

GREEN MATTERS

A monthly publication by the "Green Mission Team" at Calvary Presbyterian Church

"The character of a society is the cumulative result of the countless small actions, day in and day out, of millions of people." – Duane Elgin

EVALUATING CALVARY'S USE OF RESOURCES

The Green Mission Team has conducted three resource audits over the last four months in an effort to reduce the amount of energy and natural resources that Calvary uses.

Energy Audit. The San Francisco Department of the Environment (www.sfgov.org/sfenvironment/) provides advice and financial rewards, through rebate programs, to households and businesses in the City. One of its consultants, along with a PG&E representative, came to Calvary and, without charge, made detailed assessments of the building's power usage, identifying lighting, heating, and other changes which could save energy and money.

After the energy audit, on two separate occasions, again without charge, an electrical contractor specializing in lighting and the contractor's lighting wholesaler walked through the entire facility and identified all the lights that could be replaced with more efficient units or regulated by automated timers or sensors.

Calvary already uses fluorescents in many fixtures and "occupancy" sensors in bathrooms, but these surveys identified hundreds, perhaps thousands, of potential kilowatt-hour savings per month.

The Green Mission Team is developing a plan to change light bulbs and do some electrical work, assisted by substantial reimbursement through the Department of the Environment's Energy Watch Rebate Program.

Water Audit. The Team completed a water audit with San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and identified ways to reduce water consumption, including adding aerators to all faucets (free of charge).

Solar Power. The Team has investigated the benefits and costs of placing a solar array on the roof. Two local contractors provided information on feasibility (one physically explored and measured potential rooftop placements), costs, and rebates.

Calvary's Support Commission is responsible for analyzing the costs and benefits of these projects and deciding which the church should adopt. The Green Mission Team submitted a formal proposal on a solar installation at the Commission's mid-August meetings. The Team will submit proposals based on the energy and water audits in the fall.

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GREEN MATTERS INTERVIEW WITH FRAN JOHNS

Fran Johns is a writer, married to writer/publisher Bud Johns, the mother of three grown children and grandmother of five flawless grandchildren.

Q: Tell us how you made your way to Calvary Presbyterian.

A: I came to Calvary in 1992. I had moved to San Francisco in a new marriage to a fine but unchurched husband. I visited lots of churches, mostly Methodist and Presbyterian. I was at Calvary when Laird preached his sermon for the call, found someone that day, and asked, "When's your New Member class?"

I was raised Methodist but switched to the Presbyterian Church when living in Georgia and my first child was born. I raised three children in the Presbyterian Church and was very much involved, teaching Sunday School, etc.

Q: What keeps you coming to Calvary?

A: The people, the sermons, the music and the Social Witness team.

Q: Tell us a little about your background, especially as it relates to environmental issues.

A: I was born of Methodist educational missionary parents in Brazil and had two circuit-rider-preacher Methodist grandfathers (one in Virginia and one in Texas). My grandfather, uncles, etc. were dirt farmers when I was growing up in the '30s and '40s. Frugality being next to godliness, caring for the land – that was just part and parcel of my upbringing.

In the '40s we had Victory Gardens, composted EVERYthing, saved everything, gathered tinfoil from cigarette papers for the War Effort, stuff like that. I don't remember a time when Thrift was not a cardinal virtue; one simply did not waste anything or abuse the land.

Regarding environmental issues: When I was raising kids in the Atlanta area ('60s, '70s) "Development" was good, growth was the goal, few thought ahead to the terrible effect of sprawl in all directions. The words 'ecology' and 'sustainability' were hardly in anyone's vocabulary. Writing for newspapers in those days I seldom -- I hate to admit -- questioned the excitement, the frenzy of growth & development myself.

I did plunge into some preservation efforts, most notably helping stop a freeway for which a swath of property running from downtown Atlanta toward Stone Mountain had been taken and a lot of houses already torn down. It's now a lovely park and houses the Carter Center.

The '50s and '60s in the Atlanta area, and many other places, were a time out of another world when you look back on it now. It's hard to understand how few people were waving red flags regarding the need to preserve open space, etc.

But in a way it's not all that different from what's happening to California farmland and open space right now. What's mainly different is that great organizations like Greenbelt Alliance, Save the Bay, Trust for Public Land, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, etc. are hard, hard at work to preserve our land, water and sanity.

When I came to California, my husband Bud was President of the Greenbelt Alliance board; I am a major fan of that organization, its work and philosophy. Bud was born in 1929, is even more a child of

the Depression than I, and wastes NOTHING.

Q: Do you see a connection between religion and these conservation issues?

A: I think the harm done to the environment is tied to our own destructive behavior. It is un-Godly, un-Christian and we have a duty to reverse the trend.

Q: Do you see hope for our being able to change?

A: I am not hopeless at all.

CONSERVATION TARGETS

United States

> 7% reduction of greenhouse gases [GHGs] below 1990 level by 2012
[source: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Kyoto Protocol." In 1998 the 210th General Assembly, PCUSA, urged the US to adopt the Protocol. The US has not yet done so.]

California

> Reduce GHGs to 2000 level by 2010 (11% below 2005 level)
> Reduce GHGs to 1990 level by 2020 (28% below 2005 level)
> 80% reduction below 1990 level by 2050
[Executive Order S-3-05 and AB 32]
> 20% of energy produced by 2010 to be renewable energy
[California Renewable Portfolios Standard, SB 1078]

San Francisco

> 20% reduction of greenhouse gases below 1990 level by 2012 [SF Climate Action Plan]
> 75% landfill diversion by 2010 [San Francisco Commission on the Environment, April 16, 2002]

Calvary Presbyterian Church > ??

[Let us know what you think!]

IT IS EASY BEING GREEN: HAVE YOU TRIED THESE STEPS YET?

'Green' seems to be everywhere in the media these days. It's become a ubiquitous term along with sustainability and eco-friendly, especially on the West Coast. Many of us recycle bottles, newspapers, and may even compost organic waste, but how to attain a green lifestyle and save money doing it? Here are three steps to be environmentally and fiscally 'green'. Have you tried them yet?

1. Re Use

Create a junk mail strategy. In my home, I reuse paper that comes in the mail printed only on one side, for my printer. I print many things just for recordkeeping. It doesn't matter to me what is on the back and I save money on several reams per year.

Share your sentiments. When I receive a greeting card with a pretty picture, I save the message and reuse the picture as a postcard for only 27 cents instead of 42 for a letter.

2. Re Cycle

Everything from printer cartridges to computer equipment is now recyclable. Some office supply stores offer discounts on office supplies when you bring in spent cartridges for recycling.

Support electronic freedom. Many services charge a fee to recycle old electronics and computer equipment. But now, Goodwill Industries takes electronic items for free and refurbishes them, training disabled people for jobs in the

process. Not only is it free, it's a tax deduction.

Recycle in your circle. Need to get rid of something? Check in with friends first for their needs. In fact, host a swap, and donate the leftover items to non-profits or schools and take the tax write off.

3. Re Purpose

Shipping products or gifts? Instead of purchasing expensive packing materials, use what's in your shredder. This will protect items and is always available, saving gas and time on a trip to the store.

Think outside the 'office supply' box. My pencil holder is a lovely vase that was sent to me with a bouquet. My in-basket originally came as a holiday gift basket. My supply cabinet is an old dresser, discreetly hidden in a closet. I'm not saying your space should look like it belongs to Secondhand Rose, but there are numerous items to repurpose without spending a dime.

Come on now. Get creative. There are many more ways to reuse, recycle and repurpose to discover. Write and tell us all about it.

Try this mantra: 'Save money, save a landfill'.

--Written by Cindy Hart

Please join us
**Sunday,
September 21,
2008, at 12:15pm**
for the next **Green
Mission Team
meeting. We would
love to have your
ideas, energy, and
suggestions.**

For more
information,
contact **Sara
Starr,**
ss99@mac.com

LESSONS LEARNED EARLY

"On my first Boy Scout trip, in the mid-1950s, I learned the basic environmental principles that we should leave the campsite as we found it.

"We were told that the next group of hikers deserved no less, and that in fact we should clean the site up if those before us had been careless. I did not as a child understand that the campsite would be global or that the next hikers would include unborn generations."

-- John Sitter

Letters to the Editor

We would like to hear from you!

Send any comments or questions to Sara Starr at ss99@mac.com, leave a written note addressed to *Green Matters* with staff at the reception desk on Sundays, or call Paula or Dick Jesson at 415.668.1510

Green Matters is published by the Green Mission Team, edited by Paula Jesson.