



Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light NEWS

February 2010

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

Tread Lightly . . . Every Day and Especially During Lent



In January we drew your attention to *Tu B'Shevat*, the "new year for the trees" in Jewish tradition. This month begins the Christian time of *Lent*. This formal, extended period of reflection and change is also found in the Jewish tradition in the time of preparation for *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, and in the Muslim month-long observation of *Ramadan*. Each of these traditions follows practices that involve asking forgiveness for past sins, praying for guidance and help in refraining from everyday evils, and trying to purify through self-restraint and good deeds.

Our friends at the Presbyterian Church (USA) Environmental Ministries have provided a guide so that we can **Tread Lightly for Lent** (click on the link to download the guide). Beginning with **Ash Wednesday (February 17)** the calendar provides a daily prompt for actions that are a positive step for environmental stewardship. Suggestions include such sensible personal actions as

- Shorter showers with low flow showerhead
- Ending "phantom" electric loads by using power strips with remote controls for ease of turning off
- Eating food that is "in-season"

And institutional actions including

- Using Eco-Palms (www.pcusa.org/palms)
- Organize a Green Team at your House of Worship, or where you work or study
- Celebrate Earth Day including sharing stories of personal and institutional success

Tell Us Your Story



The Case Studies available at www.MIPandL.org are intended to provide stories of the specific **Environmental Stewardship** actions that congregations, organizations and individuals have taken.

You can find out about ...

Green Needham, and three different congregations (**First Parish**, **Temple Beth Shalom** and **Needham Congregational**) approached their environmental stewardship opportunities.

One Family's Home Audit – How they got ready, what happened during the audit, and what was easy and what has harder.

The joys of in-floor radiant heating in worship spaces, as told by **Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church** in Cambridge.

All the detail of changing from purchase steam to sensible space conditioning at the **Boston Synagogue**.

And many, many more.

We need to share our stories. That is how we know not only what is possible, but that others have done it. It is easier to tread lightly when somebody is there to guide and encourage!

Film Series



IS GOD GREEN?

Films on Faith and Creation Care

COME SEE IT SO YOU CAN KNOW, BELIEVE AND THEN ACT

**Tuesdays February 23 and March 2, 2010
at 6:30 PM**

Davis Hall, Room 201, Andover Newton Theological School

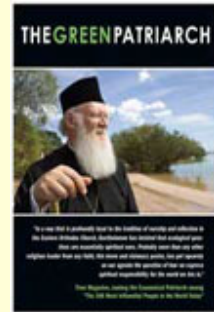
Free for ANTS, Hebrew College & BTI Students
\$5 for public

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Bill Moyers on America: Is God Green?
Tuesday, 2/23/10 at 6:30 PM
Davis Rm. 201, ANTS

This 55 minute documentary features Bill Moyers and his team of investigative journalists as they profile three evangelical Christian communities that have taken on care of the environment as a moral and biblical obligation, despite the fact that many of their brothers and sisters in the faith disagree with their stance.



The Green Patriarch
Tuesday 3/2/10 at 6:30 PM
Davis Rm. 201, ANTS

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the first major Christian leader to make the environment a moral imperative, is a man on a spiritual mission to save our earth, save God's creation.

This intimate portrait of the 270th successor to the Apostle Andrew follows him from the Patriarchate in Istanbul across the globe where

he continues to gather members of the scientific community and representatives of the world's religions to join in constructive dialog and silent prayer for the planet. Thirty minutes.

Hold the Date!



MIP&L Annual Meeting

Saturday April 10
1 to 4:30 pm
Our Lady Church
573 Washington St.
Newton, MA 02458
www.ourlady.com
617-969-1677

Keynote Speaker
Anne Kelley, Director of
Governance Programs, CERES

Break-Out Sessions, on key topics:

- Making Sacred Space
- Sustainable Space
- Finding the Resources – God's Post-Recession Abundant Grace
- Engaging the Congregation, Engaging the Community

Find out the "what to" and "how to" on all manner of topics. Share your success stories. And learn what Our Lady is doing in their multi-building complex, which includes Trinity High School.

Find MIP&L on Facebook!

facebook

MIP&L has a Facebook group. We encourage you to join us – [click here](#) or on the logo to access our group page.

Beyond being able to share information with you on a more timely basis, it allows you to share information with each other. Have a question about what energy-saving projects have been most successful? Start and discussion and as your peers in other congregations! Want to know the best ways to find the money for energy upgrades – ask others who have done it.

Know Somebody Who Should Receive This Newsletter?



Let us know. We're happy to add all to the list. And of course, **just forward it now!** (use the forward link at the bottom of this newsletter).

To add to our list, visit [our web site](#) and fill the **Sign Up for Our Newsletter!** box on the homepage.

Or send us an email at MIPandL@MIPandL.org with the email addresses to be added to our mailing list. Write "add to MIP&L email" in the subject line.

Peace and blessings,

Your friends at MIP&L