

Resources for *Creation Care Season* Beginning with *Creation Care Sunday*, October 2, 2011

*The 2010 Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts voted to adopt the weeks from Oct. 2 –Nov. 26, 2011, as **Creation Care Season**, joining other faith communities around the world in a witness to God’s moral and justice imperative to care for the house of God, this “fragile earth our island home,” all life, all creatures. The following list is provided to help congregations in their worship and study during **Creation Care Season**, and throughout the year.*

Liturgical Resources

- **The Episcopal Ecological Network (EpEN)** has a website <http://eenonline.org/reflect/liturgy.htm> with various liturgical resources. Although they appear to be dated for 2008, the lectionary readings now match 2011 (October 2nd is Proper 22 in the lectionary readings). Additional liturgies are found at the bottom of the page.
- **Season of Creation** <http://seasonofcreation.com/> is an ecumenical site which includes liturgical materials, bible studies, children’s materials, and other resources. Please note that *their* season of creation *only* encompasses the month of September. This is not the same as the diocese of Massachusetts’ “Season of Creation” – October 2 through November 26, 2011.
- **A Season of Creation** - the program from the Church of So. Africa published in June 2008. http://acen.anglicancommunion.org/resources/docs/season_of_creation.pdf. This is an entire book to download which includes Eucharistic prayers and a lectionary for the season. Six sections follows; each includes a different Eucharistic liturgy, background information to assist with the preparation of sermons and prayers, small group study material, and finally an appendix with further resource materials. (note – large download!)
- **The World Council of Churches** has many liturgical resources for **A Time for Creation**: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/events-sections/countdown-to-climate-justice/time-for-creation.html> . This year’s theme is “forests.”
- **St. Francis liturgies and blessing of the animals**: <http://www.textweek.com/festivals/francis.htm>
- **Let all Creation Praise** (<http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/home>) is a collection of liturgical and worship materials from the folks at Web of Creation. Search under the tabs for extra materials on special services, music, greening the sanctuary, and more.
- **Choosing hymns for Creation Care Season**: <http://www.env-steward.com/worship/hymns.htm> This chart helps choose hymns from several different hymnals. While on this page, check out the **environmental reflections based on the lectionary readings**.
- **The Bible and Ecology** (<http://www.bibleandecology.org/>) resources currently available, both print and online, on the Bible and what it has to say about creation, the deep connectedness of all forms of life and our role in helping to sustain and heal the earth. Particular helps on sermon preparation as well as other study aids.

Websites

- **Earthministry:** (<http://earthministry.org/about>) this website contains all sorts of ecumenical resources, liturgical materials, and studies to help churches educate their members to become involved in caring for the earth.
- **Lutherans Restoring Creation** contains all kinds of resources for churches. One of the newest resources is a lectionary-based **care for creation sermon reflections:** <http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>.
- **350.org is Bill McKibbin's web site** (<http://www.350.org/>) containing many informational links. This organization specifically promotes an event called "Moving Planet" (<http://www.moving-planet.org/>) on September 24, which is a rally on the ground in communities worldwide to demand solutions to the environmental crisis.
- **The National Council of Churches** has an **Eco-Justice website** with many free resources. There are many downloadable studies on a variety of topics developed specifically for churches, as well as a training program for young people. <http://ncccojustice.org/>
- **GreenFaith:** (<http://greenfaith.org/>) This interfaith organization addresses "spirit, stewardship, and justice" aspects of Earth-care. It offers a two-year Certification process to congregations to reduce energy, water use, trash, etc.; grants are available to Episcopal parishes.
- **Tenders of the Garden** (<http://www.ncccotenders.org/index.php>) An eco-justice website for youth groups and youth leaders – a program of the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice project. Ideas and materials to help youth become familiar with and involved with faith-based eco-justice activities.
- **Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MIP&L)** (<http://www.mipandl.org/>) Information, resources and expertise to help churches become more energy efficient and lower their carbon footprint. MIP&L will be presenting several SHOWs (Sustainable Houses of Worship workshops) this autumn throughout the diocese.

Curriculum

Sustainable Faith: God, the Environment and Human Responsibility - This adult formation resource was created in cooperation with the popular public radio series "Krista Tippett On Being™" (formerly known as "Speaking of Faith® with Krista Tippett").

The five-session program helps participants discuss their roles as stewards of the planet, and how to make sense of the current climate of challenging political and environmental issues. Materials include talks with experts working to meet needs on the frontlines of suffering in both Africa and New Orleans, and other inspirational people brave enough to challenge the establishment to ensure that both the planet and the people who inhabit it are protected. This is one of four small group studies in the Small-Group Discussions on Being series. Available for download for \$39.95.

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=productDetail&productID=8468>

To Serve and Guard the Earth: God's Creation Story and Our Environmental Concern, by Beth Bojarski

A practical parish or small-group resource suitable for High School groups and Adults (the 6 sessions make it also suitable for Lenten use) that connects the growing Christian environmental concern with the theology of creation in Genesis. It not only provides participants with a greater understanding of scriptural accounts of creation and the environmental problems facing us today, but also encourages participants to make practical applications to change their everyday lives and enhance important environmental values. Available for download by Church Publishing for \$49.95.

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/products/index.cfm?fuseaction=productDetail&productID=8465>

Episcopal Relief and Development: Church Education Programs for all ages

- **For Children: The Abundant Life Garden Project** This downloadable children's curriculum is offered to parishes, teachers, groups, families or others who seek to share the ministry and work of Episcopal Relief & Development with elementary-age children. This resource is a very flexible, low-cost program that can be implemented by any Episcopal parish, no matter its budget or resources. The program contains five thematic modules on Water, Seeds, Soil, Animals and Harvest with two appendices to the lesson modules offering additional options and tips. (<http://www.er-d.org/children>)
- **For Youth- Act Out: Empowering Youth to Heal a Hurting World** Act Out is an intensive educational program for middle- and high-school students that brings the needs and hopes of the world together with the lives of youth, in a context framed by liturgy and filled with prophetic stories of Scripture. There are three thematic modules on Malaria, Clean Water and Sanitation, and Hunger and Economic Opportunity. Each module is structured to conform to a 24-hour lock-in/retreat timeline, but is modifiable for other uses, such as weekly youth group meetings, camp programs or whatever else you can imagine! (<http://www.er-d.org/youth>)

Extensive review of environmental curriculum for all ages - check out this review of 91 different curriculums from the National Council of Churches. Though a little clunky to use, the review information is quite good and can be very helpful when making curriculum choices.

<http://www.eco-justice.org/CurricReview.asp>

Creation Care Season Workshops:

A resource to begin the Creation Care conversation for Deaneries or groups of churches, Christian Education, Sunday School, or seasonal programming.

This training is available in two formats:

1. **Informational presentation** about climate change and the impact of the size of our carbon foot print on creation. It will address how to reduce the foot print and live into the season.
2. **Workshop designed to train trainers.** Specifically it will equip you to be a resource to congregations and deaneries as they take steps to reduce their carbon foot print and live into the season as a worshipping community of faith.

Each can be tailored in terms of content or age group on request. Examples of topics are:

- Climate change and reducing our carbon footprint
- Ethical, political and economic responsibility
- The science of climate change
- Creation Theology
- Resources

Workshop leaders: Karen B Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training, Diocese of Massachusetts; Faith Salter, Appalachian Mountain Club; and Jim Nail, Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light. For more information contact: Karen B. Montagno, Director of Congregational Resources and Training, kmontagno@diomass.org or 617-482-4826 x 413.

Speakers and Media presentations for all ages

Appalachian Mountain Club Climate Change and Energy Conservation Education to Action

<http://www.outdoors.org/conservation/issues/climatechange-recreationist.cfm>

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) knows that air pollution and climate change affect the health and experiences of people who love to be outdoors, as well as, having an impact on the unique ecology of the Northeastern United States. We also know that it will take many steps from each of us to slow and/or reverse these trends. AMC has created a free education to action program for delivery by trained volunteer presenters, to help people of all ages learn about air pollution, energy conservation, and climate change. Each presentation is tailored to deliver a local message so that people in the northeastern US come to understand that climate change is happening now, here in our communities. The program includes an educational component as well as a call to action – Conserve Energy, Share what you Know, Become a Citizen Scientist with AMC's Mountain Watch program. For more information about how you can take the free training or invite a volunteer presenter, contact Faith Salter (fsalter@outdoors.org)

How it's been used

In 2009, St. Andrew's Ayer organized an evening to share this presentation with the congregation and members of surrounding communities. Organizers partnered with local environmental groups and advertised in the newspaper, and an AMC volunteer presenter came to do the talk. Discussion included sharing of energy conservation ideas and suggested people to talk to about energy conservation. Several participants commented on how much the presentation helped them understand the concepts of climate change and global warming, and their ability to make a difference.

In 2010, St. Andrew's Ayer organized a presentation for kids as part of their Go Greener contest. Kids earned 5 points for attending. During discussion, one young participant asked, "Why don't people care about climate change?" which led to very interesting conversations about the need to talk with people to help them understand their role and potential for making change.

Take AIM at Climate Change Music Video

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Take_AIM_at_Climate_Change_video.html (The information in this video was accurate as of the original publication date).

The **Take AIM at Climate Change** music video features lyrics based on the latest science, images showing NASA visualizations, and rhymes and rhythms inspired by contemporary rap and hip-hop. Tommy Boots, Jené and friends review how changes at Earth's poles have global impact. The video shows how each of us can take "A-I-M" at global warming by using science and technology to "Adapt, Innovate, Mitigate." For more information, please visit www.passporttoknowledge.com/polar-palooza.

Another site for the video: <http://www.passporttoknowledge.com/polar-palooza/whatyoucando/taacc/>

How it's been used

This video works really well with children and adults as a way to "put it all together," from the effects of burning fossil fuels on the climate to their capacity for action. St. Andrew's Ayer made use of the link as part of their Go Greener contest. Kids earned 5 points for going to the website to view the video. It's really appealing to fifth grade and up.

Carbon Nation the Movie:

(<http://carbonationmovie.com> for the trailer, blog, and other information)

Carbon Nation is a documentary movie about climate change SOLUTIONS. Even if you doubt the severity of the impact of climate change or just don't buy it at all, this is still a compelling and relevant film that illustrates how SOLUTIONS to climate change also address other social, economic and national security issues. You'll meet a host of entertaining and endearing characters along the way.

Carbon Nation is an optimistic, solutions-based, non-preachy, non-partisan, big tent film that shows tackling climate change boosts the economy, increases national & energy security and promotes health & a clean environment.

How it's been used

St. Andrew's Ayer purchased a special pre-release screening license to include the film in their community oriented Go Greener contest in 2010. People were particularly struck by the evidence of the current impacts of climate change on the natural resources of the United States, particularly the National Parks. People wept at seeing the devastation of forests in the west. There is also a strong message of hope in the movie. Solving the problem of American dependence on oil is within our reach, provided we take the steps to conserve energy with new technology as well as by making improvements to old technology. Participants also noted that the film highlights the potential of the green economy, the cost savings to municipalities, and the potential improved quality of life for poor urban neighborhoods.

This resource list has been prepared by Amy Cook, Faith Salter, and Karen Montagno for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.