



Dear MIP&L members and friends,

October 24 & 25 - International Day of Climate Action



The Word Made Clear and Loud

Saturday October 24 was designated as **International Climate Action Day** by the United Nations. Also known as Ring 350 Day, since many houses of worship around the World rang their bells 350 times, and conducted a broad range of actions to ensure that everyone knows **life can only sustain itself if the level of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is at 350 parts per million or less**. This is needed to retain a world similar to what human beings have known for the past 10,000 years.



The 210th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ passed an emergency resolution calling on local churches to take action to combat global warming. The resolution called on the Conference's 390 congregations and 77,000 members to sign the **Interfaith Call for 350** and to participate in October's global day of witness.

The Interfaith Call for 350 is a call to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the current level of 390 parts per million to below 350 parts per million – the level which the resolution said is what is needed to retain a world similar to what human beings have known for the past 10,000 years.

We especially need to recognize that this is about our children and our children's children.

The kids at Grace Episcopal Church in Lawrence get it! Do you?

Preach to Prompt Faithful Practice



On October 29, 2009, the Massachusetts Council of Churches **Ecumenical Dinner** (co-sponsored by MIP&L) had as its topic *Caring for God's Creation*.

The keynote speaker was the Rev. Canon Sally Bingham, IPL founder, here pictured with MIP&L's Executive Director, Vince Maraventano.

The Rev. Canon Bingham said that *"global warming is the most challenging condition of our time, a moral issue that needs religious leaders speaking out on the subject and all people of faith recognizing that the climate issue is far more than an environmental issue."*

She quoted Gus Speth, the Dean of the School of Forestry at Yale:

"Half the world's tropical and temperate forests are now gone. The rate of deforestation in the tropics continues at about an acre a second. About half the wetlands and a third of the mangroves are gone. An estimated 90 percent of the large predator fish are gone, and 75 percent of marine fisheries are now over fished or fished to capacity. Twenty percent of the corals are gone and another 20 percent severely threatened. Species are disappearing at rates about a thousand times faster than normal. The planet has not seen such a spam of extinction in sixty-five million years, since the dinosaurs disappeared. Persistent toxic chemicals can now be found by the dozens in essentially each and every one of us."

To download Rev. Canon Bingham's keynote address, [click here](#).

A terrific resource is MCC's *Healthy Kids, Healthy Churches, Health Communities*, a study guide. Call MCC at 617-523-2771. And for more information on all MCC activities, go to www.masscouncilofchurches.org.

MIP&L also participated in a major presentation on environmental stewardship at the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, helping over 100 attendees understand the imperatives, and how to start practicing faith in action. Here MIP&L President Tom Nutt-Powell makes a point, as Bishop Bud Cederholm waits to lead the singing of *O Great Earth*.



The Episcopal Convention was also mostly "green" by offsetting more than 50% of the Carbon Footprint via donations from attendees. Over \$400 went New England Wind Fund. You can offset your meetings this way also. Go to www.newenglandwind.org.

As mentioned in October's newsletter, MIP&L is ready and able to help in all manner of ways, including assistance in organizing and helping present major events, talks at meetings, sermons during worship, and leading pilgrimages to the boiler room!

Call MIP&L at 617-244-0755, or email us at MIPandL@MIPandL.org.

STEM Happenings

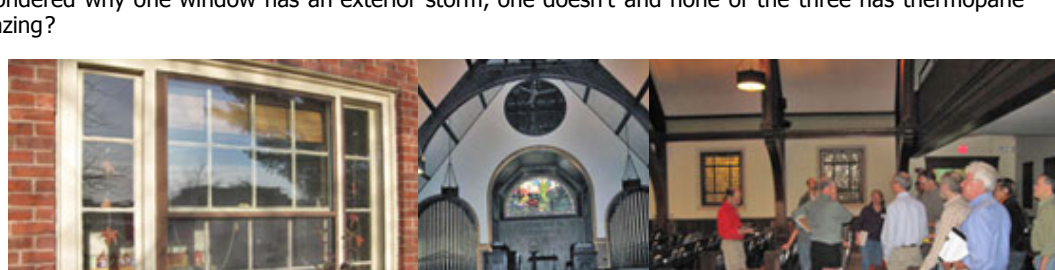


Been on a pilgrimage to the boiler room?

Calculated energy savings for various upgrades?

Taken a look at a friend's House-Of-Worship to determine good things to do?

Wondered why one window has an exterior storm, one doesn't and none of the three has thermopane glazing?



Want to know how to test furnace efficiency?

Tried to figure out why anybody ever thought it makes sense to heat domestic hot water in large volumes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, especially in a House of Worship?

Wished that heat stayed at the floor instead of going to the ceiling?

Wanted a Class Photo of folks who have shared a wonderful learning experience in energy management?

YOU TOO CAN LEARN THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS ... AND MORE.

Join with the folks from First Unitarian Society in Newton, Brighton-Allston Congregational Church, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham, Our Lady Help of Christians, Newton, Eliot Church of Newton, UCC, First Presbyterian Church of Waltham, The First Church in Belmont, First Parish Brookline, First Parish Arlington, Follen Church Society Lexington and First Parish of Watertown. Folks from each of these congregations participated in a STEM course this fall.

You too can ... Be a **STEM**-er.



STEM (Savings Through Energy Management) is a 15-hour program for congregations that teaches participants the skills needed to reduce energy consumption in their homes and houses of worship.

The **STEM** program covers all building energy systems, heating, lighting, ventilation and air conditioning as well as the building envelope and appliances. Participants learn to use professional equipment to test and measure the components of their buildings. They also learn how to calculate the energy and fuel to be saved by implementing sound practices. The program also includes information on utility rebates.

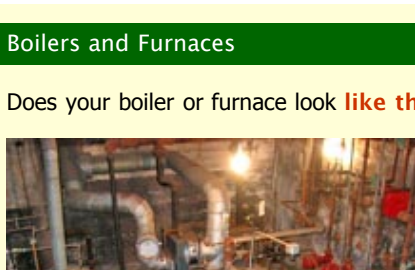
STEM is taught in 5 three-hour sessions, with each session meeting in a different house of worship. At least 5 and as many as 10 congregations join in the training.

STEM for This Old House of Worship is available from Wilson Educational Services, Inc. Call 203-250-1501 or email wilsonedservices@yahoo.com.

Boilers and Furnaces

NEW ADDRESS & PHONE

Does your boiler or furnace look **like this**:



OR **like this?**



It doesn't take a rocket scientist or even an engineer to know that the heat generation system on the right HAS TO BE BETTER!

And indeed, it is better in use, cost and hugely reduced environmental impacts. These are photos from St James in Cambridge, where the work reduced cost and impacts over 50%! You can get the results in the case study by [clicking here](#).

AND you can do this, for your House of Worship, your own Home and/or where you work! Get this month's *Everyday Environmental Stewardship* Brief on Boilers and Furnaces at [our website](#).

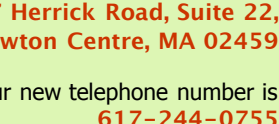


New MIP&L Address and Phone number!

MIP&L's office is now at **197 Herrick Road, Suite 22, Newton Centre, MA 02459**

and our new telephone number is **617-244-0755**

Find MIP&L on Facebook!



MIP&L has a Facebook group. We encourage you to join us – [Click here](#)!

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, click **"Join our E-mail List"** (under "Membership") and fill the sign up box. 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