

Spring 2010

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Earth Ministry

ISSUE 3 - THE HEALTHY HOME GARDENING EDITION



HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR GARDEN?

DOES YOUR GARDEN REFLECT YOUR LOVE FOR ALL CREATION?

GARDENING RESPONSIBLY

It's Springtime! Come celebrate the season with CCC Earth Ministry.

BY BARBARA DENEKE

Our final cluster of programs for this academic year will include a wide diversity of offerings and span most of the season.

Spring is a time when we naturally feel hopeful and enjoy a sense of renewal. The season of Lent provides us a structure for examining our spiritual beliefs. As we walk through our world we enjoy God's bounty - the beauty of a single flower or the call of a songbird looking for a mate, a waterfall flush with pure water from spring rains or winter snow melts, the smell that warm sunshine brings out on the leaves that fell last autumn. It is a good time for us to think about what we can do to honor and protect all these wonderful gifts. Join us for all of our joyful offerings this spring. The presentation by Katy

Hinman may well convince you to look at your call to stewardship in a new way. If you are in a contemplative mood, join our Lenten Book Group for weekly discussions on the reading selection which received high marks from our clergy.

In addition, there are two fabulous retreats within driving distance of Nashville. Both are designed to provide spiritual growth in the context and awe of creation. The retreat at St. Mary's will focus on prayer and reflection while the retreat at Lake Junaluska will also feature sessions including a solar homes tour and making a rain barrel.

Peace and Joy to you!



Events

Lenten Book Group

Fridays - 10:30 - 12:00
February 26 - March 26, 2010
Wheeler Room

Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible will be studied and discussed. (see book review on p. 2) All are welcome to participate in this popular Lenten discipline. Available in CCC bookstore. Used books available through Amazon. Contact Barbara Deneke for details.

A Biblical Argument for Stewardship of the Earth

April 21, Wednesday
 Program at 6:30, Dinner at 5:30
(Reservations required for dinner)

Prepare for Earth Day by coming to hear Rev. Katy Hinman, who led Georgia Interfaith Power and Light for many years. She will present a moving faith based multi-media argument for stewardship of the earth and discuss current environmental issues.

Soap Making Workshop

April 24, Saturday
 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
 Cost \$25 per person

This fun and practical class on making Jewelweed soap will be taught by volunteers from Thistle Farms! You will go home with some truly elegant soap that you made yourself. Jewelweed is a native herb that has been used throughout our history to prevent or soothe poison ivy rash. Come learn more. Every home gardener and person who hikes in the woods needs this soap!

FOLLOW UP - TAKE IT FURTHER

Attend Lawn & Garden Lectures

Nashville Fairgrounds
March 4-7, 2010

Here are just a few suggestions:

Friday March 5

1:00pm - Rainwater Harvesting: Being Environmentally Friendly While Creating Beauty in Your Yard

6-8pm - Our Living Apothecary: Native Medicinal Plants of the South and Their Uses

Saturday March 6

12 Noon - Ten Sustainable Herbs that Everyone Should Know and Grow

1:00pm - One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

Sunday March 7

2:00pm - Attracting Bluebirds to your Backyard

Faith and Human Being: A Planetary View

St. Mary's Sewanee

April 30 - May 2



<http://www.stmaryssewanee.org/programs/Apr30.shtml>

We are beginning to recognize that the community of life on earth is a single, intricately connected unity. What role might our Christian faith inspire us to play when we understand ourselves as the product of 13.7 billion years of evolutionary development, now poised to either destroy or enhance the future of the planet? What changes would we make in our thinking and believing, and in our life style? Through presentation, prayer and reflection, and sharing of insights we will probe these questions.

Caring for Creation - A Retreat

Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center
April 8- 11

www.lakejunaluska.com/caring-for-creation/

Life in the world today is challenged by how we care for the gift of Earth given to us by God. The Christian faith challenges us to be caretakers of Earth. Caring for Creation helps members of faith communities learn how care of the Earth is often taken for granted.

The Caring for Creation experience provides the Biblical and theological support for faith communities to develop programs to be caretakers of our planet. It also offers plenary sessions provided by outstanding leadership to challenge us to move forward in our efforts to care for the Earth.

Suburban Safari: A year on the lawn

by Hannah Holmes

This is a perennial favorite book. It is written in a lighthearted and inquisitive manner that is infectious. It will be very surprising if you can read it without coming to a joyful appreciation of the diversity of plant and animal life both above and below ground. The section where the author describes Freedom Lawns (as introduced in our tips section on p. 2) will likely have a great influence on the way you view your lawn and your neighbors' lawns. The discussion of earth worms has surprising revelations about these garden workers.

A great back porch read.

BY CARROLL YOUNG, PHD

Book Review

Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible

by Ellen F. Davis

Foreword by Wendell Berry. Cambridge University Press (2009).

The book selected for this quarter is meaningful from many points of view: that of Biblical scholars, readers interested in sustainable agriculture, students of literary expression, farmers and gardeners, and indeed, all of us who depend on food, water, and air to sustain life. The complex layers of meaning in this book are best summarized on its first page:

"This book examines the theology and ethics of land use, especially the practices of modern industrialized agriculture, in light of critical biblical exegesis. Nine interrelated essays explore the biblical writers' pervasive concern for the care of arable land against the background of the geography, social structures, and religious thought of ancient Israel. This approach consistently brings out neglected aspects of texts, both poetry and prose, that are central to Jewish and Christian traditions. Rather than seeking solutions from the past, Ellen F. Davis creates a conversation between ancient texts and contemporary agrarian writers; thus she provides a fresh perspective from which to view the destructive practices and assumptions that now dominate the global food economy. The biblical exegesis is wide-ranging and sophisticated; the language is literate and accessible to a broad audience.

...

Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture is a deep and important book that deserves reading and reading again. Like all important writing, like the Bible itself, we can learn new layers of meaning with each reading.



Heavenly Father, we ask you to

Bless all living things now making their way in your universe,
all creatures who embrace and uphold us,
who show us our unique gifts in time and space,
who add to our particular pattern and presence.

Bless peoples of every race and religion, every gender and difference,
every culture and calling, every country and nation.

Bless algae and bacteria, alpine wildflowers and pesky mosquitoes,
cloying air and gentle breezes, penguins and puppies,
waterfalls and rivers, farmland and meadows.

Teach us reverence for your creation.

Creator Spirit, you dwell within our cosmic chaos, infuse with fresh love all our atoms, cells and sinews. Forgive and renew us. Convert our hearts and turn us around again and again until we discern your face in all you have created and forge new ways of living in your universe. We pray you grant us these blessings through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

a modified excerpt from *Loving Creation, Christian Spirituality, Earth-Centered and Just*, by Kathleen Fisher
(available in CCC Bookstore)

Gardening Tips for Living Lightly on the Planet

Use Alternative Weed Killing Techniques

It is really self-evident that if a chemical is killing a weed in your lawn, it may be killing something else. Some of the most common weed killers used by home gardeners or even farmers are toxic to the organisms required to make soil healthy. Soil without healthy organisms cannot grow plants. The best way to get rid of weeds is to dig or pull them up. However, sometimes that is not practical. Some alternatives include flame weeders that are very useful for places that are not likely to catch fire, (like your driveway or patio), boiling water poured on weeds or white vinegar in a squirt bottle sprayed on weeds. I have tried all of these methods and they all work. Some require more than one attack but they are much easier on the soil and environment than most herbicides available at the store.



Invite Birds to your Bug Buffet

Why do birds go to one yard instead of another right next door? It's food, shelter and water! Some of our best bird friends are easy to attract. Hummingbirds will come to drink the nectar in your flowers or feeder but will stay to eat up to 1,000 mosquitos per day out of your yard. Hard working robins turn their beaks up at bird feeders but will eat the bugs off your lawn for hours on end and appreciate an occasional bath or drink from a

shallow bird bath. Loyal bluebirds will spend hours feasting on bugs on your vegetable garden and will stay all year in your yard if you find just the right spot for a nesting house for them. Bats are legendary for eating mosquitos at dusk and after dark and will come to live in your yard too if you offer a bat box for daytime refuge and live within 1/2 mile of a creek or other water source. The bat guano is a rich soil enhancer too!



Improve Effectiveness of Mulch

Before spreading any kind of mulch, put down brown cardboard, brown paper bags or 6 - 8 sheets of newspaper (with little or no colored ink). Not only does this keep paper trash out of the landfill, but you benefit directly by not having to weed as much (the paper keeps the sun away from weeds, so they are smothered) and it stretches the life of your mulch. It will keep moisture in the soil during hot, dry months, and will prevent weeds from growing in flower beds.



Edible Plants are Beautiful!

Blueberry bushes can be planted in sunny or partly sunny areas. Not only do they provide delicious healthy food right in your yard but they are beautiful and provide gorgeous bright red foliage in autumn. Many vegetables are similarly beautiful enough to be included in your ornamental borders. Peppers,

artichokes, and kale are just a few of these beautiful veggies.



Make Your Lawn Care EASY!

Learn to love the diversity of plants (formerly known as weeds) that show up in your yard. There is a movement known as the "freedom lawn" movement that advocates a diverse tapestry of mostly native plant life in your lawn that should be mowed much less often, not treated with herbicides, and not watered regularly. Some communities even have Freedom Lawn competitions! As an added benefit, your street will be less clogged with those huge lawn care company trucks! Alternatively, if you must have a solid green turf lawn, there are types of creeping red fescue grass that can grow in our climate that are considered "low mow" or "no mow" lawns. They are slow growing and look beautiful even when long. These are the kind of lawns that make you want to take your shoes off and wiggle your toes in them!



Heartfelt thanks to Jane Hardy for contributing some of these tips! If you have a unique tip for living lightly and want to share it in a future newsletter, please contact Barbara Deneke

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 2009 - 2010 - and 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

barbaradeneke@comcast.net

383-3269

Garden Rx

Chlorosis-iron deficiency

Light green leaf with dark green veins

- 1) Water plant with mixture
Rusty steel wool pads soaked in 1 qt. water; let stand for one week.
- 2) Spray on plant
1/2 gallon water
1 tsp. sea kelp extract

Mildew - Antifungal spray

- 1) Spray on plants
2 quarts of water
1 Tbsp baking soda
1 Tbsp vegetable oil or 1 Tbsp liquid car wax
- 2) Spray on plants
2 quarts water
1/2 Cup Milk
- 3) Mist spray on plants
4 Tbsp baking soda
2 Tbsp Murphy's Oil Soap
1 gallon warm water

Fungal & Bug Problems

Mix and Spray
1 1/2 Tbsp baking soda
1 Tbsp vinegar
1 1/2 Tbsp Canola Oil
1 Tbsp liquid dish soap
1 gallon water

Black Spot

- 1) Mix and Spray
4 Tbsp. Baking Soda
1 Tbsp. Canola Oil
1 gallon warm water
- 2) Mix and Spray
1 part Skim Milk
9 parts Water

Lawn Fungus

Mix and Spray
1 Tbsp baking soda
1 Tbsp instant tea
1 Tbsp horticultural or dormant oil
1 gallon warm water

Plants that Deer do not like:

Purple Coneflower, Coreopsis, Iris, Daffodil, Vinca, Dianthus, Yucca, Dusty Miller, Foxglove, Zinnia

Moles

Mix and pour in the runways
1 1/2 Tbsp Tabasco sauce
1 Tbsp liquid dish soap
1 tsp Chili Powder
1 quart water

Chipmunks

Use mothballs

Kitty Litter

Sprinkle around the outside of your garden to form a "scent fence." Do not use around edible plants. The scent toxins can leach into roots.

Soap-icide

Kills aphids, spider mites, and other insects

Mix and Spray
4 Tbsp liquid dish soap
1 gallon water

New Transplants

Place 1 Tbsp in bottom of planting hole
1/3 Cup bone meal
1/3 Cup Osmocote fertilizer