

**Foothills Presbytery Highlights:***How much do you know about recycling?*

- *Creating a new aluminum can from scratch takes 95% more energy than making a can from recycled aluminum.*
- *The US uses 100 billion plastic bags annually, consuming about 12 million barrels of oil. Less than 1% of plastic bags are ever recycled.*
- *In a lifetime, the average American will throw away 600 times their adult weight in garbage. A 150-pound adult will leave a legacy of 90,000 pounds of trash for their children.*
- *According to US EPA about 40% of heavy metals including lead, mercury and cadmium in Landfills come from electronic equipment discards.*
- *The average US citizen uses 50 pounds of tissue paper per year. Try to buy the highest content of "post-consumer waste" since "pre-consumer waste" doesn't stem the flow of paper entering landfills.*
- *Batteries can cause serious harm to human health and the environment when disposed of with municipal solid waste. Many companies will take your old batteries and properly dispose of them or have them recycled.*
- *The average US office worker goes through 10,000 sheets of copy paper per year. Print on both sides and in draft mode whenever possible.*
- *Producing recycled paper requires about 60% of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp.*

From Rebecca Barnes

Associate for Environmental Ministries (PCUSA)

- Did your congregation host or participate in a community prayer time on September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for Care of All Creation? ***Please send me a photo and sentence or two, as soon as possible, as we'd like to celebrate these stories of how you participated in [Sept 1 World Day of Prayer](#) for Care of all Creation!***
- Are you-- or is someone you know— interested in learning and environmental, climate and peacemaking issues in Guatemala and Costa Rica in January 2017? Apply now to consider attending the [January Peacemaking travel seminar to Guatemala and Costa Rica!](#)
- Food Week of Action is coming up next month. There are resources for study, worship, and action here: participate in [October's Food Week of Action!](#) (Also see the [fall PHP Post](#) that has a lot of great resources as well for food week.)
- If you haven't been following the news about **Presbyterians engaged in the Standing Rock Sioux protest** over the Dakota Access Pipeline, read PNS news stories as well as the Eco-Journey blog (and ***check back soon*** for information about where to send donations, if you would like to send financial resources to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for

food, water, blankets for the protectors): <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbytery-northern-plains-sends-support-pipeline-protectors-north-dakota/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterians-join-lummi-nation-fight-fossil-fuel-projects-northwest/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2016/09/02/lummi-totem-pole-ceremony-sandpoint-standing-rock/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2015/05/26/behalf-lummi-nation-and-northwest-native-tribes/>
(from a year ago!).

Presbyterian Mission Agency - Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministry- Presbyterian Hunger Program

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Blog:

<http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/eco-journey/>

Web site: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/>

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)



EARTH:

Earth Action, Reflection, Theology and Hope

Dear Friends in Earth Care,

Blessings to you this September! Presbyterians for Earth Care has been focusing on issues of water. This month's edition of EARTH features a picture essay on The Shore – that place where we meet the water; a sermon on the Spirituality and Ethics of Water, a piece on climate change and drought, and some poetry.

I am honored to join the EARTH team and am excited about our possibilities. We are always looking for

new and diverse voices to add to our monthly collection. Please do let us know if you want to join us. We would love to feature your reflections, poetry, and artwork!

In
Sue Smith, EARTH Co-Editor

faith,

- [Roundness by Nancy Corson Carter](#)
- [The Shore by Eric Beene](#)
- [The Spirituality and Ethics of Water by J. Mark Davidson](#)
- [The Cyclical Nature of Weather by Katie Preston](#)
- [Breathing Water by Nancy Corson Carter](#)

Roundness by Nancy Corson Carter

Nancy Corson Carter is a member of the EARTH team, and she lives in Chapel Hill, NC.

I found this rock
on the shore,
its pleasing roundness
created by
how many tides?

Like all humans, I've
come from roundness
formed in waters
of an inland sea:
my mother's womb.

Around and around
the Earth spins
all things together:
our earth/air/fire/water

sacred sphere
blessed by God's
surrounding love.

The Shore ***by Eric Beene***

Rev. Eric Beene is Pastor of White Bluff Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Georgia. He is also a hobby photographer. Photos (c) 2016 by Eric Beene. All photos taken at Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia. To see more of his work, including photo prints and note cards available for purchase, see his blog at ericbeene.wordpress.com/photos.

The Spirituality and Ethics of Water ***by J. Mark Davidson***

J. Mark Davidson: Pastor, The Church of Reconciliation, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; This is his sermon for the annual Earth Sabbath at New Hope Camp and Conference Center, May 8, 2016.

Augustine's 4th c. classic *The City of God* drew a contrast between the human city and the city of God. The human city was human civilization, what we human beings have made of the earth, how we have arranged our life, our glories and our failures. The city of God, on the other hand, was God's original design for human life, a blueprint for sustainable human flourishing, so often not followed. The whole message of Christianity is the ongoing redemption of the broken human city until it comes under the sway of the city of God... much as Jesus prayed... ***"thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."*** Two phrases from this morning's scriptures – from Psalms and from John – help us understand: ***"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God;"*** that river is Jesus Christ and the streams are the true followers of Jesus spreading out into the world like thousands of tributaries of life and hope... as John put it: ***"Out of their hearts shall flow streams of living water."*** [Read more...](#)

The Cyclical Nature of Weather ***by Katie Preston***

Katie Preston is a member of the EARTH team and lives in Boston, MA.

What a year it has been. As we've seen for the past 16 years, record after record is falling for the "hottest month" each and every month. When I moved to New England last December, I was hoping for a mild winter to help ease me into the change from Southern life. And I received my wish – compared to the previous winter, things were pretty mild here in Boston. But now that summer is here in full force, it's apparent that mild winter means brutal summer.

When we were in middle school learning about weather, I remember coming back from a snow day, and our teacher said it was time to stop learning about weather because the week before it had be 80 and she didn't want to experience any more weather phenomenon we were studying! What we learned back then was that weather patterns are cyclical. But weather is reliant on the climate – yes, they are different! [Weather](#) is "the state of the atmosphere, to the degree that it is hot or cold, wet or dry, calm or stormy, clear or cloudy." Climate, on the other hand, is the study of weather over time. Local weather is a result of the climate patterns over time. As the earth's temperature rises over time, what we refer to as climate change, local weather patterns change in comparison to historical averages and seasons. We are seeing temperatures rise in higher latitudes, a longer season for hurricanes and monsoons, and detrimental drought as well.

As people of faith who believe in the call to care for creation, we can no longer ignore the impacts of climate change, or wait to take action. Climate change and the weather impacts are upon us in full force. The drought in California and the current wildfires remind us how fragile life is. All the while Baton Rouge is flooded and thousands of people are displaced because of a freak amount of rain in a short period of time. And these are the effects we are feeling here in the US – but people all over the globe have been experiencing these impacts for years, and do not have the resources to mitigate or respond to climate change the way we do. We are called to care for the least of these, and to help our brothers and sisters in need.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program released a [great resource to consider climate change and water](#) that highlights some important things to know, and things you can do to help. While the climate will not change overnight, we can do our part to be better prepared to respond to the drastic weather phenomenon occurring across the globe, and reaching out to help our neighbors in crisis.

Breathing Water ***by Nancy Corson Carter***

Breathing in
I inhale the O₂
of phytoplankton's
watery exhalation;

Breathing out
I exhale the CO₂
of their inhalation.

Life is so beautifully
interwoven!
Wherever I am,
I can stop a moment
and rejoice in
our shared breath.

Note: Phytoplankton are [photosynthesizing](#) microscopic organisms that inhabit the upper sunlit layer of almost all oceans and bodies of fresh water. They are agents for "[primary production](#)," the creation of [organic compounds](#) from [carbon dioxide](#) dissolved in the water, a process that sustains the aquatic food web.

It is estimated that between 50% and 85% of the world's oxygen is produced via phytoplankton photosynthesis.

Do you want to join the newsletter committee and help PEC reflect on God's creation?
email abby.mohaupt to join us.

National Council of Churches of Christ - Eco-Justice Program Office

<http://www.creationjustice.org/>



JUSTICE FOR GOD'S PLANET
AND GOD'S PEOPLE

FEATURED RESOURCE: *Care for God's Creatures*

[Download for free.](#)

Get sermon starters, Christian education ideas, hymn suggestions, ideas to create habitat, advocacy tools, and more.



Interfaith Power & Light

<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>



[Faith leaders call on oil and gas to drop opposition to venting and flaring rules](#)

By Sister Joan Brown | September 7, 2016

COMMENTARY: Dozens of western faith leaders and socially responsible investment firms recently joined together in a letter calling on oil and gas lobby groups to drop their opposition to Bureau of Land Management rules, which aim to reduce natural gas waste on public lands. [Read More](#)

NASA's Earth Observatory Where every day is Earth day. <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

The latest from NASA's Earth Observatory (13 September 2016)

Latest Images:

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* Super Typhoon Meranti

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* Parched New England

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* Central Madrid

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* Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve

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* Flooding of the Ganges

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* The Evolution of Hurricane Hermine

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* Crack Advances Across Antarctic Ice Shelf

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* Massive and Mysterious Ice Fall in Tibet

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Earth Matters

* Visualizing the Warmest August in 136 Years

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Notes from the Field

* Prepping for First Flight

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[OEh755LXtEoJn6t0&s=z5yHCbvnKeZQuckkTWxMKpgW0Ad5MnQF_0SPiQqT7s&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__earthobservatory.nasa.gov_blogs_fromthefield_-3Fp-3D8285-26src-3Deoa-2Dblogs&d=CwICAg&c=Ngd-ta5yRYsqeUsEDgxhcqsYYY1Xs5ogLxWPA_2Wlc4&r=3MMKtdko0fLVDnjCMb1rgA&m=ia4f2IWGGvoEdqTKavMV9H_F6wnOEh755LXtEoJn6t0&s=XUqPbO3siSBcrfr5I97va19yJ49P4yxOVhaFNVpQgk8&e=)

* Shades of Blue

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* The Federal Case for Oceanography

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* The Sticky Mess in the Tarball

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* ORACLES in Flight

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NASA's Earth Observatory

Where every day is Earth day.

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http://blog.nature.org/science/?src=e.nature.loc_h&lu=4273527&autologin=true

Updates from the Cool Green Science Blog

What's happening in a river? Whenever I accompany biologists on their freshwater research trips, I'm astonished by the secrets revealed. I'm an avid angler and naturalist, but so much is happening that I can't see. While I can see a spawning salmon finning the shallows, the larger mysteries of migration largely pass unnoticed.

New technology provides researchers -- and you -- a better glimpse than ever at the life of salmon rivers and other ecosystems. The Nature Conservancy's Salmon Cam provides daily views of the changes of salmon migration. Right now, smolts -- young salmon -- are easily viewed. Soon, the adults will return to lay eggs, and then die. You can watch it all during daylight hours.

The Conservancy is employing other tools as well, including models that map how wildlife adapt to climate change, and statistics that enable foresters to recreate a more natural forest. And, of course, good-old fashioned observation can reveal new insights in your own backyard.

[Salmon Cam: Watch Migratory Fish Live](#)

Located on a California salmon stream, our live camera feed allows daily access to the lives of salmon and other native fish.

[Read more »](#)

[Migration in Motion: Visualizing Species Movements Due to Climate Change](#)

Astonishing maps display how species will shift their range due to climate change. Will they be able to move or are there human-caused barriers?

[Read more »](#)

[Maintaining Healthy Forests is More than Planting Trees](#)

Healthy forests are a mix of old and young trees, dead trees and openings. How can conservationists recreate such randomness?

[Read more »](#)

[Smelling Skunk? You're Not Alone](#)

This time of year, the smell of skunk is in the air. Click on to learn why.

[Read more »](#)

I hope you enjoy these stories that shed new light on conservation and the life around us.

Yours in conservation,

Matt Miller

Cool Green Science Blog, The Nature Conservancy

<http://justiceunbound.org/> Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice

https://www.facebook.com/UnboundJustice?ref=stream&hc_location=stream (PC USA)

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Audubon South Carolina makes difference because of you.

Connecting People with Nature

2016 Victories to Celebrate

Protecting Beaches and Coastlines: Our Legislature said **yes** to the strongest protections for our beaches and coastline in more than 20 years! This new law permanently sets a "baseline" for development that can never move seaward. This is a big win for the eroding Captain Sam's Spit at Kiawah Island. The Comprehensive Shoreline Management bill is critical for nesting American Oystercatchers and Wilson's Plovers and for the 85 species of migratory neotropicals like the Painted Buntings and American Redstarts.

Safeguarding Clean Water: The Senate and House said **NO THANKS** to coal ash generated out of state. The last thing South Carolina needs is a "gift" of coal ash lagoons that leak toxins into our waterway!

Creating a New Sanctuary: They voted **YES** to protecting Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, as a Wildlife Sanctuary. This Global Important Bird Areas is wintering site for 700-1000 Rusty Blackbirds.

Keeping Silver Bluff Safe from Petroleum: It looked like a Texas petroleum company wanted a pipeline across South Carolina. But landowners objected to the company's use of a murky old law to "condemn" their property, and our Senators and Representatives unanimously said, **"Not so fast!"** The pipeline could have crossed

Audubon's Silver Bluff Sanctuary- home to 30 acres of Wood Stork ponds and so much more.

These are four reasons that South Carolina bird lovers can celebrate - and **four reasons to let your legislators know how much you appreciate their work.**

Looking Ahead

The General Assembly adjourned, too, without passing several bills that Audubon SC championed. Our priority for the 2017 session is:

The South Carolina Conservation Bank: This is South Carolina's most important source of funding for land conservation. Using a small portion of the state's real estate transfer fee, the Conservation Bank has protected nearly 250,000 acres of forest, wetlands, and critical lands including adding 2,500 acres at Beidler Forest at a fraction of the cost. **It's absolutely essential that we get the Conservation Bank reauthorized when the General Assembly reconvenes in 2017.** Unfortunately, if it "sunsets" in 2018 - it will cease to exist- not an option for conservation.

So, members and friends, - please help Audubon SC applaud the efforts of our legislators to protect, preserve, and restore our state's precious natural resources:

- **Find** your Senator and Representative at this [link](#).
- **Send** them an email using this [link](#).
- **Thank** them for any or all of the victories described above.
- **Remind** them that it will be critical to reauthorize the Conservation Bank next

year.

- If you're curious to see how your own legislators vote on conservation issues, check out this [link](#).

Thank you so much! If you would like to receive Action Alerts, please sign up through this [link](#). Your willingness to personally connect with your elected representatives is the most effective tool in our advocacy efforts.

It is one of my highest priorities to **give Audubon SC and its members a strong voice** in the South Carolina General Assembly. Our thanks goes out to Sam "Trip" King III, our Government Affairs Representative. Trip helps us navigate the process so our collective voice can be heard on behalf of the birds, wildlife, and habitats that we love.

Let us know if you have any questions or suggestions about Audubon SC's work in the legislature.

Gratefully,

Sharon E. Richardson

Executive Director

Audubon South Carolina

[843-408-9494](tel:843-408-9494)

srichardson@audubon.org

Upstate Update



Member Only Field Trip

Trailside Community - Zero Energy Model Home Tour

Saturday, October 1, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us, as Todd Usher of Addison Homes, gives us a behind the scenes tour of a model home that practically sustains itself.

Many consumers wonder if a mainstream home can really be designed to produce as much electricity as it consumes. Addison Homes built a Zero Energy Model Home to prove it's not only possible, it's practical. How? By incorporating a variety of high-performance products and processes to maximize efficiency - to some 70% beyond standard code - then adding a photovoltaic system capable of generating enough renewable energy to meet the home's remaining electrical needs. Come, learn and get inspired!

Trailside Community is the first all-solar community in Greenville. Parking available on the street in the neighborhood.

1 Trails Edge Ct, Greenville, SC 29617

Email Ginger Goldsmith at ggoldsmith@upstateforever.org or phone at [864.250.0500](tel:864.250.0500) Ext. 20 to reserve your spot to tour this Zero Energy Model Home.

Has your membership expired? Renew your membership today [here](#)!

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Resources and Opportunities

Online accessibility to locate parks statewide (city, county, state, and federal parks) and for all states: www.recreationparks.net/SC

www.recreationparks.net/state

Online accessibility to locate trails, parks, recreational facilities, farmers markets:

<http://letsgosc.org>.

Want to find local produce and free range beef and chicken products, check out the website: <http://www.certifiedscgown.com/>. This website allows a search by SC county and type of products, other options as well. The Certified South Carolina program is an exciting cooperative effort among producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) to brand and promote South Carolina products. Our goal is for consumers to be able to easily identify, find and buy South Carolina products.

The [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org) has a sponsored tool. Explore the outdoors! Find parks, trails, and other nature sites and events. Easy to use, enter zip code and number of miles you wish to explore at the time. <http://www.nwf.org/naturefind/>

Join in on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stewardship-of-Creation-Foothills-Presbytery-SC/138564229544090?ref=hl>
