is coming to Seattle University, June 20 -23. The conference is the most important national gathering for congregational, eco-justice organizers (like yourself). (You'll also find details on this conference below.)

As Lent nears its end and all creation wakes to new life, I pray for God's peace to be with you,

Tanya Marcovna Barnett

## Events for Colleagues and Congregations

**Saturday, April 19: Earth Day, Reflection & Restoration events along the Duwamish and Cedar Rivers.** Holy Saturday (April 19) is a time for Celebrating the restoration of hope. Adults and youth (ages 12 and older) are welcome to join us for these habitat restoration and reflection events. **RSVP** with us for directions and details – **space is limited**.

- *Duwamish details:* 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., meet at Georgetown Gospel Chapel, 6612 Carleton Ave. S, Seattle. With People for Puget Sound.

- *Cedar details:* 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., meet at Cedar River Education Center, 19901 Cedar Falls Rd. SE, North Bend. With Friends of the Cedar River Watershed.

**Tuesday, April 22: Happy Earth Day!** If your congregation is observing a creation-care Sunday anytime around Earth Day, you can find many ideas and resources at: [www.earthministry.org/Congregations/earthday.htm](http://www.earthministry.org/Congregations/earthday.htm).

**Sunday, April 27: Car Free Sunday.** On the Sunday after Easter and Earth Day, you and your congregation can help to share the Sabbath with God's creation. By biking, carpooling, walking, or riding the bus you'll help to give creation a break from harmful pollutants and greenhouse gases, and lessen our nation's consumption of oil. You can also give yourself the gift of slowing down and enjoying the Sabbath. Please see our web site for a flyer and details: [www.earthministry.org/carfree.htm](http://www.earthministry.org/carfree.htm).

**Wednesdays, April 30, May 7, 14, & 21: "The Earth Charter – Now More Than Ever!"** 7:15 p.m., St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Blodel Auditorium, 1245 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. E, Seattle. St. Mark's Ecology Spirituality group invites you to learn about the *Earth Charter* and what it means for Christians. Each session will feature a different speaker – including May 7<sup>th</sup> with Councilmember Heidi Wills.

**Saturday, May 3: Earth Ministry Field Trip: Wildflowers and Birds East of the Cascades.** Yakima River Canyon, carpools depart from Seattle at 8 a.m. Spring comes early and quickly east of the mountains. Our field trip leaders will include botanists/Colleagues Joe Arnett and Van Bobbitt, as well as others with birding experience. **RSVP** with us – **space is limited**.

**Saturday, May 31: Greening Congregations Workshop: "Greening Education for Children and Youth."** 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., location TBA, \$5 suggested donation. This interactive workshop will equip church organizers, teachers, youth leaders, parents, and all adults to help children and youth grow in their love and care for God's creation. Our featured presenters include "Earth Education" trainers from Catholic Youth Organization and others who nurture creation-honoring "seeds" within children and youth. Includes a light soup lunch. Contact us for details and to **RSVP**.

**Friday-Monday, June 20-23: The National Council of Churches' (NCC) Environmental Ministries Conference** : "Enough for All: Sustainable Living in a Global World" at Seattle University. You're invited to this national conference that examines the spiritual, ethical, and theological implications of living in a global marketplace. This important and practical, biennial gathering of the ecumenical community will feature Sallie McFague, David Korten, and Damu Smith. To learn more about this event and to register, go to [www.webofcreation.org/ncc/conference/index.html](http://www.webofcreation.org/ncc/conference/index.html).

## Highlighted Resource

*Our newest book has arrived!*

### ***Food & Faith: Justice, Joy, and Daily Bread***

As we enter the growing season, this community building resource is perfect for individuals and congregations who want to celebrate the gift of “daily bread.” It includes:

- An anthology (forty readings) and study guide (for four, six, or eight week studies), focusing on the celebration and spirituality of food, and on the ecological and social impacts of the global food system.
- Chapters on health, genetically modified organisms, hunger, the family farm, and more.
- Insightful works by Wendell Berry, Elizabeth Johnson, Eric Schlosser, Vandana Shiva, and many others.

*Cost per copy:* \$14.95 + tax and shipping.

*Group cost:* \$12.95 per copy + tax and shipping.

To order: Please contact Earth Ministry at (206) 632 -2426 or [emoffice@earthministry.org](mailto:emoffice@earthministry.org).

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## 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.*

- Kate Nelson from University Congregational United Church of Christ wanted to share the following announcement of a series co- led by a member of the church's Sacred Earth Group:  
**Tuesdays, April 29 – May 27: “Incarnational Spirituality.”** 7-9 p.m., University Congregational UCC, 4515 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Seattle. This five -week class “explores the spiritual belief, practices, and exploration around the meaning of incarnation of Spirit” – especially in light of ecological degradation and other instances of brokenness. Led by Mary Rose (M.Div.) and Karl Ostrom. For more information, contact Mary at Spiritual Pathways at (425) 828 -8977; to sign up for the class, call the church at (206) 524 -2322.

- You will find lots of great stories and news from other Colleagues in the **Colleague Sharing** notes from our most recent Colleague Consultation. To read these inspiring pieces (e.g., Christ Church Episcopal in Tacoma is now purchasing green energy!) go to: [www.earthministry.org/Congregations/colleague\\_sharing\\_2003.htm](http://www.earthministry.org/Congregations/colleague_sharing_2003.htm).



A warm welcome to our newest Colleagues!

Jane Ely – St. Benedicts Episcopal, Lacey

Nancy Hannah – University Congregational UCC, Seattle

You're a blessing to your congregations,  
creation, and us!



## Eco-tip

On average, our food travels 1,300 miles from farm to table – at the expense of burning vast amounts of fossil fuel and the stability of local farming families and communities. 'Tis the season to support our local farmers through Farmers Markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) opportunities. The Olympia Farmers Market is already open and many others will “sprout” in April and May. For a full list of market locations and days of operation, go to [www.wafarmersmarkets.com](http://www.wafarmersmarkets.com).

For subscriber-to-farmer CSA opportunities in Seattle, contact Tanya for information. For CSAs in Seattle and other areas throughout the region, you can also go directly to [www.seattletilth.org/resources/csalist2002.html](http://www.seattletilth.org/resources/csalist2002.html).

**Happy Eating!**

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## Prayer

*A Prayer for Planetary Peace*

*By Mary de La Valette (Gaia Institute, Massachusetts)*

Let us understand  
The gravity of our situation.  
Let us understand  
That our only redemption  
Is love.  
Love for a small, endangered planet  
On which we are utterly dependent.  
Only love can transform us  
From plunderers and savages  
Into Earthkeepers and peacemakers.  
Only love can show us  
The integrity and rights  
Of all other beings.  
Only love can open our eyes  
To the truth and beauty  
That surround us.  
Only love can teach us  
The humility we need  
To live on this Earth.  
And only love can now save us  
From extinction.

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## Action Alert

### **McCain-Lieberman Global Warming Bill:**

*Excerpted from Environmental Defense's web site.*  
Senators John McCain (AZ) and Joseph Lieberman (CT) have introduced the Climate Stewardship Act. Their historic bill is the first comprehensive national policy for cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Their bipartisan bill could be the most important piece of environmental legislation in Congress in decades, helping shape the debate over climate policy for years to come. The Senate may vote on the Act in early May. To learn about the Act and encourage your legislators to support it, go to [http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/globalwarming\\_petition](http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/globalwarming_petition).