



# Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light NEWS

MARCH 2010

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

## MASS INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT 40th ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY CELEBRATION APRIL 10TH 1-5 PM, OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



Please join us for our **annual meeting** and **40th Anniversary of Earth Day Celebration** on **Saturday, April 10, 2010** from **1 PM to 5 PM** at **Our Lady Help of Christians**, lower church at 573 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02458, located right off exit 17 of the Mass Pike and accessible by public transportation. For directions go to [www.ourladys.com](http://www.ourladys.com) or call Vince at **617-244-0755**.

Faith communities have led many major social movements, like abolition, women's suffrage and the civil rights movement. We can do it again! At our celebration:

- We will pray together from our different traditions;
- We will learn from Anne L. Kelly a dynamic environmental attorney with more than 20 years of experience who will give first-hand accounts of what she saw in Copenhagen, and current developments in Washington;
- We will be inspired by Tom Nutt-Powell, MIP&L co-founder and president and a panel of experts who will tell us how our faith communities can lower their carbon footprints by 50% and their energy bills by 40%;
- We will be enriched by financial experts from a utility, a private firm and a non-profit who will tell us about available funds; and
- We will be energized by fellow citizens from diverse faith communities and civic groups who are working together to mobilize change at the grass roots level.



The first Earth Day was called "**one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy**" by American Heritage magazine. Less than seven months after the notion of Earth Day was conceived by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, more than 2,000 colleges, 2,000 community groups and 10,000 elementary and secondary schools held events on April 22, 1970. In the forty years since, landmark legislation has been passed, dramatic improvements have been made in air and water quality, and there has been a sea-change of consciousness about the need to care for God's Creation.

Today many of us are frustrated, even demoralized by the inability of the international community and Congress to take the bold action necessary to address the climate change crisis. As we face the challenge of embracing change at a societal level, we choose to celebrate the progress that is being made every day in places like Newton, Lexington, Cambridge and Boston, and by the faith communities who are transcending historical divisions to lead by example by lowering their emissions. By celebrating our many successes we can recapture the spirit and energy of the first Earth Day.

*If not us who, if not now, when?*

### JOIN LIZ WALKER FOR A SCREENING OF "GROWN IN DETROIT"



JOIN Liz Walker for a screening of **Grown in Detroit** on April 22, 2010, 6:30 PM at Wilson Chapel, Andover Newton Theological School, 210 Herrick Road, Newton, MA.

Liz Walker Journey Productions is sponsoring a screening of *Grown In Detroit*, a story about pregnant teenagers in Detroit who are converting abandoned land into abundant land. *Grown in Detroit* features urban organic farming efforts organized by the Catherine Ferguson Academy, a public school of 300, mainly African American, pregnant and parenting teenagers.

The passionate educators at the Catherine Ferguson Academy in Detroit are working to make a better future for the young women by using their natural resources. As part of the curriculum, pregnant teens are taught agricultural skills at the farm next to the school. The young mothers, often still children themselves, learn through organic farming to become more independent and knowledgeable about the importance of nutritious foods. Many of the teens initially dislike farm work but the aversion disappears as they see their crops growing and being sold for profit.

While Detroit may have a reputation as one of the most impoverished and dangerous cities in the U.S., this award winning documentary exposes a different side; the side about residents who are emerging by using their resourcefulness and creating unique solutions. Reviewer James Goodall calls *Grown in Detroit* "... a documentary about hope, the tenacity of the human spirit, and the silver linings in even the darkest of clouds ... stunningly shot and well-devised."

To see a trailer of the film click on the following link: [www.growndetroitmovie.com](http://www.growndetroitmovie.com).

### HELP PLANT 3 MILLION TREES ...

EARTHWEEK 2010

#### JOIN CARBON COVENANT — HELP PLANT 3 MILLION TREES IN 3 YEARS



Halfway around the world is one of the most awesome, breathtaking symbols of natural beauty on earth: Mt. Kilimanjaro. Alarmingly, it has also become a symbol of global climate change and the havoc it's wreaking on the planet's most vulnerable people and places.

Rising an astounding 19,341 feet into the expansive Tanzanian sky, Mt. Kilimanjaro, and the communities that call it home, are at the brink of environmental crisis. Faced with the destruction of crops and shortages of goods caused by threats like deforestation, the bishop and parishioners of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania are doing more than simply hoping for change — they're acting to make it happen.

These dedicated and bold congregants are working as part of Interfaith Power & Light's **Carbon Covenant** project to plant 3 million trees on Mt. Kilimanjaro in just three years. It's an incredible and ambitious goal. With the power of their faith, the intensity of their commitment and labor, and with your support, it's a goal I know they can achieve.

Here's where you come in: every time you spread the word about "**Green Kilimanjaro**," Interfaith Power & Light will plant a tree on your behalf on Mt. Kilimanjaro. That's right — we're helping plant a forest, and all you have to do to help is tell someone else about it.

The tree planting project is part of the **Carbon Covenant** initiative of Interfaith Power and Light's national office. To participate log on to: [interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://interfaithpowerandlight.org). Mass. Interfaith Power and Light is part of a national movement active in 31 states with 10,000 congregational members. If you're not a member please join. Log on to [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org), click on the "**How to Join**" tab and put your **Faith into Action for Creation**.



#### BOSTON'S 3rd ANNUAL DAY OF INTERFAITH YOUTH SERVICE (DIYS)

To launch Earth Week 2010!  
Working together on the environment & homelessness!

**Sunday, April 18, 1:00-7:00 pm** (including opening program and closing celebration at Church on the Hill, 140 Bowdoin St., Boston, and community service work sites in Boston). Build the "**interfaith youth movement**" in greater Boston! For more information, contact [ifyi@coopmet.org](mailto:ifyi@coopmet.org) or [eshaps@brandeis.edu](mailto:eshaps@brandeis.edu) or call 617-244-3650.

Sponsored by **Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM)** [www.coopmet.org](http://www.coopmet.org) and CMM's **Interfaith Youth Initiative (IFYI)**

#### JOIN THE COMMONWEALTH CHALLENGE

The **Commonwealth Challenge** is a campaign to collectively save 100,000 kWh of electricity by **Earth Day, April 22**. This achievement will stand as a challenge to our leaders to put a national price on carbon and clean up the Massachusetts electric grid within ten years.

The aim is action. The results of our actions will send a message to our leaders more powerful than any petition drive. Save 5% of your electricity by April 22.

Find out how at: [www.CommonwealthChallenge.org](http://www.CommonwealthChallenge.org)

Call toll-free (866)867-8729 to schedule a free energy screening and air sealing service and ask us any questions you may have about retrofitting your home.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

WHAT: **2010 Southern New England Environmental Action Conference**  
WHEN: SUNDAY April 11, 2010, 10:00am - 5:30pm  
WHERE: Bentley University, Waltham, MA  
COST: \$30 if you register early!  
REGISTER: [www.MAenvironmentalaction.org](http://www.MAenvironmentalaction.org)

Featuring keynote speaker Judy Bonds of Coal River Mountain Watch. Environmental Action, 2010 will offer over 20 workshops, including: *Is Biomass Good for Massachusetts' Environment? Funding Real Change, Building Your Online Community through Social Networking* and much more!



*Peace and blessings,*

*Your friends at MIP&L*