



Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team

April 2016 E-Newsletter

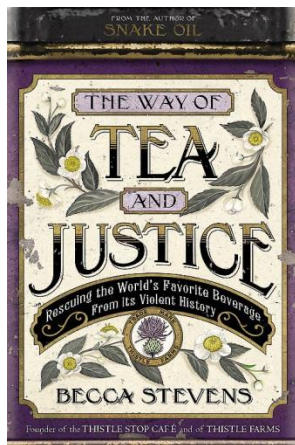
Vacation Bible School and Summer Study

by Nellie Howard, Resource Center Director

RESOURCE CENTER
Presbytery of West Virginia

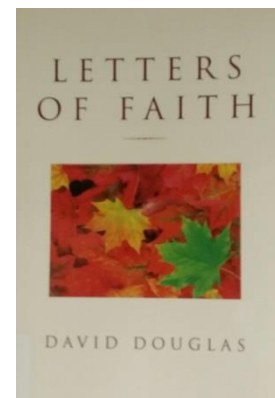


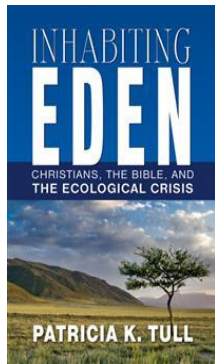
When did you last visit the Resource Center or check out our online catalogue? You are probably saying to yourself, “*not very long ago. I think just last year . . . or maybe the year before.*” That’s all right. We all get busy and we have so much to do. While you’ve been gone your Resource Center has acquired a few new resources to help you work with God to care for God’s world. Here are a three that I think you will enjoy. Give me a call at 304-744-7634 if you would like me to send something to you or come on in to visit, get a free bookmark and see for yourself!



My favorite new book is Becca Stevens’ The Way of Tea and Justice: Rescuing the World’s Favorite Beverage from its Violent History Ms. Stevens’ mission isn’t so much about stewardship of the Earth as it is about caring for God’s battered and troubled women but she does this in a way that encourages us to use our resources justly, without poisons, conserving water, and appreciating the bounty of what we can cleanly grow ourselves. I recently wrote about her book [HERE](#). Through the birth and growth of Thistle Farms in Tennessee the author has brought many women away from being trafficked, back from the brink of death to the center of life where they have a new purpose. The women use organic plants grown on the farm to make clean healthy products they sell worldwide allowing them to escape addiction in a new community of acceptance and love.

In 1971 a young man wanted to work in Appalachia to save the mountains from strip-mining. David Douglas was what we would now describe as “spiritual – not religious.” Though not a Christian he dubiously accepted a job with The **Mountain Project** as a youth leader for three churches. His goal was to help mountain people. He did this but he was not prepared for the way the mountain people cared for him. David Douglas became a minister and more than thirty years later he gives credit for his gradual conversion to his year of working along the Coal River. His experience working with Appalachian folks in food pantries, clothing stores for the poor, in protesting strip-mining and pollution of streams taught him who God is. In his book, Letters of Faith Douglas uses the letters, A to Z to answer the question Jesus asked Peter, “Who do *you* say that I am?” His simply-written witness to life in the mountains can teach us much about listening to and learning from the people we feel called to serve.





Patricia K. Tull is a Professor Emerita at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and the author of several books including curriculum for PC(USA). Her book, *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, The Bible, and The Ecological Crisis*, has been overlooked in the Resource Center. For a year it has sat on the shelf, unread. How sad. Through Scripture, personal reflection, insight and social commentary Tull moves her readers to action. It is a perfect answer to those who think that maybe the church should stay out of the politics of climate change and stewardship of creation. The author shows us that scripture tells a different story than the mere human story that is often one of self-centeredness. It is a story where we see that the story of God's relationship with God's people is one that invites respect and gratitude as we learn our dependence and connectedness to the larger cosmos.

Free Environmental Education Materials!

Do you need environmental education materials for your classroom? EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications offers materials grouped by grade level, free of charge. Publications include activity books, lesson plans, posters, and more.

Teachers can quickly and easily order these resources for students. Explore lesson plans, videos, project ideas, student awards, and more. Learn about Environmental Education grants and how to apply at the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/education>

West Virginia Earth Day Events

April 20 - Marshall University, 10-2

April 21 - Make It Shine Earth Day at the Clay Center, Charleston

April 22 - Twin Falls State Park

April 22 - West Virginia University - EcoCAR3 Earth Day

April 23 - Appalachian South Folk Life Center/ Pipestem

April 23 - Earth Day Expo, WVU Parkersburg

April 25 - West Virginia State University, 9:30-2

WVSU Symposium on Sustainable Development in Appalachia

Contact: Barbara Ladner, ladnerbe@wvstateu.edu

April 30 - Eastern Panhandle Earth Day Celebration, Morgan Grove's Park, Shepherdstown

May 21 - Huntington Sustainability Fair, Old Central City, 14th St. West

West Virginia Wildflower Hikes
(Check with www.wvstateparks.com and WV Native Plant Society)

April 16 - Chief Logan State Park and Kanawha State Forest

April 22-24 - New River Gorge Earth Day Wildflower Hikes (Sponsored by the National Park Service, 304-466-0417)

April 23 - Camp Creek State Park

May 5-8 - WV Wildflower Pilgrimage. Blackwater Falls State Park

May 13-16 - Webster County Nature Tours (Sponsored by the Webster County Garden Club)

Other Upcoming Events

The following events are included in the Creation Justice Ministries "Capsules" e-news:

<http://www.creationjustice.org/capsules.html>

- * **Preach-In for Global Warming:** February 14 - April 22, 2016 in your congregation
- * Celebrate **Earth Day Sunday:** April 17 or April 22, 2016 in your congregation
- * Caretakers of God's Creation **United Methodist** conference: April 8-9 in Decatur, GA
- * **Ecumenical Advocacy Days:** April 15-18 in Washington, DC

Huntington, WV Sustainability Fair is scheduled for May 21. Here is the link:

<http://www.huntingtonsustainabilityfair.com/>

Young Adults - US Convergence 2016: New Orleans, Louisiana, June 20th-24th Coming Together for Climate Justice More here: <http://www.greenfaith.org/success-stories/new-orleans-convergence> Applications are due April 18th.

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