

## Ways in Which We Continue our Commitment post-certification

Although less active than during the GreenFaith Certification Process, Stanley's Green Committee continues to plan, participate in and monitor actions and events which are part of our commitment to sustainability and stewardship of Creation.

We participated for the third time in the Green Fair of the Chathams in Sept. 2013. We sold Fair Trade/Equal Exchange items including coffee, tea, snack bars and roasted almonds. We always include a table for a children's activity related to Earth care for visitors to the fair. We maintain our relationship with the Environmental Commission of the Chathams by publicizing their Environmental Film Series in Friday emails and posting flyers on church bulletin boards. We also continue a connection with the Muslim group, Peace Islands Institute, and with the Ironbound Community Corporation.

Our Christian Education program periodically addresses our responsibility to care for creation and involves the students in activities such as planting herbs, studying water consumption and conservation, reading environmentally themed books and creating art objects from trash.

We have continued to provide a vegetarian recipe and an eco-thought or eco-reflection in each issue of the STAR, our church newsletter. Our Ash Wednesday service remains a vegetarian event. We have continued purchasing fair trade eco-palms for our Palm Sunday service. We have celebrated Earth Day each year with appropriate sermons, music, poetry and a "green coffee hour" featuring local and organic foods.

Our rain garden is flourishing and is well cared for so that it continues to grow and perform its function of catching rain water and preventing runoff of pollutants and debris into the water supply.

In 2014 we participated in an Ecumenical Carbon Fast program during Lent. The daily messages, which covered a wide range of environmental issues, were sent to the congregation for consideration. Green Committee members were available for discussion during several coffee hours. We have continued to keep our church's energy "Green" which means 100% of our energy comes from wind and solar sources.

We are currently enrolled in the GreenFaith Water Shield program which addresses water conservation and preservation. We will be involving the congregation in a variety of activities, providing educational and informational events and making some water saving changes in and around our building. We will be asking for a commitment from our members to make similar changes at home and in their water consumption habits.

With the support of the Board, the Pastor and the congregation, we are continuing to meet and discuss future activities to enhance our GreenFaith certification and promote Stanley Church as an environmental leader.

Nancy Presnell, Chair