

Dear Colleague,

We hope that this mid-summer newsletter finds you well and with time for both creativity and Sabbath rest. We like to use this time of year to catch up with all Colleagues and to see how we can better support your congregational ideas and efforts. If we haven't spoken with you yet, please feel free to call or email us.

On October 5th, we'll again celebrate the "patron saint of the environmental movement" – Saint Francis of Assisi – as well as our Greening Congregation Partners. See the event listings below for more details on our celebration and please feel free to invite friends and members of your congregation to join us. We're including a flyer and bulletin insert on the celebration in case you would like to help us spread the word.

Warm regards,

☀ Nancy Wright & Tanya Marcovna Barnett ☀

Events for Colleagues and Congregations

Friday, August 23 & Saturday, August 24: Rally and Presentation for "Walk to Washington D.C. for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," rally (8/23): Westlake Center (Seattle), noon; *presentation (8/24):* St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral (Seattle) Bloedel Hall, 7-9 p.m. Members of the Gwich'in Nation and others striving for permanent protection of the Refuge will walk from Seattle to Washington D.C. In doing so they will help to raise awareness of the Refuge and related human rights and energy concerns. At the service Gwich'in Elder Norma Kassi will speak and environmental photographer Ken Madsen will present his marvelous slide show. For more information about the walk itself, go to www.cariboucommons.com/walk/index.php.

Saturday, August 24: "Rolling Thunder Down Home Democracy Tour," Petrovitsky Park, Renton. Spearheaded by Jim Hightower (progressive commentator from Texas), this "is a festival of music, arts and grassroots organizing. A county fair with guts." To learn more, call (206) 686-2975 or go to www.rollingthundertour.org/events/seattle.cfm.

Saturday, September 14: Restoration and Reflection along the Cedar River, 9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m., meet at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center, near Rattlesnake Lake, North Bend. A day for reflection and good, hands-on work to help preserve the watershed for other creatures' habitats and our own

drinking water supply. Youth (over the age of 12) and youth groups encouraged. Please call or email us for more information and to [RSVP](#).

Friday, September 27: Earth Ministry's "Fourth Friday Films" (please see our September "Monthly Update" or web site for details). We invite you to these new monthly gatherings around a great movie, popcorn, and one another. On Sept. 27th, we'll watch *Babette's Feast* – come "feast" on this time with others who share your interests and bring a friend. RSVP using our contact information below.

Friday, October 4 – Monday, October 7: "Eating Locally, Thinking Globally" conference, Seattle Center. Co-sponsored by Earth Ministry. This sixth annual Community Food Security Coalition conference will focus on sustaining local agriculture and securing ample supplies of nutritious, affordable food for all. For more information, go to www.foodsecurity.org or contact Tanya using our information at the bottom of this page.

Saturday, October 5: Celebration of St. Francis: An Evening of Nature, Spirituality, and the Arts, Denny Park Lutheran Church, 766 John St., Seattle; 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. (Please see enclosed flyer and bulletin insert.) This year, in conjunction with the Community Food Security Coalition, our annual celebration will feature author and ethnobotanist, Dr. Gary Paul Nabhan, and local video producer, John de Graff. For information and tickets, please contact us using the information below.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, October 20: Earth Ministry Colleague Consultation, 1-5 p.m. (location TBA). Based on feedback from many Colleagues, we'll host our biannual gathering for Colleagues on a Sunday (rather than Saturday). We'll have a mini-retreat, a learning session on helping children and youth enjoy and care for creation, a time for sharing with one another, and refreshments. Please mark your calendar, RSVP, and we hope see you there.

Highlighted Resource

Lynda Flanagan, a Colleague from St. Leo Parish in Tacoma, emailed us a link to a fantastic web site: "Care2 Make the Difference" at

www.care2.com/near_home/getlocal_list_all.html.

It's an "environmental search engine" that contains numerous, helpful links to environmental sites throughout the nation. It includes everything from Audubon Chapters, to Energy Efficiency, to Zoos!

Stories & News from Local Congregations

Please always free to share news and stories with us.

Sharon Kenyon, a Colleague from Fairwood United Methodist Church in Renton, sent us news of an amazing rescue that occurred on a recent church hike. One of the hikers, Dick Mathias, severely broke his leg on the hike. Other church members quickly came to his aid and later he wrote that with their aid, "I felt a calmness come over me, an assurance that all would be okay, as I asked God for strength, wisdom and courage to be with me and all who would assist in my aid and rescue." Dick wrote of many "angels on the trail" including a young hiker who quickly located a skilled physician's assistant (in the middle of the North Cascades!), four men who carried Dick through deep snow to a clearing, and the Snohomish Co. Rescue helicopter team that spotted their party and flew Dick safely to a local hospital. If you would like to read Dick's harrowing and inspiring story, contact Tanya at tm Barnett@earthministry.org or (206) 632-2426.

On a different note, Sharon also spoke of many other goings-on at Fairwood including a children's service in the church's outdoor chapel. Each child was encouraged to say something that she/he appreciated in God's creation – it was a moving time with all of the children's insights. On the same day, the children weeded in the outdoor chapel and vegetable (for the local food bank) garden. They even took the time to bless the garden's produce and name plants in a neighboring native plant garden. This month, at the behest of many children and youth, they'll have an outdoor blessing of the animals.



We warmly welcome our newest Colleagues!

Dianna Amorde – St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral,
Seattle

Nena Gay – St. Brendan Roman Catholic Church, Bothell

Judy Raymer – Plymouth Congregational, Seattle

Joyce Yoder & Matt Nickele – Queen Anne Christian,
Seattle

 *We're grateful to have you with us!* 

Eco-tips

Move away from pressure-treated wood

Pressure-treated wood (PTW) seems to find its way into a variety of summer projects: from raised beds in gardens, to sandboxes, to fences, porches, etc. If you're thinking of using PTW, here are some things to consider from American Public Information on the Environment (American P.I.E., www.americanpie.org, [800] 320- APIE):

PTW is made just as its name implies – wood is placed in a pressure chamber and liquid preservatives are forced into the pores of the wood, forming a chemical barrier against the elements. Three widely used preservatives – creosote, arsenic (chromated copper arsenate or "CCA"), and pentachlorophenol ("penta") – are highly toxic.

According to the American Wood Preservative Association, treated wood accounts for more than 21 percent of all the dollars spent on timber products. The chief benefit of PTW – it can last fifty years or more – is far outweighed by associated and growing health hazards: creosote and CCA have been shown to cause cancer in humans; penta causes cancer in lab animals. CCA has also been linked to genetic damage and birth defects. There is, moreover, no environmentally sound way to dispose of treated wood once it has outlived its use. (For more information on PTW, visit www.beyondpesticides.org.)

By avoiding purchases of PTW, we stop our support for the production of hazardous substances and help reduce a very knotty waste problem for future generations. Here are a few tips to deal with this problem:

- (1) When possible, choose alternatives such as stone and salvaged concrete for landscaping tasks.
- (2) Select products that use naturally rot-resistant woods obtained from certified foresters or salvaged timber of rot-resistant species such as cedar, redwood, or cypress.
- (3) If products are not rot-resistant but need protection, coat them with a natural or low-pollutant paint or finish.
- (4) Borate preservatives, derived from boron, are relatively nontoxic and can be useful for sealing wood surfaces that will remain dry.
- (5) If there's already PTW on your property, seal surfaces intended for human (especially children) contact.

Litany/Prayer

A benediction from For All Who Minister, Brethren Press, © 1993:

And now may the courage of the early morning's
dawning,

And the strength of the eternal hills at noontime,

And the peace of the open spaces at evening's ending,

And the love of God,

Abide in your hearts now and forever. Amen.

Action Alert

Clean Water for Salmon

(Portions excerpted from the Washington Toxics Coalition web site, www.watoxics.org.) Salmon and people share a fundamental need: clean water. Widespread use of pesticides, however, has led to contamination of rivers, lakes, and streams throughout the Pacific Northwest. Strong evidence shows that this widespread pesticide contamination is a major threat to salmon: killing them directly, reducing their food supply, and by harming them in subtle ways that reduce their survival and reproduction. Those who consume salmon (from local tribe members to Orca whales) are also directly impacted by pesticides that build up in their own bodies over time. To learn more and to send a letter to Governor Gary Locke asking him to make protection of salmon against pesticides a top priority, please go to www.watoxics.org.