



SUSTAINABLE SANCTUARY coalition

February 2014 Newsletter

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February Seminar

Saturday, February 08

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Village Presbyterian
Church
6641 Mission Road

March Program

Monday, March 03

7:00-8:30 p.m.

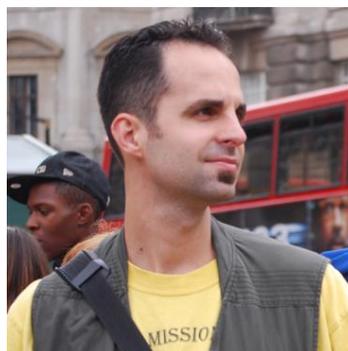
Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Road

Jennifer Byer will share about a water bottle project to make simple but significant changes in your life.

Wise Words

If you gave me several million years, there would be nothing that did not grow in beauty

Cooper's Corner



I want to let everyone know how excited I am to be a part of Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition. As you learned in our January newsletter, I grew up on a small farm in Missouri and have had a lifelong love for nature. I have also been actively involved in a faith community for my entire life. As I grew up there were

many times that I longed for these two "worlds" to connect. While some courses in seminary did this, as a minister I began to see the powerful impact that a community of faith coming together to care for creation could have. According to a recent poll, 84% of the world's population claim connection to some religious group. As a member of the SSC team, to have the opportunity to help "green" such a large part of humanity is not only a dream come true but an opportunity to make a significant environmental impact not only in Kansas City but around the world.

Join Us this Saturday!

Join us for an interesting and informing seminar this Saturday about the state of water in Kansas City and around the world. You'll not only learn about what issues we face today but will also have opportunities to get involved to make a difference.



PROTECTING OUR SACRED WATER:

Equipping Congregations for Awareness and Action

Saturday, February 08

9:15-11:30 a.m.

Village Presbyterian Church

6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

Room 232

Program will include:

*if it were surrounded
by water.*

-Jan Erik Vold
What All The World Knows, 1970

Simple Changes

- Every year, Americans reportedly throw away 100 billion plastic grocery bags
- The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year
- Less than 5 percent of plastic grocery bags are recycled
- Scientists estimate that every square mile of ocean contains about 46,000 pieces of floating plastic.

More information [here](#)

Some things you can do:

- Use reusable bags for all of your shopping
- Carry reusable bags in all of your vehicles so you always have them
- Simply say "No thanks, I don't need a bag." when you are purchasing small items or forget your bags
- Recycle any bags that you have instead of throwing them away

SSC's Mission

*Partnering with faith
communities to
practice environmental
sustainability.*

*We support and
educate green team
members, facility
managers, and
spiritual leaders.*

- Keynote by new SSC Executive Director, Rev. Chad Cooper, on why people of faith should be concerned and involved in environmental issues
- Brief talk by Jane Kloeckner on the water situation of our bioregion
- Information and tabling by several local groups involved in water care and cleanup
- Resources for awareness and action: websites, templates, books, speakers, ideas, advocacy
- Small group discussion and sharing of ideas around water initiatives for congregations
- Effective planning tips

RSVP by contacting Jerry Rees [here](#) or at 913-568-4250

Walk-ins are welcome!

Cost is \$25, payable at the door.

[Check out SSC's Calendar of Events](#)

Monthly Programs

To launch our year focused on water, SSC conducted its January program twice. We had nearly 30 people attend these programs where we watched the short documentary *Water: Sacred and Profaned*.



RoseTherese Huelsman, SSC's program team

leader, also led a discussion about the water related issues we face today such as water scarcity, ocean acidification, and sea level rise. It was a great introduction to our year's focus. After attending this Saturday's event (details above), mark your calendars for our March program which will take place on **Monday, March 3 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Village Church**. Our guest speaker is Jennifer Byer from the Kansas Natural Resource Council and True Blue Woman. She'll be sharing about a water bottle project which will help you make simple but significant changes in your life.

Resources Available



SSC has many valuable resources for you and your congregations. One resource is our DVD library which has great documentaries such as the one we recently showed, *Water: Sacred and Profaned*. We also have numerous books that can be checked out. These books could be used for a small group discussion or read for personal growth. A third resource is having a SSC speaker come and share at your house of worship or small group. We have a

**Let us know how we
can serve you!**

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variety of topics related to water which will surely help you and your congregation make a positive impact on the earth. For more information go [here](#).

Awaken the Dreamer

SSC partnered with Village Church to lead an Awaken the Dreamer Symposium on January 25. This daylong conference sought to encourage people live lives that are environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just. The program, which has been presented worldwide, included inspirational speakers, videos, and thought provoking exercises which encouraged and empowered the 25 participants to take an active part in developing solutions to our world's problems.

