

Dear Colleague,

Summer greetings to you! We hope that this season brings you times of rest and wonderment in God's creation. This is a time of year when many congregations look for opportunities to be outside, enjoying and learning from creation. If you would like creation-awareness/care resources to enhance hikes, retreats, Vacation Bible School (or other similar offerings for children and youth), work days, or other events, please don't hesitate to contact us for recommendations.

We also invite you and members of your congregation to join us on our own summer field trips (see below) – please feel free to let others know of them through bulletins, bulletin boards, etc. These are great times of fellowship, learning, and inspiration for activities that congregations can do on their own.

Warmly,

Tanya Marcovna Barnett & Nancy Wright

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## Events for Colleagues and Congregations

**Thursday-Sunday, July 11-14:** "Earth's Energy, God's Light." Linfield College (40 miles SW of Portland, OR). Sponsored by Presbyterian for Restoring Creation, this conference features Dr. David Orr and the Rev. Dr. Carol Johnson. For information, go to [www.pcusa.org/prc](http://www.pcusa.org/prc) or contact Rebecca at (888) 728-7228 x5811.

**Saturday, July 27:** Family Field Trip – Cedar River Journey. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., meet at Trinity United Methodist Church, 6512 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW, Seattle (Ballard). On this trip, *especially designed for families with children*, we'll hop on a bus and track the Cedar River's course. With our host, Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, we'll learn about our connections with the river (it provides much of Seattle's drinking water) and the plants and creatures that make their home in the watershed. We'll have the special opportunity to tour the upper watershed and spend time at the beautiful, new Education Center there. Please dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a lunch and water bottle. \$15 donation for adults, and \$10 for children to help cover the cost of the bus. Please **RSVP:** (206) 632-2426.

**Sunday, July 28:** An Evening with Vandana Shiva. 7:30 p.m., Kane Hall, University of Washington (Seattle), \$10. Shiva, author of *Stolen Harvest* and many other works will discuss corporate control of the global food supply.

**Saturday, August 10:** Mt. Rainier Wildflower Field Trip. This annual field trip is filled with spectacular wildflowers, times for reflection and learning, and one another's fellowship. For more details, please watch for our Monthly Update. Please **RSVP:** (206) 632-2426.

## Highlighted Resources

- Earth Ministry's new ...

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

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

As we announced in the last edition of *Earth Notes*, this new, 215-page Handbook is a "tool box" for all who want to foster creation awareness and care in their congregations. It contains readings (with accompanying study questions and bibliographies), an extensive section entitled "Where do we begin?" (with many Colleagues' stories and insights), our Greening Congregations process, new practical resources (such as a sample worship service), and an easy-to-use format. We're offering this new version at a reduced rate to Colleagues: \$10 + \$2 for postage (instead of \$18). To order, please contact Yvonne Whilemsen using our contact information below.

- ***The Responsible Purchasing Guide for Faith Communities*** from Center for a New American Dream (CNAD). CNAD has selected eight actions that have a significant environmental impact – ones that help promote social justice and are fairly easy to implement. The *Guide* provides key steps congregations can take, outlines ways to undertake each action, and calculates the positive impact of those actions. Copies of the *Guide* are available for \$5. To order, please contact Cassandra Carmichael, at [cassandra@newdream.org](mailto:cassandra@newdream.org) or (877) 68-DREAM. To see sample pages from the *Guide*, go to [www.newdream.org/faith](http://www.newdream.org/faith).

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## Stories and News from Congregations

*Please send/e-mail stories or news you'd like to share with other Colleagues.*

- Christie Hammond from St. Paul's Episcopal (Seattle) recently wrote, "it occurred to me that it might be a blessing to share our church gardens, with one another, and perhaps with the greater community as well." She would like to put together a simple guide to church gardens in the Puget Sound region. She requests, "If you have a garden to share and are interested in this idea, or, if you know of other church gardens in the region that should be considered, please let me know." If you have ideas or questions, contact Christie at (206) 329-2212, or [christiehammond@attbi.com](mailto:christiehammond@attbi.com). (We will forward Christie's original message to those Colleagues for whom we have e-mail addresses.)

*(Stories and News from Congregations, continued ...)*

- Kurt Buchanan from First Presbyterian (Mount Vernon) just finished helping to design and facilitate an adult education series using Earth Ministry's *Food, Faith, and Sustainability* (revised version due out in Oct. 2002). The series brought together diverse members from this region in which farmland is rapidly disappearing. Kurt also used the very effective video, *The Global Banquet*, recently produced by Maryknoll. To borrow a copy of this video, please contact us; to learn more about it, go to [www.maryknoll.org/MALL/VIDEO/vglob\\_banq.htm](http://www.maryknoll.org/MALL/VIDEO/vglob_banq.htm)
- The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia now has a "Committee on the Environment." This is a vibrant group working to promote creation awareness and care throughout congregations in the diocese. All Episcopalians who would like to learn more about the Committee, please contact Colleague Chris Christensen, at (206) 363-6468.

*We warmly welcome our newest Colleagues...*  
Rev. Deborah Adams – First Congregational UCC, Everett  
*\*Returning\**: Rev. Mary Brown – Snoqualmie United Methodist, Snoqualmie  
Ellen Fisher – Eagle Harbor UCC, Bainbridge Is.  
Maryfrances Lignana – St. Joseph's Roman Catholic, Issaquah  
Marilyn Mastor – St. Paul's Episcopal, Bellingham  
Jordy McCall – Marine View Presbyterian, Tacoma  
*...may God richly bless your vision and efforts.*

### Eco-tip

*The following tip comes from an e-mail from Jordy McCall (just mentioned above). It's very helpful information for supporting "green" power and mitigating the damages of global warming.*

Most local power utilities are offering programs in which you can pay a few dollars extra per month on your electricity bill to support generation of "green" power. [Most] use the money to collectively buy electricity from Bonneville Power Administration's wind, solar, and fish-friendly hydro plants. If you're interested, here are links to some of the bigger utilities out there.

- Puget Sound Energy  
[www.pse.com/yourhome/greenpower/how.html](http://www.pse.com/yourhome/greenpower/how.html)
- Seattle City Light  
[www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/green/greenpower/](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/green/greenpower/)
- Tacoma Power  
[www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/greenpower/default.htm](http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/power/greenpower/default.htm)
- Peninsula Light  
[www.penlight.org/Marketing/Peninsula%20Light%27s%20Green%20Power%20Program.html](http://www.penlight.org/Marketing/Peninsula%20Light%27s%20Green%20Power%20Program.html)

### Meditation

*From Terry Tempest Williams', Red: Passion and patience in the Desert, Random House © 2001, p. 215.*

"The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint, that we might leave room for the life that is destined to come. To protect what is wild is to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wildness we fear is the pause between our own heartbeats, the silent space that says we live only by grace. Wildness lives by this same grace. Wild mercy is in our hands."

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### Action Alert

An important part of being an advocate (i.e., one who speaks for those without a voice) is to thank those in positions of power when they *do* act on behalf of the voiceless of creation. Thanking them gives them greater support – which is both personally encouraging and statistically important – for taking necessary follow-up actions. Here are two opportunities for sending "thank-yous" on recent wilderness and roadless areas actions:

#### **The Wild Sky Wilderness Act**

On May 23, Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Rick Larsen introduced the Wild Sky Wilderness Act, which would designate over 106,000 acres of new Washington Wilderness – the first National Forest Wilderness proposal for the state since 1984. The bill would add the roadless areas of Washington's scenic Skykomish River Valley to the National Wilderness Preservation System. To learn more about the bill and to thank these legislators, go to

[www.wawild.org/action/take\\_action.htm](http://www.wawild.org/action/take_action.htm) or write/e-mail:

[Sen. Patty Murray](mailto:Sen.PattyMurray)

2988 Jackson Federal Building, 915 2nd Ave. Seattle, WA 98174

[Congressman Rick Larsen](mailto:CongressmanRickLarsen)

104 W. Magnolia, Room 303, Bellingham, WA 98225

#### **The Roadless Area Conservation Rule**

On January 12, 2001, after nearly three years of analysis and the greatest public outreach in the history of federal rulemaking, the U.S. Forest Service adopted the Roadless Area Conservation Rule that protects 58.5 million roadless acres in National Forests. Although the current Administration is presently refusing to implement the Rule, Senator Maria Cantwell and Congressman Jay Inslee have worked tirelessly to defend it. To learn more, go to

[www.wilderness.org/standbylands/roadless/index.htm](http://www.wilderness.org/standbylands/roadless/index.htm). To

thank these legislators, go to

[www.wawild.org/action/take\\_action.htm](http://www.wawild.org/action/take_action.htm) or write/e-mail:

[Senator Maria Cantwell](mailto:SenatorMariaCantwell)

915 Second Avenue, Suite 512, Seattle WA 98172

[Congressman Jay Inslee](mailto:CongressmanJayInslee)

21905-64<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Ste. 101, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043