



Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition

Helping Congregations Care for the Earth
January Newsletter, 2014



January Monthly Program

Monday, Jan. 6, 7 pm
Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Road

Introduction to SSC's Year of Water: Sacred and Profaned.

Includes a film on water, discussion, prayer, and an outline of this project and how all can be



involved.

Awakening the Dreamer Symposium

Saturday, Jan. 25, 9-2:30
Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Road

Acclaimed global seminar on how to create a just, spiritually fulfilling, and environmentally sustainable world.

Vision, transformation, and action!
[Find out more.](#)



Important Conference Feb. 8

"Equipping Congregations to Protect our Sacred Water"

Saturday, Feb. 8, 9:30-11:30 AM
Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Road

Program includes:

- Keynote by Rev. Chad Cooper
- Water & our bioregion talk
- Info on local organizations working on water issues
- Planning for water projects
- Handouts, project templates, ideas, and resources

RSVP to Jerry Rees at reesveenstra@aol.com or 913-568-4250.

Prayer for Water Protection

New ED Ready to Move the Mission Forward

Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition is excited to announce that **Rev. Chad J. Cooper will take over as Executive Director** upon Carol Meyer's retirement on December 31.



Rev. Cooper grew up on a small farm in Butler, Missouri, where his love of the natural world took root. He received his BA in Religion from William Jewell College where he was a Hester Scholar. During his studies, he learned about the various faith traditions including Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, and Christianity.

He then attended Central Baptist Theological Seminary where he was the Presidential Scholar. During his Masters of Divinity course work, Rev. Cooper took classes that supported his interest in religion and the environment such as *Environmental Ethics, Religion and Science*, and *New Testament and Animal Welfare*.

[Read more about Chad, his education, interests, and family.](#)

Last Chance to Donate to SSC in 2013

Hear why SSC is so valuable to congregation Green Teamleaders--



"At the start of our green initiative, we had the desire to do the work but didn't know how to get started. Taking the SSC training gave us confidence and the tools we needed to turn our ideas into action." Kathleen Hermes, Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church

"Sustainable Sanctuary helped me get my green team organized and working at my church. With the support of training and mentors, we now have a very active team that has an impact on the carbon footprint of the church and the green focus of its members." Barbara Stevenin, 2nd Presbyterian Church

"SSC is so important to our Green Team at Village Church. It keeps us up-to-date on the many facts of environmental caring. It provides a mechanism for the sharing of ideas and actions with other groups. It connects all of us, reminding us we are not alone in trying to make this a better place to live for ourselves and our posterity." Chuck Gillam Village Presbyterian Church

[Show your support for these and all the dedicated green leaders by keeping SSC strong. Donate NOW.](#)

Creator God your waters refresh our bodies and give life to the Earth.

From the hardness of our hearts, bring forth the waters of compassion and care.

Open our hearts to the water crisis of our world.

Guide us in ways we can reduce our waste and over-consumption of your resources. Teach us to use our sacred waters wisely. Amen.

*(from Christian Simplicity:
A Gospel Value)*

Words of Wisdom

"The earth does not belong to us. We belong to the earth."

Chief Seattle



Get Involved



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sckc.org

Donate Now!

Congregations Collaborating to Protect Water

Water awareness and action will be a major emphasis for SSC in 2014, and the goal is to get 100 congregations to participate.

Throughout the year, SSC will provide education, organizing ideas, resources, networking, the possibility of common projects, and opportunities for celebration.



To kick off this water initiative, **SSC is offering an introductory program on January 6th and an important equipping workshop on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Village Presbyterian Church.** We encourage congregation leaders, members, and Green Teams to attend to learn more, be inspired, and get helpful resources. *See notices to the left for more details, and plan to participate!*

Take Eco Quiz To Test Your Ecology Awareness

1. People in poor countries use 2 1/2 gallons of water a day to wash, clean and cook. The typical U.S. person uses how much? a) 50 gallons b) 125 gallons c) 200 gallons



2. The coal industry wiped out how many miles of streams in Appalachia between 1985 and 2001?

a) 724 b) 398 c) 1256

3. U.S. drivers consume about 500 gallons of gas every year which emits how many pounds of carbon dioxide?

a) 35 b) 20 c) 7

4. Americans consume much more paper than anyone else on the planet. How many pounds per person per year?

a) 663 b) 895 c) 1047

5. You can help the environment the most by:

a) Driving a Prius b) Recycling c) Eating a vegetarian diet

6. Every year, American throw away how many styrofoam cups that won't degrade even in 500 years?

a) 25,000,000,000 b) 25,000,000 c) 25,000,000,000,000

7. In the U.S., how much of our original forests remain?

a) 2% b) 4% c) 8%

[Click here for the answers and a link to calculate your Water Footprint.](#)