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Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden
to cultivate it and to care for it.

Genesis 2:15

Caring for Creation Ministry Team

The mission of the Caring for Creation Ministry Team of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery is to help God's people cultivate and care for the garden of God's world. This involves

- Developing biblical and theological resources that equip the church to nurture environmental stewardship and caring for creation in all of its parts and as a whole;
- Educating and advocating for institutional and governmental change;
- Educating and advocating for personal and spiritual transformation that responds faithfully to the call to care for creation;
- Developing models for ecumenical, interfaith, governmental, and international cooperation in caring for creation, and nurturing a vision of hope and abundance rather than scarcity and despair; and
- Working collegially with the churches and members of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta to educate, nurture, equip and empower Presbyterians in their individual and collective caring for creation.

We invite you to join us as we meet at 12:00 noon on the third Monday of each month in the Presbytery office located at 1024 Ponce de Leon Avenue. Please feel free to call for further information:

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Alan Jenkins (Stewardship of Creation Enabler)

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In your church, start a Caring for Creation committee by

1. Contacting Alan Jenkins, our presbytery's designated Stewardship of Creation Enabler, at 404-270-9784 or chattahoochee.ruah@earthlink.net.
2. Downloading an excellent guide to [congregational green action from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#).
3. Beginning to plan your congregation's celebration of Earth Day 2008. See below for Earth Day worship and action resources.

Caring for Creation PowerPoint Presentations

[Theology of sustainability presentation](#) (10 meg)

[Green letter Bible presentation](#) (11 meg)

[Water and Drought presentation](#) (19 meg)

[What Would Jesus Drive presentation](#) (8 meg)

[Theology of wilderness presentation](#) (20 meg)

Earth Day Sunday Resources

Earth Day provides us with an opportunity to consider our call to care for creation, and to fulfill that call through action. The Caring for Creation Ministry Team has compiled a collection of Earth Day resources for ministers, educators, and anyone interested exploring God's mandate and our responsibility for creation.

Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice. In 1990 General Assembly of the PCUSA approved a comprehensive statement on environmental issues. We have created PDF and MS-Word doc versions of that statement (minus the appendices), which are available for download at

[Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice MS-Word document](#)

[Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice PDF document](#)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has adopted an excellent 10-page statement on caring for creation. It is [available on the Web](#) or as a [Microsoft Word document file](#). The ELCA also has an [excellent guide for congregational action](#).

John Calvin's Commentary on Genesis

1. Genesis 2:15: And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Let him who possesses a field, so partake of its yearly fruits, that he may not suffer the ground to be injured by his negligence; but let him endeavor to hand it down to posterity as he received it, or even better cultivated. Let him so feed on its fruits that he neither dissipates it by luxury, nor permits to be marred or ruined by neglect. Moreover, that this economy, and this diligence, with respect to those good things which God has given us to enjoy, may flourish among us; let every one regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses. Then he will neither conduct himself dissolutely, nor corrupt by abuse those things which God requires to be preserved.

2. Genesis 3:17-18: And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

It here been falsely maintained by some that the earth is exhausted by the long succession of time, as if constant bringing forth had wearied it. They think more correctly who acknowledge that, by the increasing wickedness of men, the remaining blessing of God is gradually diminished and impaired; and certainly there is danger, unless the world repent, that a great part of men should shortly perish through hunger, and other dreadful miseries.

Worship Resources For Earth Day

Compiled by Alan Jenkins, *Restoring Creation Enabler* for Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

<http://www.pcusa.org/environment/earthday.htm> Here are the PCUSA-endorsed Earth Sunday resources from the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Working Group. This year's focus is *Hurricanes and Sustainable Development*. The pdf document includes liturgy, bulletin insert, Sunday School ideas for Adults and Youth, and sermon notes.

<http://webofcreation.org/Worship/index.htm>

The Web of Creation website is a diverse collection of resources for liturgy, sermons, education, greening buildings and grounds.

http://earthministry.org/Congregations/worship_aids.htm Earthministry is another rich source for more of the above.

Norman C. Habel, *Seven Songs Of Creation: Liturgies for Celebrating and Healing Earth*, 2004, Pilgrim Press. *A rich source of liturgy for Earth Sunday and throughout the liturgical year.* Available at Presbytery's Library.

Hymnal and Scripture Suggestions for Earth Sunday.

Compiled by *Presbyterians for Restoring Creation* – www.prcweb.org

Presbyterian Hymnal Suggestions

#134 Creating God, Your Fingers Trace	#293 This is My Father's World
#200 To Bless the Earth	#297 O Lord of Every Shining Constellation
#201 Praise Is you Right, O God, in Zion	#455 All Creatures of Our God and King
#215 Come Sing With Joy to God	#458 Earth and All Stars
#220 All People That on Earth Do Dwell	#464 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
#256 Let the Whole Creation Cry	#467 How Great Thou Art
#266 Thank You, God, for Water, Soil, and Air	#469 Morning Has Broken
#267 All Things Bright and Beautiful	#473 For the Beauty of the Earth
#271 Many and Great, O God are Thy Things	#480 Praise Our God Above
#272 God of the Sparrow	#494 Out of Deep, Unordered Water
#273 O God the Creator	#551 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
#274 O God of Earth and Space	#553 For the Fruit of All Creation
#285 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets	#554 Let All Things Now Living
#287 God Folds the Mountains Out of Rock	#556 The World Abounds with God;s Free Grace
#290 God Created Heaven and Earth	#558 Come, Sing a Song of Harvest
#291 O God of Earth and Altar	#560 We Plow the Fields and Scatter
#292 All Beautiful the March of Days	

[Presbyterians for Restoring Creation - Recommended Reading List](#)

Scriptures and Hymns for Caring for Creation

Genesis 1-2	Isaiah 24, 35, 40, 55,	Romans 1:18-25
Genesis 9:8-17	Isaiah 58:13-14	Romans 8:18-39
Exodus 16:12-30	Isaiah 65:17-25	Phillippians 4:4-13
Exodus 20:8-11	Ezekiel 34:2-4	Colossians 1:15-20
Exodus 23:10-13	Ezekiel 36	Hebrews 11:3
Exodus 31: 12-17	Matthew 6:1-3 (Lord's Prayer)	Revelation 21:1-4
Psalms: 8, 24, 65, 96, 104, 145, 146, 147, 148	Matthew 6:25-34	
	John 1:1-5	

Earth Day Activities

<http://stepitup2007.org/> National Day of Climate Action

<http://earthministry.org/carfree.htm> Consider promoting Earth Sunday as a car-free Sunday! Learn from a Seattle-based congregation's experience, and the tips they provide for preparation.

<http://www.earthday.net>
<http://www.earthday.net/resources/2006materials/EarthDay-in-a-Box.pdf>
Many resources and activities, including "Religious Earth Day in a Box," a PDF file with a diverse set of faith-based materials.
