

Helen Brown bequest. -- Social Justice brought for the "Justice in a Changing Climate proposal.

In this new ministry effort in 2007, CUCC

- voted to make Climate Change and its impact on the poor a major focus of the congregation ministry (May)
 - and set up a timeline for the first year
- the name was intentionally chosen to remind us that we are not just working for the environment we believe the impact of global warming will be greatest on the poor, and we must work to alleviate that impact.
- with this vote, a sizable sum of endowment money was committed from the congregation for as part of the idea. This allows us to think very freely on what to do.
- put together a steering committee (this summer),
 - this committee intentionally has representation from the various main committees around the church (stewardship, welcoming and fellowship, social justice, community outreach, property, education).
 - Committee members - Gary Smith (Chair), John Little (Moderator), Steve Halsted (Pastor), Geri Bowen (Community Outreach), Sam Johnson, Jim Smith, Edith Sylla (Deacons), Marty Lamb (Christian Ed), Grady McCallie (Social Justice), Jane Smith (notes), Skip Stoddard (Stewardship), Paul Kiel (Property)
- Established an environmental blog, a JCC page on the CUCC website and a bulletin board in the fellowship hall
- performed an energy audit with help of NC IPL (October),
 - and are now addressing the findings
- surveyed the congregation on what individuals in the congregation think of global warming, what we should do in response and what individuals are currently doing (October),
 - we are studying this information to see how well we are on board and what we should be doing to move us forward
 - we are putting actions for 2008 together with the output in mind
- held a celebration kick off worship service (October)
 - This was a lot of fun. We had a few people from around the congregation speak of what the congregation is already doing, we made a lot of noise, we laughed, thanked God for the blessings we have and asked God for guidance as we move forward.
 - Co-sponsored NC Warn Event - "Averting Climate Catastrophe: Power Plants Or Clean Energy --- *Who Decides?*" Chapel Hill, Nov. 17, 3 pm
- Put up a Justice in a Changing Climate bulletin board in a prominent place to let people (members and visitors) know instantly what is going on.
- held an "education sampler potluck" afternoon/evening event to increase our knowledge level (November)
 - This worked very well. We had three 20 min sessions with 5 offerings each. Between the 2nd and 3rd session we had a potluck dinner. At the end, we had people tell us what they wanted to learn and do more of. There was a lot of energy in all of the sessions.

Session 1

Why do empires historically fall or collapse? (DVD excerpt)

Is public transportation a realistic option? (map reading & life style exploration)

Can social change stop climate change? (advocacy)

What is nature saying tonight? (being in nature)

What do I have to say tonight? (graffiti wall) VFH

Session 2

What do we really know about climate change? (science)

What do we want to do at home to reduce the size of our carbon footprint?

Can social change stop climate change? (advocacy)

What is nature saying tonight? (being in nature)

What do I have to say tonight? (graffiti wall) VFH

Session 3

What is Raleigh hip-hop saying to us about climate change and justice? (music)

How many Earths would there have to be if everyone lived like me? (on-line energy audit; life style exploration)

What does the Bible really say about giving humans dominion over the earth? (Bible study)

What is nature saying tonight? (being in nature)

What do I have to say tonight? (graffiti wall)

- We could potentially offer something like this to other churches
- The steering committee designed offerings for early 2008 in response to what people told us at the end of the gathering.
- We are connecting with other congregations – Individuals from Grace Lutheran, Covenant Community, Congolese Good News Church, Pullen and White Memorial have participated in our events. In addition, we are working to collaborate with UC Chapel Hill and St Francis of Assisi.
 - We are not experts; we believe that by working together with other congregations, we can all accelerate our development. One idea we have is to hold an ecumenical workshop to bring interested congregations together to share ideas and learn together. This is not off the ground yet.
- For Lent, we have three Climate Change offerings
 - Thinking Green in the Bleak Mid Winter – A 4 week , 1.5 hr each, group setting for people to share the things they are doing to conserve energy, to learn from each other and challenge each other. We were also directed to web sites with home energy audits (Just finished)
 - Global Warming – Science and policy. A 4 week, 1.5 hr each, partly lecture, partly discussion to get ourselves comfortable discussing the data and science around Global Warming and what is going on in some organizations that we could get involved with (Starting this Sunday).

Curbing human-caused global warming, and adapting to the warming we have already made inevitable, are two of the major challenges of our time. Our faith calls us to support policies that protect all of God's creation -- including people who, because of their lack of political power or wealth, are most vulnerable to the changes that climate change and climate change regulations will bring. Still, such a large and complex topic can feel overwhelming. This Lenten series is aimed at thoughtful, concerned people who want a workable understanding of global warming and its solutions, and want to feel more confident when talking casually with friends, neighbors, and colleagues who are skeptical or confused.

In the series, we will look at the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports and some of the underlying science. We will discuss a book, called “The Discovery of Global Warming,” that should help us increase our comfort in and with the debate. And we will look at some action groups that are taking steps to slow and decrease the impact of climate change.

The series will run as four 1.5 hour weekly sessions commencing Feb 24, after church at CUCC (~12:15).

Session 1: What *is* climate change?

Session 2: How do we know it is happening?

Session 3: Why are some people still skeptical, and how should one talk with them?

Session 4: Reasons for hope – how shall we help?

- NC IPL 2008 Carbon Fast – offered for home study.
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- We have had a number of “ministry moments” on the topic
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- We hope to have a potluck with other congregations in April to get to know one another and begin to plan a “Becoming a Greener Congregation” workshop.
 - The churches at the Thursday session would be very welcome