



THE TRINITY TRUMPET

HOLY TRINITY PARISH NEWSLETTER, DECATUR, GA

The Green Ministry Issue 2011

A Trinity Companion



It's keen to be green—and Holy Trinity Parish is green! This edition of the Trinity Trumpet takes a closer look at Green Ministry—in the

words of the team that leads us.

The Rev. Woody Bartlett writes about God leading us to a more caring and responsible treatment of our world. Bill Clark suggests steps that each of us can take to make our homes more earth-friendly. And members of the Green Team describe their experience of Green Ministry. Read, think and enjoy.

In the coming weeks, you will have other opportunities to reflect upon your connectedness with our world. On October 9, I invite you to bring your animal companion (dogs, cats, birds, fish) or any representation of Creation (pictures, stuffed toys, plants) to the 10:30 a.m. service. Worship that day will give us a chance to see what it is like to share our space with the rest of creation.

On three Tuesday nights this fall, our Green Ministry Team is helping to sponsor a study series titled "From Faucet to Font: Water in Georgia". The study will be right here at Holy Trinity, October 18, 25, and November 1. Look for Gil Rogers and Randy Booker, two of our own, to speak in October.

Use this material and the events planned to reflect upon your connection with creation.

The Reverend Joan Pritcher
Rector in the Interim

Greening from the Inside Out

by William Henry "Bill" Clark

Bill Clark, a principal architect with Stevens & Wilkinson, believes we can all do something to make our world a greener place—starting in our homes.

I have always had an interest in building things, from tree houses, forts and dog houses for childhood friends to houses and larger structures in my profession as an architect today. I have always had a love of nature as well, beginning with my youth in the foothills of the mountains of East Tennessee, where a short hike or bike ride from my neighborhood took me to forests and rivers far removed from suburban development. It's easy to understand my love of earth stewardship and how this was instilled in me at an early age.

Saving energy is a passion of mine, and what better opportunity than in the 1925 house that we purchased in 2006? A designated historic house in Avondale Estates, the house had minimal main-



Custom Interior Storm Windows

tenance performed over the last twenty years prior to our purchase and many of the original building components were still in place and untouched. This is good for historic character but not necessarily good for energy performance! The following is a summary of energy improvements that we have made to our house and a guide to how anyone can make substantial reductions in their energy consumption.

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Creation Theology

by The Reverend Woody Bartlett

The Rev. Woody Bartlett, founding director of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, finds his motivation for green projects in his faith.

At Georgia Interfaith Power & Light we have developed a set of four values that describe the spiritual stance that we humans must adopt if the earth, including us, is to flourish. Let me share them.

The first value is Community. We humans are members of an incredibly large and diverse community. And we don't mean just the community of humans, although that is surely a large part of the community we speak of. But we humans are part of an even more important community—the community of all life, the community of the creation. This community is composed of mammals and bugs, fish and birds, things that crawl and things that hop. We are part of one huge, terribly complicated and intricate system of life. It is a sturdy system, having lasted in one form or another, in one degree of complexity or another for some three and a half billion years. It is our family.

In the end, we are absolutely dependent on this community. This larger community produces our food. It supplies our oxygen. It regulates our climate. It provides the materials for our clothing and shelter. We inextricably belong to this community of life. Our bond can be described as 'love'—the kind of love a child has for its parent. And in some important ways, we can say that the community of life loves us back. It sure does supply what we need to stay alive.

Now, the second value—Stewardship. Because we are such a strong and able species, we humans bear a special responsibility towards the earth and its inhabitants. In the faith community, we call that Stewardship. We can create immense cities, beautiful buildings and vast civilizations. But we can also destroy immense cities, beautiful buildings and even vast civilizations. Right now, due to our carelessness and our ignorance—let's be blunt here, often due

to our obsessive need to control—we are causing the extinction of untold numbers of species that have lived for millennia. There is very plausible evidence that we are in a great crash of life that is much greater than the crash that took out the dinosaurs and more than 75% of the extant species some 65 million years ago. And it is not just the loss of those beautiful species that must be lamented; it is that they are interactive members of the community of all of life that is alarming.

So we have Community and Stewardship. The third value derives from those first two—Justice. In Christian ethics, we learn that the two great ethical imperatives are love and justice. We've just heard about love. Now we have Justice—the equitable distribution of love among all involved. Justice is love focused on the weakest, the most vulnerable. Justice provides protection not just for poor and vulnerable people, but also for poor and vulnerable species. Justice is the Endangered Species Act in action. Justice is God's insistence to Noah that he get two of everything onto that ark.

Now let's get to the fourth value—Awe. At the end of the day, after we have concerned ourselves about Community, Stewardship, Justice, we must assume a position of Awe—awe both before this remarkable creation and awe before its Creator. We are born to delight in the creation around us. Classical books on prayer suggest that there are five types of prayer. At the top of the list is always adoration. Again, we are made for worship, wonder, awe.

When my oldest son was about 18 months old, one of the first objects he learned to name was a bus. We would all be driving around town and he would yell at the top of his little

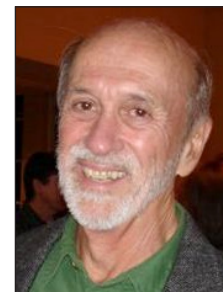


Into Earth © Jan Richardson

voice, "Bus. Bus." We would strain to see what he saw and there, several blocks away would be a bus. His child-like delight was captivating, irrepressible and the essence of what it is to be human.

The physicist, Brian Swimme, says it most playfully. "We are born to gawk." We are born to be like country farmers who come into the big city for the first time, our heads thrown back as we stare up at the massive skyscrapers, our mouth hanging open in a giant gawk. Wow!

At its heart, the environmental issue is a spiritual issue. It is about how we relate to the Earth and the Earth's Creator. It starts with community, continues with love and justice and ends on our knees with awe! ■



The Reverend Woody Bartlett is an Episcopal priest (retired) in the Diocese of Atlanta, and along with his wife, Carol, the co-founder of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light.

In Our Own Words

The Reverend Joan Pritcher & Holy Trinity Parishioners

Recently I spoke to members of our Green Ministry Team about their experience in Green Ministry. What follows are their responses.



WB Woody Bartlett
CB Carol Bartlett
TW Tish Wallace
JP The Rev. Joan Pritcher

JP: *How did you get involved (or interested) in Green Ministry?*

WB: I had a ‘Road To Damascus’ kind of experience about 25 years ago in the San Diego Zoo where it became clear to me that the direct and indirect presence of humanity on earth was responsible for an incredible escalation of species extinctions.

TW: Before anyone ever talked about “Green Ministry” or Global Warming, our family was recycling as much as we could—my mother passed down to us the importance of not wasting anything as folks who lived through the depression and WWII. As a Girl Scout leader for seven years my troops got on board learning about nature and the importance of preserving the environment. We were a part of Coca-Cola’s bottle collection drives, and did our part cleaning up campgrounds.

“To feel connected to the entire universe means not feeling alone ever. To have different relationships with trees, water, animals—it may sound crazy—but we are all in this together, and that is heart-shifting.”

CB: Woody and I were doing work to end war (another big job). The phrase we used was, “we are one.” As we worked with it, it slowly became, “all is one.” And that popped me to a new place with the Creation. Everything is connected. Humans are just one part.

JP: *What is your favorite Green Ministry project?*

WB: My favorite ministry is Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) which works with faith communities throughout Georgia to decrease their use of electrical power, thereby decreasing the negative impact of power generation from coal burning power plants. GIPL, which has a staff of four and a budget of \$400,000, does most of its work at present through energy audits in congregations. However, it will soon be increasing its outreach to congregations in their efforts to educate their members and do other creation care ministries. And it will be increasing its advocacy efforts to positively change public policy.

TW: When we came up with the project of recycling for our parish kitchen, I was glad to work with that ministry. It is amazing how much we carry away each week, with our preschool taking part as well! I have a schedule of four people who are each responsible for collection one Sunday per month. Our recycling is taken to either the DeKalb Farmers Market or for home pick-up. I purchased green Decatur recycling containers for placement outside the

kitchen area; and I have placed containers for recycling drink cans in several areas of our building which our sexton checks to add to our collection. Although arrangements can be made for a city pick-up our committee felt it too expensive.

CB: My favorite project is whatever is happening now. So right now my favorite project is the series coming up this fall on water. Such knowledge and expertise at Holy Trinity! Working with the Presbyterian group has been a gift, and I’m looking forward to learning more about water during this educational series. (The series will be Oct. 18, 25, and Nov. 1. All are invited. There will be time for conversation and exploring new territory.) Just the other day Kate McGregor-Mosley, the director of Earth Covenant Ministries said, “We should call this Planet Water, not Planet Earth, because it’s 3/4 water. Water, water everywhere,” and my mind just popped around that. I’m always learning from whatever is happening now.

JP: *Do you have stories to share about your work in Green Ministry?*

WB: One of my favorite stories about Green Ministries is the installation of solar power at Holy Trinity. It seemed so effortless and was done with such grace. And there, facing us as we enter the church, is an array of solar panels that signals all who enter that we humans had better start living closer to the ways that the earth works, such as using the natural energy of the sun to power our lives.

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In Our Own Words

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TW: Our older daughter used to drive back from UGA Law School every two weeks with her VW bug loaded with glass and other recyclables, and as I would help her unload she would say wryly, “Mom, see what you’ve done, I can’t throw this stuff away!”

CB: The big story of GIPL is that the right people kept showing up in the right place. Web masters, lawyers, people with money, people with science. We all kept looking around and saying, “I think we’re doing the right thing.”

JP: *How has it changed your life?*

WB: My whole adventure into creation care has been an adventure in faith. In some incredible ways, it has been apparent to me that God is very much a part of this larger effort. Again and again the right people have appeared to do the work that must be done. And the right resources have also appeared. It has happened so often that it cannot be explained by coincidence or chance. It has to be the hand of God. And to be a part of that is a thrill beyond all thrills.

TW: As a part of our Outreach Committee, I started a volunteer group to participate in the MedShare program. This non-profit organization recycles good medical equipment and supplies for medical missions, hospitals, and clinics around the world, taking surplus that formerly went into landfills and helping people in need. Seeing the huge amount of those supplies that formerly went into landfills is really mind boggling, and knowing it is not going there makes a person feel good to be a part of that kind of win-win situation.

CB: Well the work has opened up my heart and my life in ways I couldn’t have imagined or predicted. To feel connected to the entire universe means not feeling alone ever. To have different relationships with trees, water, animals—it may sound crazy—but we are all in this together, and that is heart-shifting.

JP: *How can we help?*

CB: I think we can all pray together and be open to what the earth is saying in its own way, with its own voice. We can all listen to each other and be awake. Being awake is probably the biggest thing we can do together.

JP: *Is there anything else you want to say?*

WB: The rate of extinctions is now well over the rate of extinctions 65 million years ago when some 75% of existing species went extinct including the mighty dinosaurs. Present extinctions are being caused mainly by climate change which is caused mainly by the burning of fossil fuels. In the end this activity destroys the habitat of so many species. They are having to migrate and for many of them, there is no place to migrate. Global climate change is the main cause of these extinctions, but toxins in the earth, air and water also cause these extinctions. Look what almost happened to the Bald Eagle because of pesticides. Eagles have made an incredible rebound, but other species have not been so lucky. What concerns me is the future. If we do not make some quick adjustments, our children and grandchildren will have a very difficult time. And the poor of this world are always on the front line of exposure. ■

A Year of Drought

by *The Reverend Woody Bartlett*

In October, the Green Team of Holy Trinity is co-sponsoring with Earth Covenant Ministries of the Atlanta Presbytery a series on water, “From Faucet to Font: Water in Georgia.” Between now and then, we will try to give some background information so that our discussions can be as productive as possible.

Water is so often taken for granted. But that can be foolish. We need enough water to live and function well as a society, of course. We need clean water to

greentip



filtered h₂o
on the go

*consider investing in
a water bottle with a
replaceable filter, and
do away with buying
bottled water.*

avoid illness. And we need to be sure our waste water is properly cleaned. Finally, we need to channel our storm water so that it doesn’t do damage to our property or our neighbor’s property.

This year, lurking behind all of these concerns is a larger concern—drought. As of August 31, all counties in Georgia were in a drought condition—either moderate, severe or extreme drought. Almost all of those south of the metro region are in extreme drought. The only

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Greening from the Inside Out continued from page 1



Bill and Barbara Clark residence, Avondale Estates, Georgia

tidbits

A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water.

A quarter of the world's population is without safe drinking water.

Many people in the world exist on three gallons of water per day or less. We can use that amount in one flush of the toilet.

Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drop per second can waste up to 2,700 gallons of water each year.



House Envelope

Added R-38 insulation to the attic; installed custom interior storm windows; caulked all cracks and openings; weather stripped doors; closed up basement/crawlspace vents.

House Systems

Replaced 20+ year old heating and air system with high efficiency system; installed tank-less water heater; added attic exhaust fan; installed ceiling fans in bedrooms and on porches.

House Interior

Caulked windows/doors/frames; closed up fireplace flues when not in use; sealed switches and outlets and any openings in house walls and ceilings.

House Water Consumption

Fixed numerous leaks in piping and fixtures; installed low-flow plumbing fixtures; installed two 50 gallon whiskey barrel water cisterns; installed one 250 gallon water cistern; systematically reducing grass area and planting drought tolerant plants.

House Use and Behavior

Make a conscious effort to turn off light fixtures and other appliances when not in use; adjust thermostats to 78 in summer and 68 in winter; collect water while showering to water porch plants.

Future Projects

Radiant barrier in the attic; programmable thermostats; chimney dampers; grey water collection from washing machine. Lastly, when we have exhausted all other energy saving options, we plan on installing a 2KW solar array on our porch roof.

These improvements have resulted in over 40% savings in energy consumption. We hope to improve this percentage as other options are identified. Many of these improvements can be done by any homeowner, and the materials are readily available at home improvement stores. What better way to save money and the earth's resources that are a gift from God! ■



William Henry "Bill" Clark is a principal architect with Stevens & Wilkinson, and a longtime parishioner at Holy Trinity Parish.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." –John Muir

What have we missed?

Let us know if you are involved in a Green Ministry not represented here so that we can get the word out!

We Want to Hear from You!

*Submit a favorite quote • Suggest a service opportunity
Share a Green Ministry in which you have been involved.*

Choose the response form that is best for you—and share:

- Comment Cards (boxes are in the narthex, library and outside the chapel)
- In-person conversations—in the narthex, in the library, at the donut table—or anywhere you gather.
- E-mails—you may click on an e-mail address on the Contact Us page of the Website.
- Comments posted about any of the articles on the Trumpet Page of the Website or on Facebook.

Response Guidelines:

We want our response spaces (on-paper and on-line and face-to-face) to be safe and productive. We gleaned these guidelines from organizations that work hard to foster dialogue (e.g. the National Coalition of Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD) and Public Conversations Project (PCP)):

- Listen to or read carefully and respectfully others' comments
- Speak only for yourself, and not on behalf of a group.
- Listen or read with curiosity and try to understand rather than to judge or change.

Let us know if you have ideas for other response guidelines.

Garden Gifts

by Jan Gable

It was a hot, dry summer in Decatur, but Holy Trinity's team of "Lay Weeders" coaxed a decent harvest of organic beans, peppers, squash, cucumbers, eggplant and herbs from three plots at the Decatur High School Community Garden, and the tomatoes are still going strong.

Parishioners may have seen the fruits of our labors wheeled to the altar in the red wagon to be blessed on Sunday mornings. From there it went to the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry's food pantry. As a newbie gardener I was pleased to see vegetables overflowing the beautiful Bhutanese basket at the offering, yet it was even more rewarding to deliver ripe tomatoes, still warm from the sun and dusted with dry soil, straight into the hands of DEAM's clients on a weekday morning.

Visiting DEAM also gave me a chance to let clients know they can grow their own vegetables at the community garden. I hope we find ways to bring more families who need fresh healthy food to

the DHS garden, which waives the usual fees for those with low incomes. It's a great place for both body and spirit. As a young man from Decatur's Baha'i faith community who works in the garden with youth from nearby public housing wrote recently: "It has really given our group a higher sense of purpose. The garden has allowed us to serve our family members, ourselves, and has allowed us to get closer to nature. We get to understand profound spiritual concepts by tending to our garden." Amen!

A Holy Trinity parishioner, my daughter Anna Rose, founded the garden about four years ago while a student at Decatur High. It has flourished and now has about 30 garden plots and two cultivated fields. In addition to working HTP's three plots, the Lay Weeders volunteer at monthly work days to maintain and

improve the garden space. Find out more from one of our team: Linda Abraham, Gretchen Nagy, the Rev. Robyn Neville, Giulia Galvin, Knox Gale, Hazel Douglas, Mayo Moses, Lizzy Sandlin, or our junior member pictured below, Joseph Gable. ■



Photo: Adria Stembridge



save the date:
october 30 • stewardship sunday

Postscript



Dear Friends,

Our front lawn is a mixture of grass and weeds. We fought the weeds hard for a couple of years, but lately have mostly accepted them as part of the landscape. Gretchen and I take turns doing the mowing and I can't say we fight over it, but the truth is, it's something we both enjoy. Why? We mow grass the old-fashioned way, with a reel mower. It was Gretchen's idea. She likes it because it doesn't burn gas or use electricity.

I like it because it's good exercise. And it's a great conversation starter with neighbors out for an evening walk, especially with young adults who've never seen a push mower before. Neighbors of all ages appreciate the gentle, purring sound and our small contribution toward a greener way of life.

Community, stewardship, justice and awe. I'm grateful to Woody Bartlett for reminding us of these four cornerstones of our care of the earth as people of faith. When I came to the conclusion of his piece and the wonderful reminder that awe is perhaps the only possible response to the glory of God's creation, one of Wendell Berry's poems came to mind. It's called "A Timbered Choir" and I'll leave it here for you today. ■



*The Reverend
Allan Sandlin,
Associate Rector
Holy Trinity Parish.*

A Timbered Choir

Slowly, slowly, they return
To the small woodland let alone:
Great trees, outspreading and upright,
Apostles of the living light.

Patient as stars, they build in air
Tier after tier a timbered choir,
Stout beams upholding weightless grace
Of song, a blessing on this place.

Receiving sun and giving shade,
Their life's a benefaction made,
And is a benediction said
Over the living and the dead.

In fall their brightened leaves, released,
Fly down the wind, and we are pleased
To walk on radiance, amazed.
O light come down to earth, be praised!

*(From The Sabbath Poems 1979-1997, A Timbered Choir by Wendell Berry.
If you'd like to hear a beautiful musical setting of this poem,
I recommend "Great Trees" by Malcolm Dalglish.)*

Georgia Drought

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category missing was exceptional drought. If you went to Texas, you could find that. Check the map yourself by googling, "US Drought Monitor."

In these extreme drought areas, soil moisture is at the first through the fifth percentile. First means more moisture in 99 out of 100 years; fifth means more moisture in 95 out of 100 years. In either case, the conditions are not good. And the list of streams across Georgia reporting record low flows is also alarming.

The fallout from Hurricane Irene did give some relief, particularly north of the metro area. But the drought persists.

Unfortunately, the long-range picture is also somewhat grim. Computer models and historical climate analysis predict the return of La Niña conditions next year. La Niña is a water temperature

condition in the Equatorial Pacific that is colder than normal. It usually brings below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures to the southeast United States through the winter and spring. This will mean a pleasant winter, but it could well prevent us getting the moisture recharge we need for next summer. So the drought could persist.

What are people of faith to do about this? Well, we can surely become informed—hence the water series. Of course, we can begin to conserve water. And there will be other possibilities—stay tuned to the Green Team and Earth Covenant Ministries for suggestions. And we can pray. The Green Team will be offering occasional petitions in the Sunday morning liturgies that relate to water. ■

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Coming Up in The Trinity Trumpet:

*In our Advent edition, we will take a look at what Holy Trinity has done during the past liturgical year.
What has worked, what hasn't, and what is to come.*

Holy Trinity Parish Clergy & Staff

Rector in the Interim The Reverend Joan Pritcher
Associate Rector The Reverend Allan Sandlin
Assisting Priest The Reverend Robyn Neville
Assisting Priest The Reverend Pamela Cooper-White
Deacon Deacon Joe Pearson
Minister to Children and Youth Ms. Christina Bray
Music Director / Organist Mr. Keith Nash
Faith Factory Director Ms. Courtney Rinehart-Pemberton
Parish Administrator Ms. Sarah Christian
Director of Electronic Media Mr. Bob Sawyer
Director of Print Media Ms. Howison Hollenberg
Financial Secretary Ms. Kate Anderson
Preschool Director Ms. Kay Watkins
Sexton Mr. Tim Veal
Assistant Sexton Mr. Mardrae Veal
Senior Warden Ms. Dawn Diedrich
Junior Warden Mr. Marc Winn

Blessing of the Animals & All Creation

Sunday, October 9

10:30 a.m. Service with Holy Eucharist • Nave

4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals • DEAM Courtyard

On Sunday, October 9, all of Creation is invited to worship in the nave at our 10:30 a.m. service. Dogs, birds, snakes, hedgehogs, fish, plants, hamsters, lizards, cats, rocks, sugar gliders, horses, crabs, turtles—whatever animal, vegetable or mineral companions you have. So that your companion and others will feel comfortable, we ask you to bring them crated, leashed or suitably enclosed—or, if you and your companion prefer, bring a picture representation. In addition, children, of all ages, are encouraged to bring a stuffed toy if they do not have an animal. If your animal companion is timid, he/she might prefer to attend the more traditional service out-of-doors at 4:00 p.m. in the DEAM courtyard.