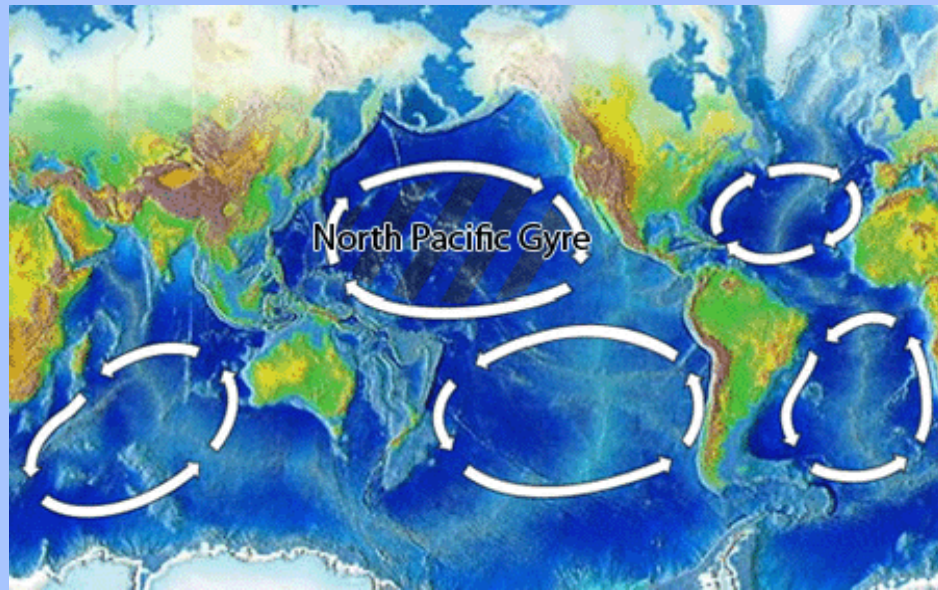


Spring 2011

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Earth Ministry

ISSUE 6 - THE OCEANS AND WATER EDITION



BY JANE HARDY

I'm delighted to work with Barbara Deneke as co-chair of Earth Ministry, and with many other parishioners who give their time and energy to programs that help the Cathedral community live more lightly on the earth. The Lenten book group led by parishioner Julie Wall, using the "Green Bible Trail Guide" as inspiration, will be presented mid-day on Fridays during Lent, and a parish-wide picnic at Owl's Hill Nature Center is sure to provide us with an experience of God's presence for Rogation Sunday, June 5.

Thanks to educational outreach by environmental advocates like Cumberland River Compact, I'm aware that if I let drops of gasoline fall on the concrete when I pump gasoline into my car, much of it will travel down street gutters; and then into drainage ditches, streams, the Cumberland River, the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. It joins plastic water bottles thrown out of cars, pharmaceutical medicines that have entered the sewer system, and pesticides that have run off the leaves of plants in our yards. We're learning more about plastic and

other trash flowing into our waterways, which contributes to a newly discovered area of high concentrations of plastic called the "North Atlantic Garbage Patch." As the worldwide sustainability movement grows, our understanding of our interconnectedness grows, and we see more clearly how our actions make a difference.

The General Convention of the Episcopal has adopted numerous resolutions leading the way for all of us in the stewardship of creation. Belonging to local community of faith that is part of the national Episcopal communion which has adopted numerous resolutions leading the way for us all in stewardship, inspires me to live more responsibly and to care for God's creation in new ways. Members of the Cathedral are increasingly embracing the green movement. If you would like to become more involved in sustainable efforts at the Cathedral, please let me or Barbara know.



Events

Lenten Book Group

Fridays - 10:30 - 12:00
March 11 - April 15, 2010
Child care will be provided!
 Wheeler Room

The *Green Bible Trail Guide* will be used as a study guide for the Bible and care for creation as a spiritual mandate. All are welcome to participate in this popular Lenten discipline. Copies of *The Green Bible* are available in the Cathedral bookstore. Used books available through Amazon. Contact Julie Wall for details at 516-3488.

Rogation Sunday Parish Picnic

June 5, Sunday
Owl's Hill Nature Center
12:30pm - 3pm

Please plan to JOIN us for "**Rogation Sunday**". A quick definition: "Rogation Sunday, a time of celebration and prayer, is a time set aside to appreciate and recognize our dependence upon the land for our food and most importantly upon our dependence of God for the miracles of sprouting seeds, growing plants, and maturing harvest." What better place to enjoy this celebration together than Owl's Hill Nature Center! We'll have a fun picnic with activities for all ages. More information to come...in the meantime, hold the date! To volunteer, please contact Jane Hardy.

Everyone: people, institutions and organizations should be like water; transparent and in motion. Water that is not transparent is useless - and water that doesn't move, rots.

(unidentified interviewee in the documentary *One Water*)

FOLLOW UP - TAKE IT FURTHER

Americas Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change

<http://jointoceancommission.org/rc-ocean-commissions-reports.html>

This 2003 Pew Oceans Commission report examines how our oceans affect us, and we them, and actions we can take to bequeath thriving oceans and healthy coastlines to our children. In 2000, the independent Commission embarked on the first national review of ocean policies in more than 30 years. This record of their journey, findings, and recommendations identifies key problems facing our oceans, needed actions, and consequences if we fail to act. It promotes an ethic of stewardship and responsibility toward oceans and their inhabitants, and the need to protect entire ecosystems. It concludes that our oceans are a public trust vitally important to our environmental and economic security as a nation.

EPA makes learning fun for children

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/kids/index.html>

The EPA has created this little web site for children in grades 3-5 to learn about how and why to save water. There is a fun (and challenging) video game much like pac man that helps test what you or your child has learned and makes learning fun too. There are teacher resources on the site called "A Day in the Life of a Drop" that would be great for a day your children are home from school with you.

Reduce Runoff: Slow it Down, Spread it Out, Soak it in

http://www.epa.gov/owow_keep/NPS/lid/video.html

This excellent short film discusses several ways you can reduce the runoff from your property and improve the health of your soil and wildlife habitat at the same time.

Environmental Retreat 2011: Beauty by Design

March 4-6, 2011

www.stmaryssewanee.org/programs/2011Mar4.shtml

Has a mountain vista or brook, a piece of music or a painting spoken to your soul? Join in exploration and conversation around the theology of Beauty - its implications for ethics, for how we live our lives and structure society. Everything we do alters the world. What are the implications of Beauty and our response for salvation? For spreading the Good News? For our work? For our spiritual life? Come prepared to spend time outdoors.



Enjoy Our Ocean World podcasts

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/oceanworld> or <http://www.hearthanswer.com/index.php?action=welcome&show=ow>

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative produces short daily podcasts on various ocean concerns. These easy-to-digest broadcasts go from light-hearted discussions of Sea Cucumbers to more serious concerns about Sea Otter Decline or Travels with Plastics about floating garbage in the ocean. (using the first link then click on "redirect.mp3")

Participate in Earth Hour

Saturday, March 26, 2011, 8:30pm

www.earthhour.org

Earth Hour 2011 will mark a moment of global celebration where people of different races and religions, cultures and nations, politics and society, genders and generations transcend division, connected and enlightened by their role as custodians of the planet. Once again this year, Christ Church Cathedral will participate.

Book Review

The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place In Nature

by David Suzuki

with Amanda McConnell and Adrienne Mason.
Greystone Books (1997) and revised with new material (2007).

In this book author David Suzuki attempts to explain the balance between nature and civilization, and to achieve agreement on a plan for humankind going forward.

The first half of this book is organized in a way that many faith traditions will find familiar, examining the elements of earth, wind, water, and soil. He analyzes these subjects in the detail and depth that you would expect from his scientific mind. He methodically explains not just what the world is made of but how everything is recycled. He then explains how many current practices are interrupting the great recycling of everything and the effect of that interruption.

The author skillfully weaves short historical incidents into the chapters to add emphasis at appropriate places. One such article tells the story of the Aral Sea Disaster, otherwise known as the "quiet Chernobyl" in which a rich and diverse environment that had worked for thousands of years was totally devastated in just the last few decades. The cause of this devastation is directly linked to our own lifestyles of abundance. These are stories we should all know but few have ever heard about.

The second half of the book looks at love, sacred traditions, our kinship with all life. It brings home the importance of the entire eco-system. Quoting Black Elk he explains kinship: "It is the story of all life that is holy and is good to tell and of us two-leggeds sharing in it with the four leggeds and the wings of the air and all green things; for these are children of one mother and their father is one Spirit."

The conclusion is about restoring balance and highlights the work of many diverse people who are each unique eco-heroes. Through those examples he explains how we all can make a difference in the future of humankind and the world.



The Spirit of the Saints (a poem to meditate on)

There is water that flows down from Heaven
To cleanse the world of sin by grace Divine
At last, its whole stock spent, its virtue gone,
Dark with pollution not its own, it speeds
Back to the Fountain of all purities;
Whence, freshly bathed, earthward it sweeps again,
Trailing a robe of glory bright and pure.

This Water is the Spirit of the Saints,
Which ever sheds, until itself is beggared,
God's balm on the sick soul; and then returns
To Him who made the purest light of Heaven

Rumi

Water Tips for Living Lightly on the Planet

Calculate your water footprint

Although there are no extremely precise water footprint calculators - the one at www.h2oconserve.org is reasonably thorough and provides many excellent tips and explanations for ways to do a better job of conserving water. Some of the statistics are surprising.



Stop Those Leaks!

Check your indoor water using any of the many devices for detecting leaks. Check your faucets for drips. Silent leaks allow water and your money to go down the drain. To learn how to detect unseen leaks go to <http://www.h2ouse.org/resources/meter/index.cfm>. Homes commonly waste more than 10% of their water due to leaking, costing both you and the environment.

Another large water waster can be leaks in your irrigation system. Fix irrigation system leaks quickly and check for water in the gutters or for mud puddles in your yard. Inspect your sprinklers and drip sprayers regularly for leaks. If you have an older irrigation system, more than 50% - 75% of the water you pay for can be lost to leaks.



The water in your bottle

Do you think your bottle of water only removes one liter of water from the environment? What about the 7 liters of potable water used to produce the bottle itself and the amount of water used to produce the power for both the bottle and the filtration? Then there is the amount of water needed to extract and refine the fuel used to transport the water bottle to you and finally, the

water needed to light and heat / cool the shelf space in the store you buy it from. Suddenly, the innocent seeming bottle of purified water you buy at the store does not seem so innocuous anymore!



Replace your old toilet, the largest water user in your home

If your home was built before 1992, and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very likely that you do not have a water efficient 1.6 gal. per flush toilet. You can check the date stamp inside the toilet by lifting the lid and looking at the back of the toilet at the manufacturers imprint of the make, model and date of manufacture.



Water only what your plants need

Most water is wasted in your garden by watering when your plants do not need the water or by not maintaining the irrigation system. Be attentive if you are manually watering by setting a timer to remind you to move the water promptly or by using a hose timer.

Make sure your irrigation controller has a rain shutoff device and that it's appropriately scheduled. Most water is wasted in months prior to or just after the rainy season when intermittent rains occur. You can also consider installing a weather adjusting Evapotranspiration (ET) irrigation controller that automatically saves water by not watering when the plants don't need the water, check with your local water provider to inquire if ET controllers work in your area.



Replace your clothes washer, the second largest water user in your home

Energy Star™ rated washers that also have a Water Factor at or lower than 9.5, use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load. This saves you money on both your water and energy bills. There is also a current list of qualifying products maintained by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency. This qualification is more stringent than Energy Star and government requirements because it has three tiers of efficiency which take into account water usage. See this list at: <http://www.cee1.org/resid/seha/rwsh/rwsh-main.php3>



Consider Gray Water

During a drought, a gray water reuse system be an excellent way to maximize water use efficiency and keep precious landscape plants and trees alive. Although other drought actions taken inside the home (such as reduced showering) could reduce gray water flows a little, the gray water could still be a valuable resource. For more information see: the Dual Plumbing information on: <http://www.h2ouse.org/action/index.cfm>



Retire your Garbage Disposal

Put food waste in the garbage or your compost. Disposals use a great deal of water and add unnecessary solids to the sewer system. Cleaning the water from this usage costs your city lots of money and wastes even more water & energy.

Join an Earth Ministry Committee!

We want to provide meaningful ways for you to grow spiritually in your stewardship of the earth. These are mostly short term commitments! You can work on one event or take a continuing role as best suits your life and interest. We currently need people to help with each of our programs for the 2011 church seasons and no talents will go to waste! If you want to participate but don't know what to volunteer for, we'll help you find something that you will enjoy.

To sign up, contact **Barbara Deneke** or **Jane Hardy**

barbaradeneke@comcast.net

jhardy@careerresources.net

383-3269

957-0404

Millennium Development Goals and 2010 Status Excerpts

“This church has said that our larger vision will be framed and shaped in the coming years by the vision of shalom embedded in the Millennium Development Goals - a world where the hungry are fed, the ill are healed, the young educated, women and men are treated equally, and where all have access to clean water and adequate sanitation, basic health care, and the promise of development that does not endanger the rest of creation. That vision of abundant life is achievable in our own day, but only with the passionate commitment of each and every one of us. It is God’s vision of homecoming for all humanity.” From the Investiture Sermon of The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church, November 2006

Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Goal 7a:

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

The efforts for this goal have largely focused on reversing deforestation and global warming. Through tree planting efforts and natural expansion of forests the rate of deforestation has declined over the first decade but there is still a net loss in forests, especially in South America and Africa and from severe drought in Australia. The CO₂ emissions rose an estimated 35% although the global financial crisis is expected to have slowed that increase over the last two years. Toward the end of this decade the Montreal Protocol emerged and was signed on to by approximately 200 parties making it the first nearly universal treaty to require the phase out of ozone depleting substances.

Goal 7b:

Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss

This goal has been missed with potentially grave consequences for biodiversity conservation. The overexploitation of global fisheries has stabilized, but steep challenges remain to ensure their stability. In fact, the proportion of species that are underexploited has declined meaning that the negative impact of fisheries is increasing anyway. The irreparable loss of biodiversity will also hamper efforts to meet other MDG’s, especially those related to poverty, hunger, and

health by increasing the vulnerability of the poor and reducing their options for development. Also noteworthy was the reduction in biodiversity of birds and mammals. The entire report is worth reading on this subject.

Goal 7c:

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

The world is on track to meet the drinking water portion of this goal. Rural areas where there is not safe drinking water 80% of the time. However, the basic sanitation goal may present a challenge in rural and poor areas. It is unlikely that the basic sanitation goal will be met since at the current rate of increase there are projected to be 2.7 billion who lack basic sanitation by 2015.

Goal 7d:

By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Slum improvements, though considerable, are failing to keep pace with the growing ranks of the urban poor. Also, the original estimates are now considered to have been much lower than the actual number of people affected. The highest concentration of slum dwellers remains in sub-saharan Africa and countries where there are conflicts. There will likely need to be a revision of this goal to be more specific to individual regions or countries.

Nearly all of this material is quoted from reports on the UN Millennium Development Goals website.