



March 2008

"Shared Earth, Shared Abundance"

GREETINGS!

We are starting a new program that may be of interest to you as a member of the faith community of Flagstaff. Christians for the Earth, a ministry of Flagstaff Federated Community Church, obtained a grant from the Presbyterian Church General Assembly to create a faith-based citywide network for environmental advocacy. We aim toward goals and projects that are transformational, dealing with the moral and spiritual issue of living within limits. We are calling this new group the "Shared Earth Network".

Here is our mission statement: **"We recognize that sufficiency and sustainability lead to an abundant life for all. The mission of the Shared Earth Network is to bring transformation by uniting people of faith to advocate for environmental sustainability."**


Our work will link people of different faiths and different denominations by inclusion in an email network to share information, events and action alerts. Some of our projects will include sponsoring an annual workshop on faith and environmental sustainability, and starting a Creation Care Fair where members can share their activities, programs, information and ideas. We will also organize a prayer chain and we've started a website in order to communicate upcoming project details at www.SharedEarthNetwork.org.

Our first event will be a LIGHTBULB EXCHANGE, March 12-14, 2008 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. This event is in coloboration with the City of Flagstaff, APS, Flagstaff Public Schools and the Sierra Club exchanging CFLs for incandescent bulbs during Parent-Teacher Conferences in each of the Flagstaff elementary schools. Volunteers are needed to help distribute CFLs along with information to parents of elementary students. Please let us know by March 7th if you can help with this event!


Environmental concerns can seem overwhelming, sometimes rendering us hopeless or resigning us to ineffectiveness. We believe that faith calls us to act on hope and conviction for a healthy earth. We hope you will agree with us that, *"A person of faith does not ask if it is worth his while to turn off one unnecessary light bulb or recycle one throwaway jar; that is indeed part of what defines him as a person of faith: the belief that little gestures are worth his while in spite of any evidence to the contrary."* (Garret Keizer) Together, we can turn little gestures into big steps toward environmental sustainability.

If you are interested in being a part of this network, or if you would like more information, please contact Paula Lewis at info@SharedEarthNetwork.org or Tish Bogan-Ozmun at (928) 606-0882.

Sincerely,



Paula Lewis



Tish Bogan-Ozmun