

# PEC UPDATE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2 Summer 2012

## Moderator's Reflection By Diane Waddell

ear Colleagues in Creation Care,

As you settle in to enjoy this Update, I invite you to be mindful of God's goodness as we all prepare to embrace the beauty of summer. The gifts of this season are particularly 'earthy' ones... with an opportunity to 'engage' with the soil...to feel the essence of the warm sun and to enjoy a baptism by (summer rain) shower. These gifts of God through creation touch us, body/mind/soul.

Yet as we enjoy these gifts we are reminded of the challenges before us as partners in creation care. We are in the midst of a massive carbon crisis...running head-on into more obvious concerns (bizarre weather patterns, glacial melting, etc.). I am grateful that there is a growing consciousness among many people toward Earth caring, with often a parallel consciousness as to how earth justice and social justice together weave a complementary pattern.

These caregivers include MANY gifted persons in PEC who dedicate themselves tirelessly in ministry in work in eco- and social justice, including members of PEC's own Advocacy committee. In the PC(USA), there's a lot of 'sustainable' energy, through Environmental Ministries, the Office of Public Witness, Presbyterian Hunger Program (including the Enough for Everyone Program), Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN, and "Unbound," an exciting e-journal on Christian Social Justice from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy. Montreat is offering a wonderful witness to earth care, as noted in Bill Seaman's article. Stony Point (the site of our Steering Committee annual meeting) honors sustainable agriculture, with Ghost Ranch, and Fern-

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cliff (the site of our 2013 Conference in Little Rock), and other PCCCA sites sharing the same philosophy. Eco-Stewards is also in the midst of all this great work. (In addition, PEC works closely with NCC Eco-Justice Working Group, for whom Shantha Ready-Alonso, our coordinator, is also staff).

With the presence of these friends, and many others in ecumenical and secular networks we enhance our vision. Our regional reps are reaching out to touch base with members, Earth Care Congregations, camps and conference centers, and Presbyterian colleges and seminaries. Please take time to note your regional representative. (Please also take time to vote in the election, which includes three new reps, as noted in Karen Turney's article.)

There will be issues regarding social and environmental justice at General Assembly. We pray for guidance as these go through Overture and Commissioner Resolution process, and hope that you will ask your commissioners to please carefully review and support actions which support environmental and social justice.

Summer. It is an 'earthy' time, a time of contemplation and connecting. A time to recall these words from the UN Environmental Sabbath:

"...We celebrate all the family of creation, heaven and earth, as one seamless garment, of which we, too, are an integral part. We celebrate the soils, which nurture the food for our bodies.

We celebrate the seas, the air, the forests and mountains, which nurture our souls.

As part of all creation, we too have a nurturing role to play.

We have been blessed with the ability to choose our role.

Now in community, we dedicate ourselves to choosing wisely.

Together with the Holy Spirit, we will choose life, that we and our children might live.

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek to heal and to nurture the earth and all of its creatures, to live in the midst of creation, and to love one another as brothers and sisters with all life.

And may we travel from this moment forward in awareness of our bonds to one another and to the Earth, and in commitment to our communities.

Wherever they may be."

Blessed be.

Diane Waddell

Moderator, Presbyterians for Earth Care



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## A POINT IN TIME:

## PC(USA) ADVOCACY, 1996-2000

1996 - The 208th General Assembly adopts the paper, "Hope for a Global Future: Toward Just and Sustainable Human Development" as policy for the PC(USA). Just and sustainable human development is the comprehensive enhancement of the quality of life for all, present and future; it necessarily involves the integration of economic, political, cultural, ecological and spiritual dimensions of being.

- Outbreak of mad cow disease in Britain
- Congress passes Welfare Reform Bill

## 1997 -

- Nobel Peace Prize given to International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Jody Williams
- A team from the UK create the first sheep clone Dolly

1998 - The 210th General Assembly calls upon the US to ratify the protocol negotiated in Kyoto and urges PC(USA) congregations and institutions to pursue energy efficiency and conservation in their buildings and property.

- India conducts three atomic tests despite worldwide disapproval; Pakistan stages firve nuclear tests in response.
- Dow Corning Corporation agrees to \$3.2 billion settlement for tens of thousands of women claiming injury from manufacturer's silicone breast implants.

1999 - The 211th General Assembly again calls upon the US to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, urges the US to go beyond Kyoto targets for carbon dioxide emission reductions, directs the Presbyterian Center in Louisville and all other properties of the General Assembly to minimize fossil fuel energy (along with urging local congregations to do the same) and directs the General Assembly to promote education regarding global warming and other environmental concerns.

- The Nobel Peace Prize given to Doctors Without Borders
- Magnitude 7.4 earthquake devastates Turkey killing 15,600 and leaving 600,000 homeless
- The world awaits the consequences of the Y2K bug, with more drastic millennial theorists warning of Armageddon

## 2000 -

- Human genome deciphered, expected to revolutionize the practice of medicine
- Mad cow disease alarms Europe
- US Presidential election closest in decades; Supreme Court seals Bush's victory over Gore by 5-4 vote to discontinue recounting
- Arctic visitors report about a mile-wide swath of ice-free ocean —and global warming as a cause is suggested.

2001 - The 213th General Assembly issues the Call to Halt Mass Extinction which asks Presbyterians, individuals, governments, and societal institutions to face the severity of mass extinction by taking steps to prevent it and preserve the biodiversity as essential to the flourishing of life.

- 178 nations (without the US) reach agreement on climate accord, which rescues a diluted the Kyoto Protocol.
- Terrorists attack the US at the World Trade Center, NYC, and the Pentagon.
- Report from National Academy of Sciences announces that global warming is on the rise. Leading scientists reaffirm mainstream view that human activity is largely responsible.
- The Federal Budget surplus dwindles The Congressional Budget Office attributes this rapid change in the nation's fortunes to the slowing of the economy and the Bush Tax Cut.

From a timeline of PC(USA) environmental policies developed by Karen Turney, PEC Advocacy Committee Member from Atlanta, Georgia for PEC.



## THEOLOGIAN FOR EARTH STEWARDSHIP APPOINTED AT MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Local initiative may serve as national model By William Seaman

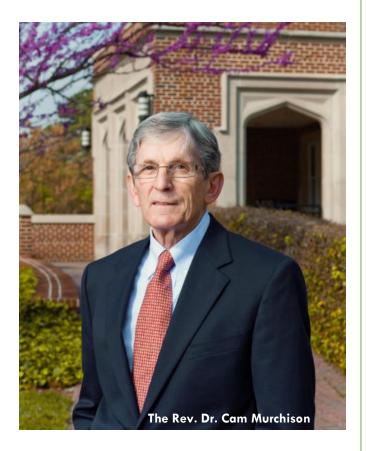
Establishment of an *Earth Stewardship Theologian* position at Montreat Presbyterian Church (USA), in Montreat, North Carolina, marks a new milestone in the congregation's growing Earth Ministry program. In announcing this step the church's pastor, Rev. Maggie Lauterer, expressed her belief that the effort

is part of reclaiming who we are as servants of the Creator. Our mission is to care for God's people and God's creation. We are very fortunate that Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison will help us initiate this effort, as he brings a wealth of knowledge, a distinguished background, and great energy to our work concerning the environment.

The *Earth Stewardship Theologian* is expected to help nurture a biblically sound basis for all of the congregation's efforts dealing with environmental subjects, so that the glory of God is always a focus. In this capacity, Rev. Dr. Murchison will augment the effort of the lay members of the church's Earth Ministry Team. The work will develop a long-range framework for activities that may include preaching sermons, leading Bible studies and organizing mission trips concerned with Christian stewardship of the earth and its resources.

Duncan Cameron "Cam" Murchison, Jr. is Professor Emeritus of Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, where he began service on the faculty in 1996 and also was Dean of Faculty and Executive Vice President. He was on the faculty at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia from 1977-1987. He earned his Ph.D. at Yale University. His scholarly efforts are complemented by service as pastor at Presbyterian churches in Blacksburg, Virginia, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Richmond, Virginia. He has authored numerous journal articles and served as editor of the *Journal for Preachers*.

"What really excites me about this project is the specific work of particular congregations as they shape concrete responses to the urgent need for caring for God's creation," said Murchison. "The reason that I want to be a



part of the effort is to participate in the translation of biblical, theological convictions regarding care for creation into the routine realities of everyday: our food, our transportation, our housing, our communication, our investing, and our consuming. The challenge is for us to devise faithful and resilient ways of living that respect the integrity and the limits of the home we have been given—the earth itself."

To launch the Earth Theologian Initiative in January 2012, Montreat Presbyterian Church offered a program, "Clues for a World on the Edge." The theme of "Creation as the Theater of God's Glory" was addressed in a three-week study. The classes examined selected Old and New Testament texts and theological perspectives dealing with God's relationship to the whole creation. Implications for Earth care were explored. Meanwhile, two churches in the area have requested sermons and teaching from Dr. Murchison.

William Seaman is leader of the Earth Ministry Team at Montreat Presbyterian Church, an Earth Care Congregation. He is an elder, an environmental scientist, and professor emeritus, University of Florida. He and his wife live in Montreat, North Carolina.

## RESURRECTION AND RECLAMATION

## By Abby Mohaupt

A decade ago, I walked into my art teacher's back room and was overwhelmed. She had been teaching in the same classroom for only a year, having recently moved into the space. But when she moved, she brought with her the decades-old collection of stuff. I started studying with her as a high school student interested in drawing but that first trip

into the backroom made me fall in love with all the things that people throw away. I don't know where my teacher

found most of the things in that room—and it's hard to really describe just how much there was. There were boxes full of wood, boxes full of random metal parts, boxes full of buttons, of nails, of old paint, of books, of glass... of more things than I'd ever seen. I found more than

one license plate, and I still have the electronic guts of some machine, just waiting to find a new existence.

That trip into the back room echoed with Jesus' words in John 11:25: "I am the resurrection and the life..."In those first years, I found interesting and new ways to bring artistic life to other people's trash, reflecting on the incredibly short life of our things. When I came to seminary, my art making came with me. As I find ways

to reflect on Scripture through art, I'm reminded of the tremendous gift of the Resurrection. My own microcosm of resurrection, of giving new life to old things, is a marvelous reminder that

there is still possibility after death through the gift of our God in Jesus Christ.

Abby Mohaupt is the Editor for PEC and a candidate for ordination in Blackhawk Presbytery.

Above: A New Vocation: A study on Jeremiah 1.

Materials: Reclaimed walnut wood; teabag; ribbon remnant; reclaimed jewelry.



19: A study on Judges 19 and Domestic Abuse of Women in Chicago.

Materials: pizza box; reused paper; metal rings and ribbon rescued from a shoe company's supplies.

## UPDATE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES

## By Rebecca Barnes-Davies

In the last quarter, I've enjoyed crossing paths with you at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators conference; in local congregations in Cleveland and D.C. areas; at the PCUSA Compassion, Peace and Justice training day; and by phone or



email. My highlights are hearing your success stories, wondering together how to face challenges, and equipping the church to be faithful to God's call for creation care.

Earth Care Congregations continues to expand. We should easily meet our goal of 100 certified congregations before this summer's General Assembly. Then we'll celebrate!

At General Assembly, I hope to see you at the PEC luncheon and booth.

Rebecca Barnes-Davies coordinates the Environmental Ministries office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Want to learn more? Visit http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/

Are you a young adult aged
20-30 interested in putting
20-30 interested in putting
your eco-faith into action this
experience?

The Eco-Stewards Program is
offering five exciting paid summer
offering five exciting paid summer
internships this summer to young
internships this summer to young
adults in locations across the United
adults in locations across the United
or to apply, please see
or to apply, please see
www.ecostewardsprogram.wordpress.com
and click on "2012 Internships".

## 2013 PEC Conference Will Be in the Natural State!

## By Ann Owen

'Tis the summer season, and what better way to celebrate it than by making plans to be a part of the 2013 Presbyterians for Earth Care Conference October 16-19? And what better place to recharge your green batteries than at the beautiful 1200-acre Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center (www.ferncliff.org) in Little Rock, Arkansas!

Just to give you an idea about some of the creation care activities and places you might experience while at this amazingly green retreat, the Conference Planning Team has compiled a list of 10 Compelling Reasons you should reserve a spot for this conference on your calendar *now!* 

- Solar power -- Multiple solar initiatives onsite
- Solar Under the Sun -- Synod-level mission Solar School
- Camp Garden -- Raised beds, livestock, greenhouse, fruit, education
- Composting, Recycling and Upcycling
- Heifer International Headquarters and Heifer Ranch
- Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) and AmeriCorps
- Eco-Youth Center -- Straw bale, off-the-grid housing for low-carbon retreat
- Clinton Presidential Center
- Collaborative Greening -- Partnerships with churches and organizations
- Disaster Assistance Center and PDA's National Call Center at Ferncliff

Stay tuned for additional information on these items -- and much more! Until then you can read more about Ferncliff's commitment to creation care in Rebecca Barnes-Davies' blog *Eco-Justice Journey\** If you've not been to a PEC conference before, check out the 2011 gathering: God's Earth: Too Big to Fail? An Eco-Justice Conversation Among Faith, Science and Culture at <a href="https://presbyearthcare.org/conferences.html">https://presbyearthcare.org/conferences.html</a>.

Ann Owen serves as the Southwest Regional Representative for Presbyterians for Earth Care. She is active at Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, one of the first churches to obtain the PC (USA) Earth Care Congregation certification. Ann founded the Environmental Stewardship group at Second and chaired it for three years.

\*(http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/eco-journey/2012/1/24/camps-and-conference-centers-caring-gods-<u>creation</u>/).



## PEC AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

## By Diane Waddell

PEC is preparing for a presence at General Assembly 220, to be held in Pittsburgh, June 30-July 7. Our booth in the Exhibit Hall is #310 and those staffing the booth promise 'sustainable hospitality'! We are anxious to meet you! (If you are coming, and have time to share with us, as we provide greetings at the booth, please let us know!)

Our Advocacy team will be working to support Overtures and resolutions related to eco-justice. We will also have a new brochure from the Advocacy Committee, which will represent PEC's stance on 4 current issues related to climate change. (See more about this in the Advocacy Committee's report on the next page.)

Of course, our luncheon on Thursday, July 5, will be a highlight. We are meeting at First Presbyterian Church, close to the convention center. Our speaker will be Rev. Randy Bush of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh. Regarding his topic, "Re-Creative Partnerships," he says, "Living into a faithful witness of eco-justice requires intentional acts of engagement and partnership at all levels of congregational life." Randy will share how to work passionately toward eco-justice in our congregational and wider community life.

During our annual meeting at the luncheon, recipients of the Bill Gibson and the Restoring Creation awards will be recognized, and new members of the Steering Committee will be announced. We have been working with Chef Michael of First Presbyterian, who will prepare a creative meal for us based around sustainable foods choices. In fact, there is a local market only a few blocks from the convention center where Michael will be purchasing food for our luncheon.

GA's theme is "Walking, Running, Soaring in Hope." Perhaps, in this time of climate change crises, that theme is a fitting one for our eco-justice work as well. Certainly it will be an uplifting time as we gather in community, renewing and refreshing our spirits, to re-engage in our work of caring for creation.

Hope to see you at GA!

## 2012 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee for Presbyterians for Earth Care met by telephone conference call on February 2, 2012, to select nominations to be on the slate of steering committee members to include:

Vice-Moderator

Area representatives - Midwest, Northeast and Pacific

As a result of searches for candidates done by members of the nominating committee in February and March 2012, the following individuals are nominated:

### Vice-Moderator - Jane Laping

Jane Laping is a previous PEC at-large representative charged with supporting and coordinating PEC's fund-raising efforts and currently serves as the PEC Vice Moderator. With degrees in science and public health, Jane has been actively volunteering for environmental justice since the 1970's. While living in Houston, Texas, she developed the non-profit, Mothers for Clean Air. Jane served as a Stewardship of Creation Enabler (SCE) for ten years in Houston and another two years as SCE for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. She also co-authored the denomination's new Earth Care Congregation Program with the Environmental Ministries office.

## Midwest Representative - Paul Henschen

Paul Henschen is a Presbyterian minister of twenty-four years, having served churches in Virginia, Louisiana, Kentucky and now North Dakota. He grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina where he hiked the Appalachian Trail and developed a deep love for nature. He has held Earth Sunday services each year in his ministry and is now chair of the Presbyterians for Earth Care Team in his presbytery (Northern Plains). This team sees its main role as educating the people in the presbytery and has been using one presbytery meeting per year to do so. This year the team plans to have a panel of farmers and agricultural experts to discuss the pros and cons of organic farming. Paul is married to Susan Simle and has one son and two step-children. He enjoys hiking and camping, fishing and team sports, and (as an introvert) working on the computer and reading.

## Northeast Representative - Dana Eglinton

Dana has been fascinated with the natural world as long as he can remember, but only learned to care for it when he became a Christian. It was the church of Jesus Christ that taught Dana to love not only God, but also God's earth and its people. He is presently a participant in the Earth Care Ministry of Jacksonville Presbyterian Church in Springfield, New Jersey, which he serves as pastor. He has also worked as a homebuilder, specializing in environmentally responsible construction and Habitat for Humanity houses. Dana is an enthusiastic bird watcher, hiker, canoeist, backpacker, gardener, consumer of local and organic foods, participant in environmental campaigns, member of PEC, husband, father and PC(USA) pastor.

## **Pacific Representative - Mary Roberts**

Mary Roberts is an elder and chairperson of the St. Mark Presbyterian Church Ecophilian Environmental Group. St. Mark moved to a new site in Newport Beach, California and built a facility deemed "the greenest new church" by Audubon International. Mary is active in the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment and facilitated their Caring for Creation Conference and 350.org events. Mary is also a member of the Los Ranchos Presbytery World Wide Mission Committee and Southeast Asia subcommittee.

Respectfully submitted to the PEC membership by the Nominating Committee -Bill Bowman, Dick Gibson, Pam McVety, PEC Steering Committee Liaison: Jane Laping, Chair: Karen Turney

## ADVOCACY COMMITTEE DEVELOPS ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

## By Jenny Holmes and Bob Stivers

Empowered by God's costly grace, we must work tirelessly with others as individuals, as a church, and as global citizens to live in harmony with the energy resources God has so abundantly provided. –The Power to Change: US Energy Policy and Global Warming, 2008 General Assembly.

The overarching environmental problem of our time is global climate change and is a priority for PEC. With a gridlocked Congress, progress is slow at the Federal level. However, closely related are the fossil fuel energy sources chosen to fuel economies. Here there are many opportunities for public witness at the regional and Federal levels. Important in both global warming and fossil fuel cycle (extraction, processing, transport and burning) are the accurate counting of the social costs of production, transportation, and location of terminals and pipelines for shipment. As North American fossil fuel industries position themselves to be exporters of fossil fuels, there is much to do.

The General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has carefully considered the problem of global climate change in its 2008 GA document The Power to Change: US Energy Policy and Global Warming. It stands with an overwhelming majority of scientists who say that climate change is already happening and is caused by human beings. Actions to reduce greenhouse gases are needed now. The GA has also made renewable resources its choice among energy sources, also recommending reduced reliance on fossil fuels. Finally, the GA had adopted an ethic of eco-justice to guide its consideration of global climate change and its recommendations on energy. Four norms are identified in this Christian ethical model to guide the church: sustainability, participation, sufficiency, and solidarity.

To set PEC's policy priorities for 2012, the policy committee recommends concentrating on four specific energy problems within the larger context of global climate change, energy alternatives, and the four ethical norms. Toxics and GMOs will also be addressed. Twelve ethical guidelines of the Power to Change inform our positions which are summarized next to each problem.

1. Hydraulic Fracking — Place a moratorium on new fracking until human health and environmental impacts

- can be adequately evaluated by certified independent science.
- 2. Mountain Top Removal Stop this practice immediately as the human and environmental impacts are well known and serious, in addition to global warming.
- The Keystone XL Pipeline Do not permit due to impacts on global warming, on Canadian First Nations, on Boreal habitat, and on communities through which it would pass.
- Coal Export: The construction of coal terminals and use of transportation corridors for the shipment of coal to Asia. — Seek an EPA environmental impact assessment.

As the General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA approaches, we seek Commissioners who sense a call to bring a Commissioners Resolution to the floor especially hydraulic fracturing, since there is no GA policy on this it yet and very few regulations around it to protect the environment and human health. If you are sensing such a call, please contact Jenny Holmes at <a href="mailto:jehrestore@aol.com">jehrestore@aol.com</a> as soon as possible. For a full copy of a backgrounder on PEC's policy priorities, go to <a href="mailto:www.presbyearthcare.org">www.presbyearthcare.org</a>.

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) invites individuals and congregations to participate in the growing earth care movement within the Presbyterian Church(USA). PEC is a national eco-justice network that cares for God's creation by connecting, equipping, and inspiring Presbyterians to make creation care a central concern of the church. Founded in 1995 as a grassroots organization to help the denomination educate and energize church members to address environmental concerns from a faith perspective, it works in partnership with PC(USA)'s Environmental Ministries Office and the Office of Public Witness to promote earth justice with a biblical and theological base. Regional representatives recruit presbyteries, churches, organizations, and individuals to help form a national network of Presbyterians to work toward the common goal of restoring creation for ecology and justice. Check out PEC's web site at www.presbyearthcare.org. If you would like to become involved or have questions, contact Shantha at presbyearthcare@gmail.com or your regional representative.





110 Maryland Ave. NE Suite 108 Washington, DC 20002

## Join PEC at General Assembly, June 30-July 7!

## PEC Membership, Renewal, or Donation Please check:

\$40 Individual Membership Member name \$50 Couple/Family Membership \$75\* Organization/Congregation \$100\* PEC Partner Membership Member full address PEC Sustainer Membership \$150\* Phone Student/Limited Income Membership \$15 \$15 First Year New Membership Email \$15 Gift Membership Gift Memberships (\$15 Each) \*Please check to receive 4 copies of PEC Update. Recipient name Address Multiple Year Memberships \$70 Individual Membership for 2 years Phone \$100 Individual Membership for 3 years Email \$90 Couple/Family Membership for 2 years \_ \$120 Couple/Family Membership for 3 years ☐ I would like to receive my PEC Update via email only. Presbyterians for Earth Care Mail to: \$ Donation 28 Pape Drive (Members or Donors who give \$100 or Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716 more receive a free PEC t-shirt. Specify size\_\_\_\_)

Vote for PEC Steering Committee members by June 15. Visit presbyearthcare.org.