

*Presbytery of Baltimore  
Creation Care Group Newsletter  
February 2011*



**ENERGY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP FOLLOW UP**

The CCG wants to thank all those who attended the Energy Conservation Workshop on Feb 3, 2011 at Faith PC, directly prior to the Presbytery meeting. There were 50 people in attendance, including the planning team and presenters, representing 26 churches in the Presbytery. Feedback from the workshop was very positive with the majority completing the evaluation form stating that they are committed to make improvements in their church and home.

Some of the ideas that people came away with were:

- Eliminating vampire energy by the use of power strips
- BGE programs that offer rebates for retrofitting lights in churches and homes in addition to savings in the purchasing of energy efficient appliances
- New Presbytery loan program that supports the cost of upgrading the lighting systems in churches
- The opportunity to participate in the RePower at Home web based programs for identifying conservation opportunities as well as tracking your progress in reducing energy
- The need to upgrade fluorescent lighting systems prior to 2012 when new systems will be required
- The opportunity for Baltimore City churches to participate in the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program sponsored by the Chesapeake Covenant Community in partnership with Civic Works
- Opportunities to get an energy audit for churches and homes through BGE programs or Terralogos Energy Group that will also benefit the Presbytery through their charitable donation program
- Opportunity to have members of churches be trained in performing energy checks in members home – as demonstrated by First PC of Howard County

Thanks to all who attended!

- Charlie Conklin, CCG Convener

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FORUM FOCUSES ON PRACTICAL AND SUSTAINABLE APPLICATIONS FOR HOMES AND FAMILIES

The First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Annapolis has launched its 2011 environmental stewardship program to inform and educate its congregation and the public through a series of weekly sermons, adult education sessions, and forums in how to become more faithful environmental stewards. The first one was Sun. Feb. 13, but this coming Sunday features another opportunity to participate.

Sunday, February 20, 2011, Rev. William Hathaway will preach on – “An Amazing Web.” (Services occur at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Church’s main sanctuary.) The 12:15 Forum will have a panel discussion about methods homeowners can use to save energy through weatherization, energy providers, solar and wind strategies, home products and appliances, energy audits, rain and community gardens.

For information updates, visit the FPC website, [www.annapolis-presbyterian.com](http://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com), or contact Doug Jackson at 410-987-4379.

The Annapolis First Presbyterian Church is located at 171 Duke of Gloucester St., Annapolis, MD 21401. All are invited to attend these programs. Parking is available at the Hillman Garage, immediately across the street from the Church. In the event of snow or a rescheduling issue, a notice will be posted on the Church’s website.

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## Light Street Hosting Global Warming Course

A 5-session workshop on *GLOBAL WARMING AND IT'S EFFECT ON SUSTAINABLE LIVING* is being offered at Light Street Presbyterian Church, 809 Light Street, Baltimore, on Thursday evenings, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (began Feb. 10). A lite, healthy dinner is available for \$5. A \$15 book fee is required at the beginning of the course for the curriculum prepared by Northwestern University. Scholarships are available.

If you are interested, please call or e-mail Retta Barkley (410-591-0910 or [rvbarkley@aol.com](mailto:rvbarkley@aol.com)). Bring your friends! People of all faiths and beliefs are welcome!

Light Street Presbyterian Church was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Environmental Ministries on December 16, 2010. This honor speaks to the great commitment that Light Street Presbyterian Church has to caring for God’s earth. We hope you can join us for this meaningful series.

- Rev. Roger Scott Powers, Pastor Light Street Presbyterian Church

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# BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

*a monthly environmental education and discussion forum*

**Sunday February 27, 2011**

4:00-6:30 PM

Maryland Presbyterian Church  
1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286  
<http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm>

## **Environmental Legislation in the Maryland General Assembly**

Dannielle Lipinski, Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Kim Huynh, Food and Water Watch

**Dannielle Lipinski** will talk about the environmental community legislative priorities for the 2011 session, including the Budget, Offshore Wind, Hydrofracking for natural gas in Maryland and also the Bag Bill.

**Kim Huynh** will speak on the Arsenic in Chicken Feed bill which is the banning of using arsenic in chicken feed in Maryland.

The Baltimore Green Forum is using a new format, with a 45 minute presentation, followed by break-outs into Affinity Groups. As always, there will be time for announcements and networking.

***The Purpose of the **Baltimore Green Forum***** is to seek to improve the quality of all life in the greater Baltimore area. Our contribution to this goal will be to gather monthly in order to: **Discern** the progress towards regional sustainability that has already been achieved, **Discover** the connections amidst the chaos of the movement and build a community of like-minded individuals, and **Do** take appropriate action to address the challenges we face together. BGF is open to the public and is free of charge, but donations to Maryland Presbyterian Church are greatly appreciated. For questions, to co-sponsor, or to RSVP, contact [baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com) or 301-345-2234.

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## **Become an Earth Care Congregation!**

Is your church involved in caring for God's creation? Are you looking for resources to start caring for the earth? Either way, the new [Earth Care Congregations](#) program can help your church with this mission.

The goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of church life. *Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches* provides congregations with worksheets, resources, and instructions on becoming an Earth Care Congregation. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make a commitment to be stewards of God's earth and encourages others to follow their example.

For more information, please visit:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

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## Thinking Ahead to Earth Day/Month and Summer Vacation Bible School?

Earth Day is April 22, 2011!

The National Council of Churches has again put together an excellent resource for Earth Day planning, "Where Two or More are Gathered." It is available on their web site after registering and logging in.

Go to: <http://nccecojustice.org/resources/index.php#earthdaysundayresources>

As a convenience, we have also posted the PDF file at the bottom of the CCG home page:

[www.creationcarebaltimore.com/](http://www.creationcarebaltimore.com/)

We are actively looking for additional creation care support materials for Earth Day or Vacation Bible School curricula that we can link into the CCG web site (and in return make available to you all!). If you come across good resource materials online, please let us know by e-mailing resource team leader Bill Blair ([wpb@pha.jhu.edu](mailto:wpb@pha.jhu.edu)) and/or our web guru, Bill Breakey ([Breakeys@comcast.net](mailto:Breakeys@comcast.net)). We will share results in the March E-newsletter. Thanks for helping!

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# The Earth Forum of Howard County

February 20, 2011, 2:00 – 4:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045 (410) 730-3545

## *Renewable Energy and Climate Change*

with

Professor Ross Salawitch

Departments of Atmospheric & Oceanic Science, University of Maryland.

CO<sub>2</sub> is the greatest waste product of modern society. Prof. Salawitch will outline how rising levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> affect the climate. Then he will explain how society might meet its energy needs without adding to the CO<sub>2</sub> burden. He will then discuss the pros and cons of various types of renewable energy generation, and how each impacts the environment, the economy and land resources. He will conclude with stories of local grass roots efforts to develop renewable energy, including some notable successes and some unfortunate set backs.

Refreshments will be served at 3:00. Then, at 3:30, Emphasis/Action workshops will be presented. They include *Choosing Your Renewable Energy Wisely*, with Prof. Ross Salawitch, *How to Influence Corporate Policy* with Tom McCarthy, and *Renewable, Clean Energy: The Power of Offshore Wind* with Margo Duesterhaus.

Come, be apart of the Earth Forum!

<http://www.firstpreshc.org/Care/EarthForum/tabid/47845/Default.aspx>

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The *Creation Care Group* of the Presbytery of Baltimore circulates a newsletter with announcements of upcoming events once per month. To be added or removed from our list, or to have an announcement included in an upcoming mailing, please contact our Resource Team coordinator, Bill Blair ([wpb@pha.jhu.edu](mailto:wpb@pha.jhu.edu)). Our web site is [www.creationcarebaltimore.com/](http://www.creationcarebaltimore.com/).