

CARING FOR CREATION NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2008

New Resources: Several DVD's related to the environment have been purchased and will be available in February for use in Sunday School classes and other church programs. For example, Northminster Church has developed a successful "Saturday Night at the Movies" program with thought-provoking movies and discussion. Contact Judith West, Chair of Peace & Justice Committee for more information (828-883-3272; jdwest@citcom.net).

REDUCE WASTE:

- 1 million plastic bags are used every minute in the world. "[Bring your own bag](#)" can reduce the number of plastic bags (4 billion!) that enter the waste stream this year by hundreds, if not thousands...giving you something to feel good about every time you bring along a reusable bag.
- If you turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, you'll save 15 gallons of water each time.
- For many helpful printed materials or for help in improving your church facility go to Waste Reduction Partners: <http://www.landofsky.org/wrp/>. Located in Asheville, this organization offers energy audits to churches and businesses.
- Stop getting junk mail. www.StopJunkMail.org or call 1.877.STOPWASTE (786.7927)

REUSE: Recycle what you don't need in your own area. Go to <http://www.freecycle.org/> to find out more about this grassroots organization that helps people who have stuff to give away with those who need it.

RECYCLE:

- Find a place to recycle: www.earth911.org . This web site helps you find ways to recycle just about anything. And there's a lot of other good information there as well.
- Electronic waste is becoming a huge problem. How many old computers and printers do you have stashed away in your basement? In Asheville, call Asheville Recyclers at 828-225-7558 (on Riverside Drive). Some companies, like Dell, will take back your old computer if you buy the new one from it. Read about the Dell and many other programs at www.computertakeback.com/docUploads/Using_takeback_programsv7a.pdf. To evaluate computers for "greenness" go to www.epeat.net. There still aren't many good ways to dispose of these, so the best idea is to find a way for them to be reused. Remember that Presbytery is recycling cell phones, laptop computers and other digital equipment, using the profits to help support missionaries. For more info, contact Ginnie.

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS:

Disinfectant: Hydrogen peroxide and vinegar, both serve as effective disinfectants. According to a study at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, a safe way to get rid of Salmonella, Shigella and E. coli bacteria is a combination of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide (the same strength you find at the drugstore) and undiluted white or apple cider vinegar. Put the two in separate spray bottles and spray one immediately after the other. You can spray it directly on fruits and vegetables and also on surfaces, such as cutting boards and countertops.

ECO-PALMS: Sustainable branches for Palm Sunday. See the relevant information sheet to purchase palm leaves for Palm Sunday service. If your local florist can't get palms from one of the Charlotte distributors, use order form enclosed.