

Ministry for Earth Community

Friday, April 24, 2009

Harvard Divinity School



Workshops: (offered at 1:15-2:30 and repeated from 2:45-4:00, except as otherwise indicated)

Coming Back to Life: Seizing Hope in a Season of Despair Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Grace Episcopal Church

Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is an Episcopal priest, member of the leadership council for Religious Witness for the Earth, and author of two books on spirituality. This workshop will deepen spiritual resources for environmental activism. In the face of unprecedented ecological challenges, it is easy to become immobilized by grief, fear, and anger. Using the work of eco-philosopher and activist Joanna Macy, we will explore the power of resurrection in our own lives as we seek to transform despair into hope, and apathy into compassionate action.

***The Christian Economics of Food*:** Brent Was, HDS MDiv '95 & Caretaker at Emery House, retreat center of the Society of St John the Evangelist, West Newbury, MA

Brent Was is a farm manager, HDS '95, and a doctoral student at Episcopal Divinity School working in eco-theology. The human relationship with God necessitates that our relationship with the Earth be one of home to homemaker. *Economics*, literally, regards the management of home. The state of our current industrial agricultural system, with genetically modified crops, sky rocketing food prices and rapidly eroding soils is a sign that our home is in disorder. Together we will explore the Christian moral imperative to be mindful about the food we consume, and some practical methods to live in accordance with our beliefs.

***Faith Communities Engaging Climate Science*:** Dr Phil Rice & Tina Clarke, Sustainability Institute

Phil Rice is Director of Our Climate Ourselves Program at the Sustainability Institute, Hartland VT; Tina Clarke (MA-Public Policy) is a UCC lay leader and has worked as the director of various environmental nonprofit programs since 1985—most recently with Clean Water Action. This workshop will examine the emerging climate science, solutions, and how to help people understand the complexities of the climate system. We will focus on developing leadership for climate change in faith communities, through grassroots networks and through environmental education.

***Pastoral Care in an Age of Global Warming*:** (1:15-2:30 only) Dr. Roger S. Gottlieb

Like other great social upheavals (e.g., war, economic depression, technological change) the environmental crisis places specific and distinct demands on religious leaders and teachers. What is the work of a priest, minister, or rabbi at this time? In this workshop we will examine some examples of both "inner" and "outer" work—knowledge of the world and development of the self—that we are called to. Participants will share images of both the kinds of religious leader they would like to be and what kind of leadership they themselves need—and we will support each other in becoming the changes we seek in the world.

Pilgrimage to the Boiler Room: faith in practice

Dr. Tom Nutt-Powell, Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light

Tom Nutt-Powell is president and co-founder of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit initiative offering Massachusetts congregations of every religious tradition a comprehensive means of reducing energy consumption, lowering operating costs, and promoting clean, renewable energy in houses of worship and related buildings. This workshop will consider the faith-implications of energy stewardship in the places we worship, live, and work.

***Theology and Ecology*:** (2:45-4:00 only) Dr. Willis Jenkins

This workshop will afford participants the opportunity to converse with Willis Jenkins on emerging topics in ecotheology, environmental ethics, and religious environmentalism.