

Executive Director's Note

Summertime and the livin' is easy...

Okay, maybe not easy, but it's been fun! GIPL has had a great summer so far, with a visit to Washington for the national Interfaith Power & Light conference, connections with new partners and faith communities and, of course, our fifth birthday party!

As we look forward to the fall, we have a lot of great ways for your faith community to be involved. See stories in this newsletter for initiatives like our education programs, fundraising with Power Credit and ShopIPL, worship resources, food & faith programming, and new educational curricula. As always, look for the CFL to find articles about how your community can take action!

Silent auction a HUGE success—thank you!

Thanks to all those who donated and bought items at our silent auction. Through it, we received over \$1500 which will further GIPL's work!



GIPL's 5th Birthday Party a blast!


Tables filled with scrumptious local foods, smiling satiated people, and stupendous silent auction items—what a great 5th Birthday Celebration!



Throughout the course of the evening, over fifty people visited us at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, mingling with old and new friends, tasting local wines, bidding on silent auction items, judging local foods, listening to live mandolin music by Trey Gibbs, and even making homemade ice-cream in an ice-cream ball! Our main dish and dessert contest winners were Jay Sampat and Presian Burroughs, respectively, who received lovely prizes. Thanks to all those who celebrated with us—in body or spirit—and who made this party a success through their diligent efforts!



Make your efficiency changes today: Shop IPL!

 ShopIPL.org is the online shopping cart for friends of Interfaith Power & Light. With ShopIPL, you can buy energy efficient products, helping you save money and the earth! GIPL members get an additional 10% off by using the promotional code **shopipl** at checkout! To find out how to do a ShopIPL fundraiser for your congregation, email us at info@gipl.org.

NEW! Creation Care Curriculum



During her time at GIPL, Presian Burroughs finished writing a fourteen session Creation Care Curriculum especially geared for middle school youth. Each lesson reflects on a day of creation as told in Genesis 1 and connects God's actions on that day with our present environmental situation and responsibility.

For example, since God created light (i.e. the source of our energy) on the first day, the beginning lessons discuss our production and use of energy. Other lessons include discussions of air and water quality; agriculture; birds; marine animals; land animals; consumption of resources; and Sabbath-keeping / resting practices. The content is easily adaptable to all age groups and the structure mimics that found in the book *EarthTrek*.

You can find this resource on GIPL's website at www.gipl.org/learn.

Educators Available!



Fall is just around the corner! Have you made plans for your education classes yet? Invite GIPL experts to teach one, several, or even a series of classes which connect faith and environmental care!

GIPL's top faculty of theologians, scientists, and environmentalists has presentations to suit your next adult or youth education event. Ask us for a topic to spark the interest of your congregation.

Overviews

The connection between faith and the environment

Scriptural Approaches

How Scripture supports creation care

Practical

How your congregation can make a difference

Spiritual and Theological

Deep thinking on faith to inform action

Historical

Origins of creation care, climate change action, and GIPL

Multimedia

Film and interactive web-based programs

Get more details at www.gipl.org/education

To sign up for classes call 404-588-9978 or email info@gipl.org

Food, Faith, & GIPL

At GIPL we often talk about energy efficiency with regard to lights and HVAC systems and building envelopes. But what about energy efficiency as it involves food? As fuel prices continue to increase, our food prices rise too. Hopefully, this situation will encourage all of us to become more aware of our food's origins. Did you know that the typical piece of food has traveled 1500 miles to get to your plate? Talk about inefficiency, lots of emissions, and dependence on oil!



Many of you have asked GIPL about faithful food choices. In response, GIPL has been working with other non-profit organizations to provide a series of workshops which will help you and your faith community work towards more sustainable, healthy food relationships.

Be on the lookout for details about a **Food & Faith Celebration** proposed for this fall. If you would like to be a part of this event, contact Julie Bartholomew at the Cathedral of St. Philip (JBartholomew@stphilipscathedral.org).

Power Credit Program – Raise \$\$ for your Congregation while helping Creation!

The folks at Sacred Heart Catholic Church had a great idea. Figure out a way for the rebate Georgia Power was giving to new customers of the Power Credit program to go to the congregation. The congregation could then use that money to further its mission work. GIPL approached Georgia Power and they thought it was a great idea, too. As a result of imagination and cooperation, GIPL and Georgia Power are beginning a new program to help congregations raise money while protecting creation.

Power Credit is a program offered by Georgia Power allowing the company to install a device on your air conditioning unit. On days when demand is especially high, Georgia Power may use the device to cycle your air conditioning compressor so that it uses less power, reducing their peak demand. Most Power Credit report they have not noticed any change in the comfort level of their homes, even on the hottest days.



In return for allowing Ga. Power to place the device on the air conditioning system, **the customer will receive a \$20.00 rebate** plus \$2.00 for every time the device activates. **Now the congregation will also get \$20.00 per customer!** This can add up: five customers equals \$100 for a congregation.

This is good news for congregations. It is also good news for the environment. Utilities calculate the amount of energy they need to supply based on peak load needs – or the amount they must supply when demand is highest. Typically, in Georgia, that means the level of demand during periods of high air conditioning loads – afternoons on the hottest days. By being able to shave some of the demand during these peak periods, the company may be able to avoid building a new peak-load power plant or unit.

Sign your congregation up for a Power Credit drive. Sign your members up for Power Credit, support the mission work of your congregation and make us more faithful stewards of God's creation. Visit www.gipl.org/powercredit for more information and instructions.

Presian Wraps Up her Time at GIPL

My last day at GIPL, July 25th, has come so quickly! In the four and a half months of being GIPL's Interim Associate Director, I have been amazed at how much this little non-profit accomplishes. I have seen just how hard Katy and all the GIPL volunteers and committees work to help people of faith connect their religious values of creation care with their way of being in this world. It is inspiring to see how people of diverse backgrounds can come together for the common cause of eco-justice. There truly is hope for the human race and all creation!

I am thankful I get to take this hope with me into the academy as I begin my doctoral studies at Duke Divinity School this fall. The practical experiences I've had here in working with other non-profits and faith communities will shape and inform my research and my future role as an educator. What a blessing to have been a part of all that is going on in Atlanta during "such a time as this." If you would like to contact me, please email or call Katy for forwarding information (khinman@gipl.org; 404-588-9978). May God bless and multiply your efforts as you "till and keep" the earth!

Plan Ahead!



What are you doing for **Earth Day 2009**? How about holding a special, "green" worship service during the week of April 13 or 19?



GIPL would like to hear from 40 congregations who will commit to celebrating the beauty of God's creation and our human responsibility to help it flourish and protect it in a worship service, or even better, in a worship series in April 2009. **Get ideas from our newly updated Green Worship webpage at www.gipl.org/worship.html. Please email Katy at khinman@gipl.org to sign up for this important endeavor.**

Needed: A Big Goal

by Woody Bartlett

I recently read about a scientist who was lamenting that in most of his career he found himself trying to calm people down about a so-called scientific crisis. People were getting hysterical when they didn't need to be. Now, as we face global climate change, he found himself trying to stir people up, create some alarm, provide a bit of panic. This crisis is serious and needs the attention of many people across many sectors of the world society.

The problem is that without a general sense of alarm, there will not be goals set that are big enough to meet the crisis. Changing our light bulbs and recycling our trash when convenient, although we must do both, falls far short of a sufficient response to the problem. The world society needs to cut carbon emissions into the atmosphere in a deep and permanent way. Nothing less will suffice.

That is why it is good news that two large goals have been suggested in the last month or two that will effect the needed change. First, Bill McKibben announced the 350 Campaign where we accept the challenge to keep the CO₂ content in the atmosphere at 350 parts per million. We are already at 385 ppm, so the goal would be to bring that down to a level the world can live with – 350 ppm.

The second initiative was announced by former Vice President Al Gore just a few days ago: Change our entire electrical generation system to renewable sources within the next ten years. No more fossil fuel based energy generation!! No more coal-fired power plants, no more natural gas or even bio-fuels. Just wind, solar and efficiency.

Can we take on these goals? Surely, both of them conform to the extent of the crisis we face. What part can you play in the solution?

GIPL Supports Clean Energy For Georgia

Together with The Sierra Club, friends of GIPL (including Carol and Woody Bartlett and Dan and Sue May) executed a demonstration outside the Fulton County Court on June 3, while inside Judge Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore considered a petition to stop the building of a new coal-fired power plant in Early County. Judge Moore ultimately set an important precedent by being the first judge to require an industrial company, Dynegy, to regulate its CO₂ emissions. For a more detailed report on the ruling, click [here](#). Thanks to all who exercised their bodies, freedom of speech, and artistic abilities in this effort!



You can help the movement for clean energy in Georgia by getting your clergy to sign on to our letter encouraging power companies to support clean energy initiatives.

Visit www.gipl.org/cleanenergy to learn more!