



THE GREEN PAGE

presenting Bellarmine Chapel's outreach to the environment.

January, 2010

Transition Anderson and More

You might remember we mentioned that Jim and Debbie Weber were part of a movement to start a Transition community in Anderson Township. Transition initiatives are part of a vibrant, international grassroots movement that builds community resilience in response to the challenges of peak oil, climate change and the economic crisis.

Anderson area residents are working together to address this BIG question: "For all those aspects of life that our community needs in order to sustain itself and thrive, how do we significantly increase resilience (in response to peak oil), drastically reduce carbon emissions (in response to climate change) and greatly strengthen our local economy (in response to economic instability)?"

And Anderson is not the only community looking at how to become more sustainable. Transition initiatives are budding in Delhi Township, Green Township, and Enright Ridge.

More information at: <http://transitionanderson.org>



Water, Water, Anywhere?

Living next to a wide, deep river, it can be hard to imagine that we would ever lack for water. But water looks to become one of the most critical and endangered resources in the 21st century. There was even talk at one time of diverting some Ohio River water to Lexington to supplement their water needs. And now and again, people talk about diverting Great Lake water to drier parts of the nation.

The World Water Council (www.worldwatercouncil.org) reports that while the world's population tripled in the 1900's, the use of water resources has grown six-fold. Within the next fifty years, the world population will expand by another 40-50 %. This population growth—along with industrialization and urbanization—will result in increasing demand for water with serious consequences on the environment.

Suburban sprawl puts a greater demand on our water supplies, and water treatment facilities. Development and paving push rainwater into sewers, rather than wetlands and aquifers. Think about it, and change the washer on that dripping faucet.



Environment Committee

Jeff Campbell • Jerry DiCristoforo • Elizabeth Groppe
Brennan Hill • Liz Keuffer • Doug Klocke • Donna Park
Kathy Riga • Tom Warner • Jim and Debbie Weber

check inside for more

Lessons from the Planet

In addition to sharing reflections from parishioners, we will also be presenting thoughts on spirituality and the environment from prominent figures, past and present.

from *Charity in Truth*

Pope Benedict XVI

48. Today the subject of development is also closely related to the duties arising from our relationship to the natural environment. The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. ...In nature, the believer recognizes the wonderful result of God's creative activity, which we may use responsibly to satisfy our legitimate needs, material or otherwise, while respecting the intrinsic balance of creation. If this vision is lost, we end up either considering nature an untouchable taboo or, on the contrary, abusing it. Neither attitude is consonant with the Christian vision of nature as the fruit of God's creation.

...Human salvation cannot come from nature alone, understood in a purely naturalistic sense. This having been said, it is also necessary to reject the opposite position, which aims at total technical dominion over nature, because the natural environment is more than raw material to be manipulated at our pleasure; it is a wondrous work of the Creator containing a "grammar" which sets forth ends and criteria for its wise use, not its reckless exploitation.

49. Questions linked to the care and preservation of the environment today need to give due consideration to the energy problem. The fact that some States, power groups and companies hoard non-renewable energy resources represents a grave obstacle to development in poor countries. Those countries lack the economic means either to gain access to existing sources of non-renewable energy or to finance research into new alternatives. The stockpiling of natural resources, which in many cases are found in the poor countries themselves, gives rise to exploitation and frequent conflicts between and within nations. These conflicts are often fought on the soil of those same countries, with a heavy toll of death, destruction and further decay. The international community has an urgent duty to find institutional means of regulating the exploitation of non-renewable resources, involving poor countries in the process, in order to plan together for the future.

On this front too, there is a pressing moral need for renewed solidarity, especially in relationships between developing countries and those that are highly industrialized. The technologically advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption, either through an evolution in manufacturing methods or through greater ecological sensitivity among their citizens. It should be added that at present it is possible to achieve improved energy efficiency while at the same time encouraging research into alternative forms of energy. What is also needed, though, is a worldwide redistribution of energy resources, so that countries lacking those resources can have access to them. The fate of those countries cannot be left in the hands of whoever is first to claim the spoils, or whoever is able to prevail over the rest. Here we are dealing with major issues; if they are to be faced adequately, then everyone must responsibly recognize the impact they will have on future generations, particularly on the many young people in the poorer nations, who "ask to assume their active part in the construction of a better world".

Hitting the Bottle

Marketers would have us believe that bottled water is healthy water. Just look at the labels or the ads: pristine pools of spring water; majestic alpine peaks; healthy, active people gulping down bottled water between biking in the park and a trip to the yoga studio.

In reality, it's just water. That fact isn't stopping people from buying a lot of it. Estimates variously place worldwide bottled water sales at between \$50 and \$100 billion each year, with the market expanding at an annual rate of 7 percent.

Bottled water is big business. But it's costly, wasteful, and distracts from the brass ring of public health: the construction and maintenance of safe municipal water systems.

Here's five reasons to kick the bottled water habit. Bottled water...

1. costs a lot
2. is no healthier than tap water
3. creates garbage
4. draws attention away from municipal water systems
5. entices multinational corporations to buy up groundwater and distribution rights worldwide

More information at <http://lighterfootstep.com>. 🐾



Upcoming Events

Movie: Food, Inc.

**January 15, 7 PM | St. John's Unitarian Universalist
320 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220**

Featuring interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser (Fast Food Nation), Michael Pollan (The Omnivore's Dilemma, In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield's Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin, Food, Inc. reveals surprising—and often shocking truths—about what we eat, how it's produced, who we have become as a nation and where we are going from here. www.foodincmovie.com



Movie: Fresh

**January 17, 2 PM | Turner Farm
7400 Given Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243 | 513-561-7400**

FRESH is more than a movie, it's a gateway to action. The aim is to help grow FRESH food, ideas, and become active participant in an exciting, vibrant, and fast-growing movement.

www.freshthemovie.com



Composting and Bokashi Basics

**January 23, 2 PM | Park & Vine, Cincinnati's Green General Store
1109 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45203**

Get the basics on converting yard, garden and kitchen waste into soil-building compost. Discover how the Bokashi method utilizes effective micro-organisms to compost kitchen scraps. With Corina Bullock of the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati and Roy Mastromauro. Space is limited to 30 people. \$5 suggested donation benefits Civic Garden Center. **RSVP info@parkandvine.com or call 513-721-7275 before Jan. 22.**

More events on the back page 🖱️

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Upcoming Events (continued)

Sierra Club's Clean Energy Campaign for Cincinnati Kickoff

January 25, 7–8 PM | First Unitarian Church

536 Linton Street (off Reading Road in Avondale) Cincinnati, Ohio

This spring America could pass a clean energy plan that would create millions of jobs, strengthen national security and cut pollution.

But there is a lot of opposition from the coal and oil companies.

Individuals are needed to make sure our collective voice is heard as we speak up for the common good. For more information contact Donna Park, 513-242-2451, donnaPark50@gmail.com.



Movie: No Impact Man

January 26, 6 PM | Monfort Heights Public Library

3825 West Fork Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

A guilty New York liberal decides to practice what he preaches for one year. He turns off the electricity, stops making garbage, gives up TV, taxis and takeout. He becomes a walking, bicycling, composting, tree-hugging, polar-bear-saving, local-food-eating citizen. All while taking his baby daughter and wife along with him. www.noimpactdoc.com



Walk to Stop Mountain Top Removal

Monday–Thursday, February 8, 9, 10, 11

Lexington, Ky to Frankfort, Ky

Walking away from coal toward a more sustainable future. Monday, February 8 in Lexington there will be a pot luck dinner and a sharing with the community on why they walk. Tuesday, February 9 they walk from Lexington to Versailles. Wednesday, February 10 walk from Versailles to Frankfort. Thursday, February 11 join with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth at the Kentucky River View Park and walk to the state capital building. **Interested? Call Larry Crane, FootPrints for Peace, at 859-229-9472.**



Further Out, Mark Your Calendar

Ethics, Religion & Society Lecture Series: David Montgomery, “Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations”

March 14 | Xavier University, Schiff Family Conference Center

He will be speaking about his second book *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations* (2007), which explores the crucial role of soil fertility in the course of ancient and contemporary societies.



Ethics, Religion & Society Lecture Series: Wendell Berry and Wes Jackson and Gene Logsdon, “An Informal Conversation”

April 11 | Xavier University, Cintas Arena

