

Foothills Presbytery Church Highlights:

Updates from Buc Outdoor Center and Camp Buc Summer Camp!

David Florence, Program Director, reports that the Farm and Garden elements are working quite well at camp. The raised bed herb garden, chickens, kittens, turtles, etc. are well received by the campers.

Vision of a Garden

With a desire to continue serving the local community, and with a significant amount of underutilized land, the congregation of John Calvin Presbyterian Church is interested in developing a community garden for the residents of Berea. A well-organized, well-supported garden effort provides an effective and practical way to assist all of God's people. While community gardens provide a wide range of benefits to any community, Berea has specific needs toward which this initiative could help alleviate. Berea is a community in transition; in close proximity to John Calvin there is a diverse population of Latino-Hispanic, African-American, and elderly Caucasian families. There are also several faith communities including Russell Memorial Presbyterian, Monaghan Baptist, Freedom Baptist, Woodside Church of God, as well as Berea and Monaview Elementary Schools who could benefit from the collaboration of a community garden. The current needs include:

- Lumber for raised beds
- Small storage shed
- Compost barrels
- Organic fertilizers
- Gardening tools
- Labor to help build the beds
- 100 ft. water hoses

This is a work in progress and any assistance will help the vision become reality. Perhaps a youth group could help build a raised bed or your mission team could provide plants or funds to purchase specific needs. Prayers are also welcomed. For more information or to help, contact Al Masters [<mailto:afmasters@gmail.com>] or call him at 864-414-4355.



Join the Environmental Ministries Action Network

Environmental Ministries is launching the [Environmental Ministries Action Network](#) (EMAN), which is open to anyone who is involved in environmental stewardship in their congregation and/or presbytery. The goal of EMAN is to inspire and equip Presbyterians to care for God's earth and to increase the channels of communication between Environmental Ministries and congregations and presbyteries with environmental stewardship programs.

Participants in EMAN will work with their churches and/or presbyteries to care for God's creation. PC(USA) Environmental Ministries will be in regular communication with EMAN participants to provide them with tools and resources for this work. Participants will be eligible to apply for funds to use on environmental stewardship projects in their church or presbytery.

[Learn more and sign up to join the Environmental Ministries Action Network.](#)

Foothills EMAN members known to date:

**Al Masters, John Calvin, Greenville, SC
John Spragins, Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson, SC
Manella Calhoun, Roberts Presbyterian Church, Anderson, SC**

Become involved in environmental advocacy

Are you looking for ways to be involved in environmental advocacy? Here are some ways to stay updated on environmental issues:

- ♦ The National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program offers frequent environmental action alerts under [Take Action?](#) on their website and through their [e-newsletter](#).
- ♦ The *Eco-Journey* blog includes an [Advocacy category](#), with opportunities to get involved.
- ♦ The PC(USA) [Office of Public Witness](#) offers a [Legislative Action Center](#) with current issues, including some environmental topics.

Other links of interest

Register for the Presbyterians for Earth Care Conference

Learn about Earth Care Congregations – For more information, see below

Support Environmental Ministries

South Carolina Master Naturalist News:

Upstate Master Naturalist Training

Sponsors: Pickens, Oconee and Greenville County Extension partnered with SC State Parks and SC Department of Natural Resources

Location: SC DNR facility in Clemson and natural areas of the Upstate

Date: August 18 - November 3, 2011 (Thursdays)

Time: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm (most classes)

Admission: \$600.00

Contact: Dr. James H. Blake

Email: jblake@clemson.edu

Upstate Master Naturalist classes are held on Thursdays and led by content experts from Clemson University, SC State Parks and SC Department of Natural Resources. Class times will vary depending on field trip activities.

During this 12 week course we will visit the upstate's finest natural areas including Table Rock State Park, Kings Creek, Burrell's Ford, Jones Gap State Park, Stumphouse Tunnel, Oconee State Park, Caesar's Head State Park, Jocassee Gorges, Jumping Off Rock, Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve, Lake Conestee Nature Park and the Clemson Experimental Forest.

Participants will be responsible for their own lunches and transportation to and from study sites. As part of the course fee, you will receive a Master Naturalist toolkit which includes a lanyard with a Master Naturalist manual, write-in-the-rain notebook and several field guides.

Please Call or Email Me: If I can assist your church committees on environmental issues and/or exploration into saving money and resources, please contact me at 864-224-0677 or email id mhc@clemson.edu.

With prior arrangements, I am available to lead Moment with Children, Minute for Mission, Wednesday night program or other opportunities to share God's love and explore our response to His Love in caring for our world.

Are you interested in working together as a EMAN Taskforce to help our churches become more active in saving money and resources? Let me know at mhc@clemson.edu.

Become an Earth Care Congregation

Is your church involved in caring for God's creation? Are you looking for resources to start caring for the earth? Either way, the new [Earth Care Congregations](#) program can help your church with this mission.

The goal of the program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of church life. *Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches* provides congregations with worksheets, resources, and instructions for becoming an Earth Care Congregation. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make the commitment to be stewards of God's earth and encourages others to follow their example.



To become an Earth Care Congregation churches affirm the Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of their church life and complete projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

The list of Earth Care Congregations is growing as more PCUSA churches have been honored as Earth Care Congregations for their commitment to caring for God's creation. Congratulations to these congregations. [Learn more about the program](#) and add your church's name to the list.

Learn more about the offerings from [ENERGY STAR for Congregations](#), a program of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Other links of interest

[Download a study guide](#) on biblical and theological Foundations for Eco-Justice.

[Support Environmental Ministries](#)

Advocacy Opportunity

* National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program is looking for faith leaders to sign a letter asking for toxic chemical reforms: Are you a parish nurse, pastor, chaplain, health worker, or involved in any sort of ministry with people who suffer chronic diseases? You are invited to speak out about your pastoral concerns for these families, and to ask Congress to protect families from toxic chemicals linked to chronic disease. Sign the letter, or refer others to it at <http://ncecojustice.org/health/chrstnldrstscaletter.php>

Poverty, Pollution, and Solutions Photojournalism Competition for youth and young

adults

* **The Joining Hands Networks**<<http://gamic.pcusa.org/ministries/hunger/joining-hands-country-profiles/>> of the Presbyteries of San Francisco and Cascades, and the UMAVIDA network in Bolivia<<http://www.umavida.org/red/>> are sponsoring a photojournalism contest and international exhibition focused on "Poverty, Pollution, and Solutions"<<http://www.umavida.org/photocontest/>>." The competition is open to non-professional photographers from the US and Bolivia between the ages of 14-30. The contest challenges participants to tell the story of an ecological injustice or a person or a group working on eco-justice issues in a series of 3-5 photos. The deadline for the contest is August 1, 2011. Find rules for the contest and more information<<http://www.umavida.org/photocontest/>>. The grand prize for the competition winner is a paid trip to the International Youth Environmental Congress in Bolivia in January 2012. <http://www.umavida.org/photocontest/>

Resources

Corporate Accountability International, which runs the "Think Outside the Bottle" Campaign. They offer many resources related to organizing around public ownership of water and other organizing around water issues, including decreasing consumption of bottled water (which is in line with the 2006 General Assembly overture urging churches to stop using disposables, including bottled water). In combination with the Bottle Water pledge<<http://presbyearthcare.org/advocacy-h20.html>> that Presbyterians for Earth Care offers, the following resources from Think Outside the Bottle may be of interest:

* **Think Outside the Bottle**

Pledge<http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/2215/t/8100/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=1410>
- This is the most basic action people can take. It's a personal pledge to opt for tap as well as a petition that we show to local governments to demonstrate support for public water systems.

* **Guide to Community**

Action<http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/sites/default/files/guide_for_community_action.pdf>
- This is a step-by-step guide for how communities can get their local governments to pass policies to cut public spending on bottled water.

* **Tap Water Challenge Action**

Guide<<http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/sites/default/files/Tap-Water-Challenge-Organizing-Kit.pdf>> - This is a fun blind taste test event between tap and bottled water. We do these all the time. Great way to get the community involved.

* **World Water**

Challenge<<http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/sites/default/files/World-Water-Challenge-Organizing-Kit.pdf>>
- This is based off of Oxfam's Hunger Banquet idea but is more geared towards bringing attention to the World Water Crisis.

* **Let's Move**

From www.pcusa.org/letsmove<<http://www.pcusa.org/letsmove>>:

"The PC(USA) has become involved with the Let's Move Initiative because of our commitment to ending childhood poverty, hunger and obesity. We believe that 'poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation' and hunger and obesity are symptoms of such poverty." PC(USA) is trying to involve 1,000 congregations in the Let's Move Initiative. To become involved, churches take steps to alleviate hunger and promote health through a variety of programs. Some of these activities also work to care for God's earth. For instance, if your church hosts a community garden, a farmers' market, or serves as a drop off site for a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, you can be a Let's Move congregation. There are many other ways to become involved surrounding children's programming and healthy living.

Learn more and sign up to be a Let's Move Congregation at www.pcusa.org/letsmove<<http://www.pcusa.org/letsmove>>.

2011 Events Calendar – some events/dates that might be of interest

June 30, 2011, 3pm EST/2pm CST, After the Spill Gulf Coast Update Conference Call

Dial-in number: 1-888-537-7715

Participant code: 42278265

Please email Rachel Cohen at RBCohen@rac.org<<mailto:RBCohen@rac.org>> to RSVP. More information is available at

<http://afterthespill.com/2011/06/16/june-update-call-gulf-coast-fishing-communities/>.

August 31-September 3, 2011, Presbyterians for Earth Care Conference

Presbyterians for Earth Care<<http://presbyearthcare.org/>> (PEC) is a grassroots, membership based eco-justice network that connects Presbyterians who are passionate about environmental issues. The organization holds a conference every two years, and PC(USA) Environmental Ministries is excited to be helping sponsor the 2011 conference, coming up August 31 to September 3 at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat<<http://www.highlandscamp.org/>>, near Allenspark, Colorado. The conference theme is "God's Earth: Too Big to Fail? An Eco-Justice Conversation Among Faith, Science and Culture." Registration is now open for the conference, with an early registration rate of \$150 through August 1. (After that the registration rate increases by \$25.) The full fee for registration, meals, and lodging, ranges from \$300.50 in a tent to \$359.50 for a triple or quad occupancy room in the retreat center. Register here<http://www.highlandscamp.org/?site_id=801&id_sub=48685&page_id=105576&productgallery_id=1>. Learn more about the conference at <http://toobigtoofail.wordpress.com/>.

September 19-23, 2011 Sustainable Pathways: Creation Care and Best Practices for Camp and Retreat Ministries <<http://www.pccca.net/events.php?view=94>>,

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center<<http://www.ferncliff.org/>> in Little Rock, Arkansas

The conference will provide participants with ideas for incorporating sustainability into their camp and conference centers in many areas, including maintenance,

facility planning, energy efficiency programs, and food service. Register online at www.ferncliff.org<<http://www.ferncliff.org>> or call 1-888-563-5167.
