

# STEEPLE TO PEOPLE



## A Letter From The Pastor

REV. EMILY BERMAN D'ANDREA

*“Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.”*

*Psalm 47:1*

On 2/16/23 I attended a day-long worship workshop sponsored by National Capital Presbytery for members of our Presbytery led by professor, author, educator, and ritual artist, Dr. Marcia McFee. Dr. McFee addressed issues surrounding how to plan, lead, and execute faithful, spiritual, multi-sensory, and meaningful worship in our congregations.

There were many take-aways from the workshop. Some had to do with interweaving song into liturgy, and others with interspersing familiar songs with new music. One take-away I would like to share with you is her response to the question of whether to clap during worship. Some of you have expressed concern to me about clapping in worship. So, I was interested in Dr. McFee's response to what she said many congregations discuss—that is, what are we to do with clapping during worship? This is her response:

**“‘To clap or not to clap?’ is NOT the question. The question is ‘what is required in this moment as a response that is authentically bubbling up in us?’**

*For most North-American, Euro-American worshipers, the only ‘sanctioned’ spontaneous response we’ve been taught is clapping. We didn’t learn, nor was it ok, to raise our hands or voices in ‘Amen!’ and ‘Praise God!’ when we felt a stirring within us based on a verbal, musical or other offering. So all we feel comfortable doing is clapping to express ourselves in praise and thanksgiving.*

*We also got caught up in a fairly unhelpful debate started a few decades ago about worship not being ‘performance.’ . . . We began to identify whether something was a performance or not based on whether or not we clapped. And clapping has consequently taken on more weight than it needs to. Churches decided whether they were a ‘clapping’ church or not. And if we decided we were, we clapped at everything, whether or not it seemed like a natural response.*

*Have you ever been in a worship setting where the choir finished a beautiful anthem on a hush and because this is a ‘clapping’ church there was applause that just felt weird? Or have you ever been in a church where a rousing, spirit-filled moment ended and people had to desperately sit on their hands because ‘we don’t clap in church!’ Also, pretty weird.*

*So . . . , let’s model something different. If the energy is high and the spirit flowing, let’s model an exuberant clapping response because that is what is appropriate to let the spirit out of our bodies that has bubbled up naturally! If we know something is going to evoke a more meditative response, let’s offer the direction to the congregation before it starts to take a moment for silence afterward.*

*Let’s begin to cultivate the idea that ALL responses are ok—and in fact diverse responses are required—if we as a Body are allowing ourselves to fully participate in the spiritual moment.*

*The word ‘performance’ is not bad in relationship to worship. It literally means to show forth a form . . . to embody an expression. Yes, we do this in worship. We give form to our praise, to our prayer, to our proclamation in many, many ways. We practice and we offer our best efforts so that the Spirit might move through us to the whole Body in that moment. Clapping can be one culture’s way of saying ‘Amen!’ to the Spirit. And taking a deep breath, rather than clapping, is sometimes the perfect way to say ‘Praise God.’”*

I like Dr. McFee's response. It opens up a diversity of ways to be in community and worship with God who is always the recipient of our praise. So, whether you are moved to clap as a way to say, thank you for that offering, or moved to shout Amen, or if you are moved to breathe deeply in reverent silence—all are appropriate expressions in worship to offer thanksgiving, honor, glory, praise, and delight to God.

I'm happy to talk more about this with you as we continue to find ways to worship the living God and express our deep gratitude for our Lord who is the focus of all of our worship. To God be the Glory! See you in worship.

Pastor Emily



# *A Letter From The Associate Minister*

CHRIS MCAULIFFE, M.DIV.

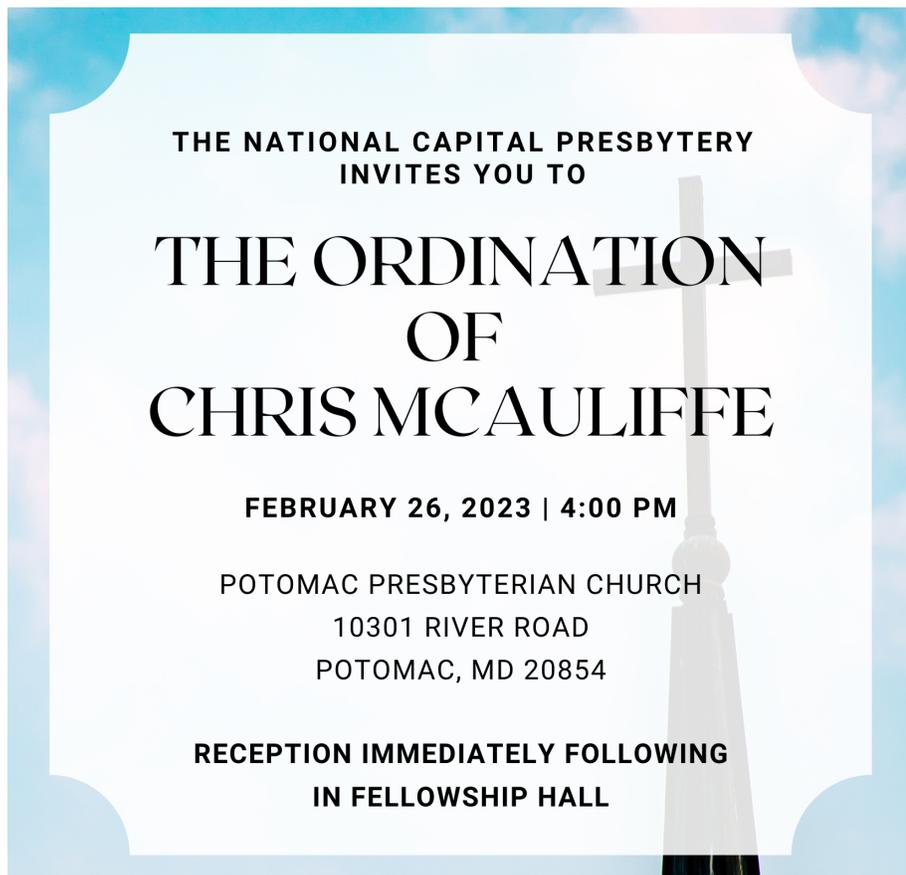
Lent is just around the corner, which means it is time to slow down. At this point in 2023, many of us are fully back into the swing of things and have begun to fill our schedules once more. It is great to be getting back to “normal,” but as we get busier, we are prone to forget or neglect our spiritual practices. Our God wants to be in relationship with us and Lent is a time to remind ourselves of just that.

Here at the church, we are framing Lent as **A Time to Grow**. We are using Kara Eidson’s Lenten Lessons (<https://www.amazon.com/Time-Grow-Lenten-Lessons-Garden/dp/0664267041>) as a guide to help us set aside these next 40 days and anchor our hearts and minds on our Lord. We hope you will join us on Wednesdays at 7:00pm as we grow together, pray, fast, and meditate.

How might you be called to approach lent this year?

[https://www.facebook.com/reel/1146749182692506/?s=single\\_unit](https://www.facebook.com/reel/1146749182692506/?s=single_unit)

Also, I am so thankful to everyone for your love and support throughout ordination. The finish line is almost here, and the National Capital Presbytery invites you to celebrate and witness my ordination on February 26 at 4:00pm. Thank you so much for believing in me and encouraging me as I pursue my call to serve God. I wouldn’t be here without you!!!



## STAFF

The Rev. Emily Berman D’Andrea  
*Pastor, Head of Staff*

Chris McAuliffe  
*Associate Minister*

Tom Andrew  
*Director of Music and Organist*

Lindsay Chapin  
*Treasurer*

Preston Kuhn, Ryan Kunst  
*Youth Interns*

Jeanne Grillo  
*Office Administrator*

James Chhetree  
*Technology Specialist*

Angela Achee  
*Sunday School Teacher*

Fela Huayta  
*Custodian*

Greg Robertson  
*Section Leader*

Jenny Robertson  
*Section Leader*

## LEADERSHIP

[Session/Deacons \(click here\)](#)

# *From the Director of Music*

TOM ANDREW

The last Sunday before Lent is Transfiguration Sunday, when we recall how Jesus was changed on the mountain before his disciples. Lots of images of light, of glowing... it is a celebratory Sunday in many ways.

But when that is over, we move quickly to Ash Wednesday, and to Lent – Forty non-sabbath days before Easter. A dramatic change of tone: prayer, fasting, and preparation are quite different from light and celebration.

The music during Lent reflects that change. Much of it is introspective in nature. Some of the old tunes are familiar, and can evoke feelings quickly; some of the newer hymns and music can be a bit more challenging, but that is appropriate during lent – we need to work out how we see ourselves, and how well we are living as we journey through Lent, and indeed, through our lives. That's not always easy, but through the struggle, we learn things we didn't know before- just like when we learn new hymns.

As we journey through Lent this year, you will hear familiar hymns, and they will be an aid to your journey. Some will be unfamiliar, which may challenge you to think about why they were chosen, and how they relate to us, and to our progress through Lent. Some may not seem like they “fit” to you; others will be like old friends. All of them will aid us on our journey.

I would leave you with this thought; remember that we are all on this journey together. Some of the old familiar hymns were left out of the Glory to God hymnal, precisely because they were too personal in their focus. “Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley”, for example – one hymn many of us associate with Lent, was found to have too much of a personal focus (“You must go and stand your trial. You have to stand it by yourself”) does not fit the more recent theological focus on our common life, and our common sharing of our life with others.

Our theme this year “Lent: a Time to Grow” reflects this newer way of thinking about lent, I believe. Think about it – nothing grows entirely by itself. There needs to be nurture, patience, and light, and time for things (or people) to grow – growth is unlikely to take place when we are left alone.

We sing hymns together. We use our voices, (which many of us consider inadequate to be heard alone) to come together and sing to our God in worship, and the sound is pleasing to God. Put another way... the whole is better than the sum of the parts. Always. (That's what I found so hard during the pandemic - worshipping alone, or with just a couple of people- the lack of being together to sing. That, however, is a topic for another time.)

As we begin Lent, may you find a song to help you on your journey. Sing them with the same devotion and intensity we will bring to the songs of joy when we get to Easter. It will help you on your way.

## SANCTUARY CHOIR

We practice on Tuesday evenings, starting at 7:30 pm and sing most Sundays during the program year. All are welcome!

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir is for any children and youth who would like to sing! They meet Sundays at 9:45am at the church to learn about singing, music, church, and how they all relate in worship that praises God.

## HANDBELLS

The Bell Choir rehearses on Monday afternoons at 2 pm. We are always looking for more members. If you are interested in participating, contact Tom Andrew, the Director of Music.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

During special worship services (e.g., Easter, Christmas, memorials) we have guest musicians. Additionally, in the summer when the choir does not sing, we welcome members to share their musical talents.

*WORSHIP...*

## Wednesdays in Lent

# Wednesday Evening Lenten Communion Services

## A TIME TO GROW

### LENTEN LESSONS FROM THE GARDEN TO THE TABLE

**February 22, 2023**

*Ash Wednesday  
A Time to Grow*

The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**March 15, 2023**

*Light  
Beatrice Laryea*

**March 1, 2023**

*Life*

The Rev. Chris McAuliffe

**March 22, 2023**

*Restoration*

Mary Margaret Smith

**March 8, 2023**

*Water*

Karen Wise

**March 29, 2023**

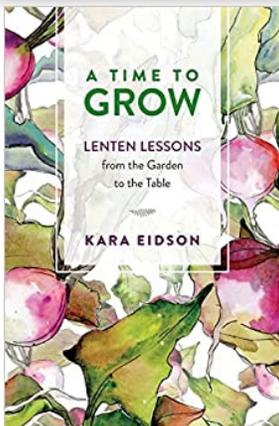
*Time*

Tom Andrew, Director of  
Music

**Weekly Wednesday Evening Communion @ 7:00pm**

Potomac Presbyterian Church  
10301 River Road, Potomac, MD

45 minute service in person/online [www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)



We are using Kara Eidson's Lenten Lessons as a guide to help us set aside these next 40 days and anchor our hearts and minds on our Lord.

We hope you will join us on Wednesdays at 7:00pm as we grow together, pray, fast, and meditate.

## OFFICE HOURS

The Church office is open Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm. We are closed on Friday and Saturday.

## CONTACT

10301 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

[www.potomacpresbyterian.org](http://www.potomacpresbyterian.org)  
301-299-6007

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45am *Children's Choir*

9:45am *Adult Sunday School*

11:00am *Worship*

- Children's Choir will sing monthly 1st Sunday/Communion Sunday
- Bell Choir will ring monthly 3rd Sunday (ordinarily)

11:15am *Children's Sunday School*

12:00pm *Fellowship*

5:00pm *Youth Group*



## *WORSHIP...*

### 2023 Sundays @ 11am

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023 @7:00pm, Ash Wednesday**  
"A Time To Grow" The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**Sunday, February 26, 2023, 1st Sunday in Lent**  
Matt. 4:1-11; "A Holy Lent" The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023 @7:00pm, Life**  
Genesis 15; The Rev. Chris McAuliffe

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, 2nd in Lent/Communion**  
**Darcy Smith Music Sunday**  
John 3:1-17; "Stealthy Faith" The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023 @7:00pm, Water**  
Psalm 63:1-8 and John 4:5-42; Karen Wise

**Sunday, March 12, 2023, 3rd Sunday in Lent**  
John 4:5-42, "Being Fully Known" The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023 @7:00pm, Light**  
1 Samuel 16, Beatrice Laryea

**Sunday, March 19, 2023, 4th Sunday in Lent**  
John 9:1-41, "Do You Believe in the Son of Man?" The Rev. Chris McAuliffe

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023 @7:00pm, Restoration**  
Psalm 23, Mary Margaret Smith

**Sunday, March 26, 2023, 5th Sunday in Lent**  
John 11:1-45, "If Only . . ." The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023 @7:00pm, Time**  
Luke 19:29-40 and 22:66-23:56; or Ecclesiastes 3, Tom Andrew, Director of Music

**Sunday, April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday**  
Matthew 21:1-11, "Break Out the Palms" The Rev. Chris McAuliffe

**Thursday, April 6, 2023 @7pm, Maundy Thursday/Communion**  
John 13:1-17, 31b - 35, The Rev. Chris McAuliffe

**Friday, April 7, 2023 @7pm, Good Friday Tenebrae Service**  
John 18:1 - 19:42, "The Passion" The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**Sunday, April 9, 2023 @ 9 & 11 with Egg Hunt in between**  
Easter/Communion  
Matthew 28:1-10, "Do Not Be Afraid" The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**Sunday, April 16, 2023, 2nd Easter**  
John 20:19-31, "My Lord & My God" The Rev. Chris McAuliffe

**Sunday, April 23, 2023, 3rd Easter/Earth Day**  
Luke 24:13-35 "Things Are Happening" The Rev. Emily Berman D'Andrea

**Sunday, April 30, 2023. 4th Easter/Stephen Minister Sunday**  
John 10:1-10; Psalm 23

## RIDES TO CHURCH!

The Congregational Care Committee is creating a Ride Share Program for Sundays at PPC and are looking for volunteers willing to give rides to those in need?

- If you are able to provide rides and want to be added to our list of volunteers, text Melissa Grigorian (917-655-5590) or email her (zullabuddy@aol.com).
- If you are in need of rides on Sundays, text Melissa Grigorian (917-655-5590) or email her (zullabuddy@aol.com).

## HOME COMMUNION

On Sunday, March 5, we will extend communion beyond the last pew after worship.

- If you would like communion brought to your home and served by Elders and Deacons please text or call Deacon Wendy Kuhn (240-476-9096).
- If you are available to serve communion, contact Wendy Kuhn (240-476-9096).

## *HOLY WEEK*

**Sunday, April 2, 2023 @11am**  
***Palm Sunday***

“Break Out the Palms”  
The Rev. Chris McAuliffe

**Thurs, April 6, 2023 @7pm**  
***Maundy Thursday/  
Communion***

John 13:1-17, 31b - 35  
The Rev. Chris McAuliffe

**Friday, April 7, 2023 @7pm**  
***Good Friday Tenebrae Service***

John 18:1 – 19:42  
“The Passion”  
The Rev. Emily Berman D’Andrea

**Sunday, April 9, 2023 @ 9 & 11**  
***Easter/Communion***

Matthew 28:1-10  
“Do Not Be Afraid”  
The Rev. Emily Berman D’Andrea  
Egg Hunt in between services

*Celebrate*

**60**

*Years*

## Wednesday Bible Study Group—ALL are Welcome to Join

Genesis is a book about beginnings. That's what the title of the book means. The Greek word *geneseos* can mean birth, genealogy, or history of origin. It's also a book about being called by God into what God is doing in the world. As we study the book of Genesis, we will become acquainted with the call narratives of fellow journeyers, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and the way in which their perhaps familiar call stories may relate to our own.

If you thought about joining the Wednesday Bible Study in the past but haven't taken the plunge, then now is a good time. We will start at the beginning of the Bible and at the beginning of this new year and at the beginning of the Bible's foundational story. We will discover together how Genesis unfolds to lay the groundwork for all of scripture.

**Date: Weekly on Wednesdays**

**Time: 10:00am – 11:30am**

**Place: PPC Library or on Zoom**

**Leaders: Emily & Chris**

**Materials: A Bible**

**RSVP: Nope, just show up**

**ZOOM ID**

## SMALL GROUPS

### Wednesday Bible Study

(Hybrid)

- 10-11:30am Wednesdays
- Led by Emily & Chris
- ZOOM ID

### Faith, Hope, and Lunch/Coffee

Both groups reading *Rembrandt Is in the Wind: Learning to Love Art Through the Eyes of Faith*, by Russ Ramsey

- Faith, Hope, and Lunch, in person, Mondays at 12pm at church
- Faith, Hope, and Coffee, ZOOM, Thursdays at 4pm

### Men's Book Club (hybrid)

- 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in the Parlor, or ZOOM
- March 21, 2023 - *Faster: How a Jewish driver, an American heiress, and a legendary car beat Hitler's best*, by Neal Bascomb

### Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith (hybrid)

- March 11 & April 15 at 9am in the Library and ZOOM
- Reading *The Cosmic Vision of Teilhard de Chardin*, by John Haught



# EDUCATION (continued)

**Adult Sunday School, Sundays at 9:45am (Hybrid)**  
In the PPC library & on ZOOM from 9:45am – 10:45am.

## *Sunday Adult Education*

*February 26, 2023 @ 9:45am in the PPC Library*

The Rev. John Yieh, Ph.D, Virginia Theological Seminary

## ***My Peace I Give Unto You:*** Peace in the New Testament

*Goodness and comfort notwithstanding, our life is often fraught with uncertainties and hurts and our world is devastated by violence and war. We long for peace. What did Jesus mean when he promised his disciples his peace and told them not to let their hearts be troubled? Let us explore the rich meaning of Jesus' peace and reflect on how that peace might prevail.*

### Adult Education

## THE BIBLE AND CIVIL POLITICS IN THE REFORMED TRADITION

*Dr. R. Bruce Douglass*

March 5th, Sunday  
at 9:45 A.M.

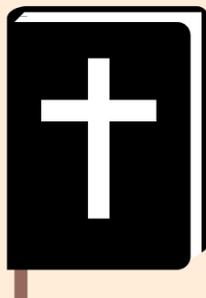
**The ethics of resistance  
and rebellion.**

March 12th, Sunday  
at 9:45 A.M.

**The political ordering of  
holy commonwealths.**

March 19th, Sunday  
at 9:45 A.M.

**Church, state and the  
treatment of religious  
minorities.**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Adult Sunday School (hybrid)

- Sundays at 9:45am in the library and ZOOM
- Calendar

### Children (Preschool-5th)

- Families are welcome to come to church at 11:00am for our worship service. 10-15 minutes into the service, we will invite children to come to the front pew for a children's message. After this, they are invited to head downstairs with our Sunday School teacher Angela Achee for a Sunday School lesson. They can be picked up from downstairs when the worship service ends.

### Youth Group (grades 6-12)

- Sundays @ 5pm-6:30pm at the church
- At Youth Group we play games, have a Bible lesson, connect with one another, and have lots of fun! Friends are always welcome. Our two Youth Interns Preston Kuhn and Ryan Kunst are happy to talk with students about Youth Group and add them to our youth text group. If you want to learn more about the various happenings and offerings for Youth, contact Chris McAuliffe [cmcauliffe@potopres.org](mailto:cmcauliffe@potopres.org)

SAVE THE DATE...

Click here for  
more  
information  
about the  
retreat and  
your host.

Click here to  
sign up

*Women's Retreat, March 4, 9am-12pm ET*  
Jen Goodyer, Spiritual Director and Writer

## *Rewilding Prayer: A Retreat to Support You in Praying as Yourself*

*Let your prayer life rewild as we enjoy a spacious morning resting in God's presence. With the help of gentle, invitational practices, quiet space and guided reflection, spiritual director Jen Goodyer will guide us into a more expansive experience of prayer. Whether you're new to prayer or have been praying your whole life, this retreat offers you a safe place to be curious with God. Together we will let the shoulds fall away as we reclaim our everyday space as a place of Divine encounter.*

*This is an online retreat designed to offer you the space and permission to respond to God's loving presence as yourself. There will be a blend of guided and self-guided practice as well as plenty of time for you to notice and follow your soul's longings. Make your space cosy and ready yourself to take some real soul rest.*

*For more information about the retreat and your host click here <https://www.jennifergoodyer.com/rewildingprayer>*



Come And Join Us

## **FAMILY HIKE** **Billy Goat Trail C**

Let's gather after worship for a hike on the Billy Goat Trail, Part C!

We will meet at Carderock Recreation Area at the parking lot on the far west/north end - turn right as you enter Carderock and park in the last parking lot. There is a rest room and the trail begins there.

We will hike Billy Goat C along the river and return on the Canal. The hike is a (short) 3 miles.

**3/12/2023**

**AFTER WORSHIP: 12:15PM**

## Caring for our neighbors: Sign up for March 18 Household Item/Clothing Sort @ Interfaith Works

Join us for this month's mission service project which helps promote REUSE of clothing and household items with PPC's local Mission Partner, Interfaith Works.

Sign up for Saturday, March 18

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ea9af2ca75-interfaith2#/> from 10 am to 1 pm with optional lunch afterward.

We will sort donated household items and clothing to benefit Montgomery County residents at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center, 751 Twinbrook Parkway Rockville.

If you are looking for a way to help the community please join us and invite your friends. Service Learning credits available for MCPS students. Participants must be age 14 and up. For further information email [talbottracy3@gmail.com](mailto:talbottracy3@gmail.com)

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### ONGOING MISSION AT PPC

- MANNA food drive. (ongoing) Click here for most desired food and drop off in boxes in Narthex.
- PLEASE DO NOT DONATE EXPIRED FOODS!

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The Potomac Presbyterian Church Session signed the Earth Care Pledge at the December 2022 Session meeting. Our application to become an Earth Care congregation was approved by the PC(USA) in January 2023. An interest and informational meeting for the congregation about Earth Care was held in February. The Session will meet to discuss an Earth Care project for the whole congregation at their retreat on February 25.

Earth Care co-chairs John Sohl & Julie McMahon



## Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

- Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
- In education, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.
- Our facilities will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
- Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.