

# ENVIRONMENT NETWORK E-NEWS

## Monthly Prayer

**Lord, grant us Wisdom  
to Care for the Earth**

Lord, grant us the wisdom  
to care for the earth and  
till it.

Help us to act now for the  
good of future generations  
and all your creatures.

Help us to become  
instruments of a new  
creation,

founded on the covenant of  
your love.

Amen.

from [The Cry of the Earth](#)

## Eco Tip of the Month

**When in Doubt, Find out...**

Check your community  
website for what goes where  
to avoid recycling  
contamination

Halifax What Goes Where

<https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/garbage-recycling-green-cart/recycling>

PEI Interactive Sorting  
Guide:

<https://www.iwmc.pe.ca/interactivesortingguide.php>

Cape Breton Curb-side  
Collection:

<http://www.cbrm.ns.ca/curbside-collection.html>



## How Green is Your Church?

Try the link below to Operation Noah for tips  
for greening sacred spaces.

**[http://operationnoah.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/How-green-is-your-church\\_suggested-actions\\_9-March-15.pdf](http://operationnoah.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/How-green-is-your-church_suggested-actions_9-March-15.pdf)**

*Does your Parish have a tip or success story  
to share? Let us know.*

**E-News:** The Environment Network monthly e-news  
endeavours to share events, stories and tips for caring for  
creation. Photos and stories welcome. Please send

contributions to Cory McConnell at  
**[endionspei@gmail.com](mailto:endionspei@gmail.com)**



## Upcoming Events

- Transition Bay Talks: OffGrid Living Tantallon Library**  
 Registration Required  
**February 17, 2019**
- Lets Talk Tidal Power: What's Happening in the Bay of Fundy Central Library Paul O'Regan Hall** This panel brings together tidal researchers, developers, regulators, First Nations, and fishers for a balanced discussion on the past, present, and future of Fundy tidal projects. In partnership with NSEN  
**March 14, 2019 6-8:30pm**
- Climate Emergency Preparedness -Tantallon Public Library** An afternoon workshop exploring climate change emergency preparedness due to flooding, wildfire risks and other climate change induced disasters. Our communities need to be ready to deal with the increasingly common, potentially dangerous, effects of climate change. Free event hosted by Transition Bay St. Margarets. Tickets available from eventbrite until Feb 22  
**April 22, 2-4:30pm**



Simple Tips to get started: caulking around the church or hall foundation, electrical outlets and the site of rope entry for the church bell. Learn about recycling and composting, recycling bulletins or using a screen.

## LENT 2019

With the Lenten Season just around the corner, we wanted to share some thoughts about our connection with creation. There is a thought provoking reflection bellow. Also, learn about Stations of a Creation: a Lenten project and perhaps try a Carbon Fast for Lent this year.

## Is Nature a Person?

Now, for clarification I am not asking whether nature is a literal human being. Instead, I would like to raise the question of whether choices that affect nature should be considered morally as if it were another person. For example, it is deeply seated in our Christian morality that stealing from other people is wrong. This moral thinking is not extended, however, to stealing resources from the natural world. Why don't we think about nature morally? Obviously, as environmentalists involved with this network, we do give moral value to nature at least because we need it to survive. In short, destroying the environment is bad because we can't live without it. In this reflection, I am attempting to push us further by asking: "does nature have moral value because of what it is and not because of what it does for us?"

In my mind, the easiest place to start answering this question is with animals. Clearly, I study Philosophy in University and, at this time, I am taking a course on environmental ethics. There are many scholarly arguments and papers for why animals should be thought of morally. The one that speaks most to me is by a fun little 19th century writer named Schopenhauer who wrote that compassion should be the root of morality. His main reason for this boils down to suffering. Everybody can hurt, so if we think of others with this in mind, compassion will move us to make choices that reduce unnecessary suffering. Now, this probably seems abstract and unrelated to the environment so lets go back to animals. Like people, animals can suffer so, on the basis of this theory, I think its reasonable to say our choices that impact animals should be framed as "am I doing whats best for this living creature" and not "will this benefit other people and myself no matter how much it hurts?" This is the basic idea of what philosophers call 'Animal Welfarism' which is a complicated way of saying animals have value outside of what we can use them for. Hopefully this isn't too hard to consider. Next, I'm going to get a little more abstract and say this should also apply to nature.

As Christian's, we all believe that God created the world and all that is in it. So, why is it that we have understood 'have dominion' as a 'right to exploit'? Since God created the world, wouldn't it still be valuable if there were no humans to make use of it? Is nature valuable in itself because its God's creation not because its human's property? If we answer yes then we can make choices that are based in our morals regarding nature just like with people and animals. I'm also not saying that animals and nature are comparable to human beings. I mean that, in acknowledging the differences between humans and the natural world we can still look at nature and say "this is valuable without me and whether I'm making the right choice about it matters more than making it useful". Moving on from this, our activism can be strengthened with the knowledge that caring for creation isn't, as is commonly implied, the same as 'saving humanity' but a real acknowledgement of its own value. How far can "love thy neighbour as thyself" go?

Cory McConnell

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## As it was in the beginning...

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### *Stations of Creation*

Everyone should take time now and then to sit quietly near a small stream and listen. Not as easy during a Canadian winter, so the Environment Network of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island is offering you the opportunity to look at and reflect upon God's creation through the eyes of a Maritime photographer.



The Environment Network invites you, your parish, region or group to engage in a spiritual practice offered this coming Lent 2019 that we call "As it was in the beginning.....Stations of Creation." modelled on the Stations of the Cross, a spiritual practice used to help the Christians faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.

Lent is a time of transformation. As you move through Lent 2019, a time to reflect on our actions, a time to pray and meditate, we invite individuals, groups, congregations, to walk in silence and as you do so, consider the beauty of creation, feel gratitude to the Creator for this place, for the land, the water, the air, the fish in the ocean, the birds that fly over the ocean, the animals beside the ocean, the people who live on the eastern coast of Canada, the western shore of the Atlantic Ocean, and consider how, as caregivers of this place, we can respond to God's call to live out that ministry.

Ched Myers, an American activist and theologian, has written about what he calls bio-regional discipleship says, "we won't save a place we don't love; we can't love a place we don't know; and we can't know a place we haven't learned."

In the midst of the threat of climate change, feeling what can be an overwhelming sense of powerlessness, grounding ourselves spiritually is more important than ever to equip ourselves to live out our baptismal vow to "...safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?"

As it was in the beginning... Stations of Creation, fourteen stations patterned after the Stations of the Cross uses the talents of photographer Donna Giles (The Church of Saint Andrew, Cole Harbour) and The Book of Genesis, Chapter 1, as the basis for our reflections and meditations.

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This resource can be ordered by emailing or calling The Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferies, Coordinator of the Environment Network, at 902-483-6866 or at [marian.lucas.jefferies@gmail.com](mailto:marian.lucas.jefferies@gmail.com)

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# CARBON FREE LENT 2019

| Sun   | mon  | tue  | wed  | thu  | fri  | sat   |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|   |  | <b>March</b>   | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>  |
|   |  |  | Reduce: Try not buy anything new except essentials   | Cold water wash and biodegradable detergent                    | Buy less packaged and processed foods              | Say no to plastic bags, take your own reusable bags |
| <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b>   |
| Pray for those most effected by climate change      | Meatless Monday: Christian practice for centuries  | Share the carbon fast with friends and family                | Unplug small appliances when not in use              | Stop buying products with microbeads                           | Make the change to sustainable tea and coffee      | Visit local market to buy fruits and vegetables     |
| <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>   |
| Remember the 5 <sup>th</sup> Mark of Mission        | Reduce single use plastic (see e-news tips)        | Reduce paper printing  | Make 1 journey environmentally friendly today        | Say yes to sustainable seafood                                 | Purchase from sustainable businesses               | Repair rather than replace                          |
| <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>   |
| Switched off Sunday, turn off electronics for 1 day | Pick up at least 1 piece of litter                 | Borrow or rent things not used often, share with a neighbour | Turn dishwasher on only for a full load              | Avoid disposable coffee pods. Try reusable or compostable pods | Avoid single use dryer sheets                      | Try reusable produce bags for grocery store         |
| <b>31</b>   | <b>APRIL 01</b>                                    | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>  |
| Consider the role of your church in its environment | Toss coffee grounds in compost bin not the garbage | Try an e-newspaper rather than printed                       | Avoid paper towel. Use reusable cleaning cloths      | Say no to palm oil   | Check your tire pressure. Increase gas mileage     | Donate unused items to charity or buy second hand   |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b>   |
| Say a prayer for the earth.                         | Upcycle/ recycle unused electronic devices         | Check your fridge seals to reduce energy                     | Get creative with left overs. Reduce food waste      | Switch to recycled toilet paper wrapped in paper               | Take old medicines to a pharmacy for safe disposal | Buy fair trade, organic Easter eggs                 |
| <b>14</b>   | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b>   |
| Pray and reflect in nature                          | Go dairy free today                                | Reduce your "bookprint". Try the library, used or e-books    | Reduce water use. Shorter showers rather than baths. | List 3 things you will commit to changing                      | Good Friday  | Holy Saturday                                       |





Anglican Church of Canada

## **Creation Prayer**

God our Creator, you created the world and sent your own Son to live among us, made of the same stuff, breathing the same air, marvelling at sunrise and sunset just as we do. Help us to participate in the life around and within us as your life, as you living in us and we living in you and in each other. God of love and life, restore us to your peace, renew us through your power and teach us to love all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and our home.

- The Earth Community: In Christ through the Integrity of Creation

- [www.franciscans.ie](http://www.franciscans.ie)