



## Supporting the spiritual integrity of rural life and farming

*Connecting Rural & Urban Communities*

# Food, Faith and Farming

## *Resources for Faith Communities*

**A**bundance. Gratitude. Hospitality. Community. Stewardship. Justice. Reconciliation. Love. These values are shared by all of the great faiths around the world. And all of these faiths believe the world was created by a loving, beneficent God.

Food is the most tangible evidence of an abundant world and a loving God. Food is basic: we are all linked by food, no matter where we live on this earth. There are literally hundreds of references to food in the Bible and Koran; also hundreds of references to the land on which food is grown. Clearly, we are to be grateful for the food we eat and to be good stewards of the land that produces this food.

We—at the Churches' Center for Land and People—believe congregations can be a powerful force for linking food, faith and farming. When we serve food in a spirit of generosity we demonstrate the values of abundance, gratitude, hospitality, community, reconciliation and love. And when we serve food produced by local farmers who use sustainable farming methods and receive a fair price for their products, we demonstrate the values of stewardship and justice. Thus, faith communities can provide an important link between the food we eat and the methods used to produce this food.

Since 2003, we have been working with local congregations to sponsor Winter Farmers' Markets. These markets, held in church halls

in the winter months, have achieved several goals: 1) helped local farmers generate income in the winter months, 2) helped consumers gain access to local, sustainably produced farm products, 3) helped faith communities stand on the side of land stewardship and economic justice for farm families, and 4) helped raise money for the Harvest of Hope Fund which provides financial help to Wisconsin farmers in crisis situations (10% of the farmers' proceeds are donated to this fund). In recent years, the congregations have been asked to host a Meal of Hope in conjunction with the Winter Farmers' Market. Our goal is to draw in additional people and introduce them to delectable foods produced by local farmers who use sustainable farming methods.

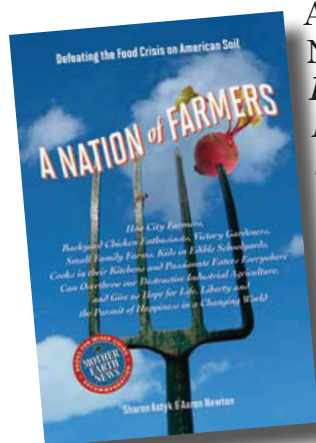
Now, we are encouraging congregations to sponsor educational events that foster the link between "Food, Faith and Farming." These educational events could be as simple as having a local chef demonstrate the use of local and sustainably-grown food. Or, it could be more complex: a book study group; a series of adult education forums or a series of evening seminars focusing on the food, faith and farming linkage.

There is a huge shift taking root right now. People are becoming more conscious that they "vote with their fork" three times a day for the food system they want. Many are choosing a food system that is locally-based and sustainable, less dependent on our current highly-

industrialized food system which utilizes vast quantities of petrochemicals to produce, process and transport food (the average food travels 1,500 – 2,000 miles to reach our tables) and which contributes to the growing epidemic of diabetes and obesity in our society. Congregations can help people make these choices about food and, in doing so, choose to stand on the side of land stewardship and economic justice for farm families in their area.

We've identified a number of resources—books, films, DVD's, on-line resources, and websites—that might be helpful as you organize “Food, Faith and Farming” events in your congregation. Be creative. If you have a limited time frame (i.e. an hour during adult education sessions), consider showing segments of a film or discussing a chapter of a book or a book report, or invite speakers to your group. Or do several of these things in a variety of forums over time. Be sure to allow time for questions and answers. You might find that the topic of how our faith guides our choices of food and food systems is one of the richest topics you can explore as a faith community. After all, food is basic—the one thing that links us as human beings!

## Books

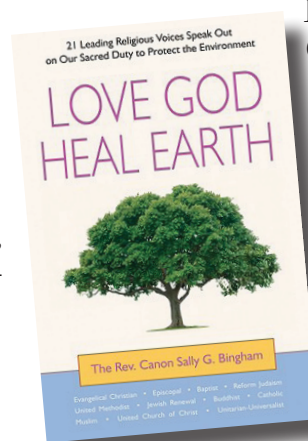


Astyk, Sharon and Aaron Newton. *A Nation of Farmers: Defeating the Food Crisis on American Soil*. Gabriola Island, B.C. Canada: New Society Publishers, 2009.

Once we could fill our grocery carts with cheap and plentiful food, but not anymore. Cheap food has gone the way

of cheap oil. The cost of flying in food from far away and shipping it across the country in refrigerated trucks is rapidly becoming unviable. A worldwide food crisis is unfolding overseas and in our own communities. We can keep hunger from stalking our families, but it will require a fundamental shift in our approach. *A Nation of Farmers* examines the limits and dangers of our globalized food system and how returning to basics is our best

hope. Topics include: “Creating resilient, local food systems;” “Growing, cooking and eating sustainably;” and “Becoming part of the solution to the food crisis.”



Bingham, Rev. Canon Sally G. *Love God, Heal Earth: 21 Leading Religious Voices Speak Out on Our Sacred Duty to Protect the Environment*. Pittsburgh, PA: St. Lyme's Press, 2009.

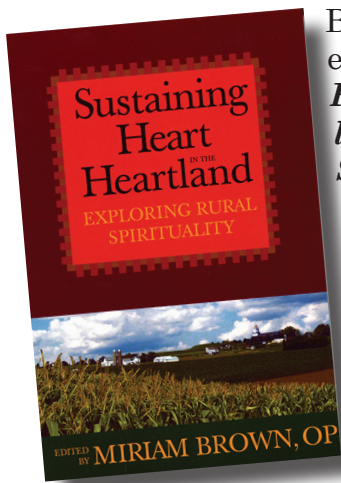
*Love God, Heal Earth* opens a vision of the future where all faith traditions celebrate a connection to creation. This book offers

hope by demonstrating how various faith communities share a common vision of caring for the earth, focusing on what we have in common rather than on how we differ. Rev. Bingham, a prime mover in the burgeoning religious response to global warming, has assembled a timely and thought-provoking collection of 21 well-written essays by a diverse group of religious and spiritual leaders. Chapter titles include: “Building Creation on a Firm Foundation;” “Faith in Place;” “The Road to Green;” and “Renewing Hope.”

Bittman, Mark. *Food Matters: A Guide to Conscientious Eating with More than 75 Recipes*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008 (hardcover), 2009 (paperback).

Bittman offers a no-nonsense expose on how government policy, big business marketing and global economics influence what food we choose to put on the table each day. He demystifies buzz words like *organic*, *sustainable* and *local* and offers straightforward, budget-conscious advice that will help you make small changes which shrink your carbon footprint...and your waistline. Bittman advocates cutting meat and processed foods from your diet, but says as long as you eat more vegetables and whole grains, the result will be better for you and for the world in which we live. The book offers a month's worth of meal plans and demonstrates that healthful, socially-sound eating can also be flavorful and satisfying.





Brown, Miriam, OP, editor. ***Sustaining Heart in the Heartland: Exploring Rural Spirituality***. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2005 (paperback).

***Sustaining Heart in the Heartland*** is a unique exploration of rural spirituality that describes how faith is lived out in the sparse-

ly populated rural areas of the U.S. and what it is like to be people of faith and commitment while confronting the daunting challenges facing the rural way of life today. This book is edited by Miriam Brown, founding director of the Churches' Center for Land and People, and includes an array of authors who write with authentic grassroots knowledge and experience on a range of topics: rural spirituality, the heartland, dimensions of church life and resources (including a Lectionary of the Seasons and Prayers/Rituals for Sustaining Heart).

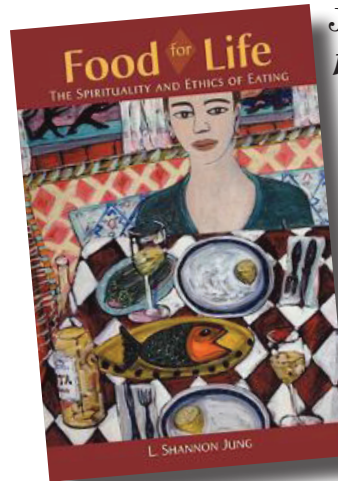
Evans, D. Ronald and Keith Wright. ***Biblical Holism and Agriculture: Cultivating Our Roots***. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2003.

Nearly a century ago, people like George Washington Carver succeeded in combining their Christian faith with their agricultural vocation. Today, however, many Christians have separated their faith from their vocations in the field of agriculture. This book addresses the urgent need for constructing a holistic Biblical perspective...one that references ancient Hebrew insights about caring for creation by people who are created in the image of God and commissioned to uphold principles of stewardship and economic justice.

Fisk, Gary W. ***Food, Farming and Faith***. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2001.

***Food, Farming and Faith*** looks at agricultural sustainability and Christianity and presents a farming ethic that promotes good food and a healthy environment. Using scripture and science, Fisk shows that faith can inform our deci-

sions about producing and consuming food. The book highlights such topics as food and celebration, environmental care, ecology and faith, soil and water stewardship, animal welfare and the impact of poverty on women and our food supply. Fisk shares Biblical passages that comment on these topics and provides personal insights from growing up in a ranching family, teaching sustainable agriculture and working as a scientist.



Jung, L. Shannon. ***Food for Life: The Spirituality and Ethics of Eating***. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2004 (paperback).

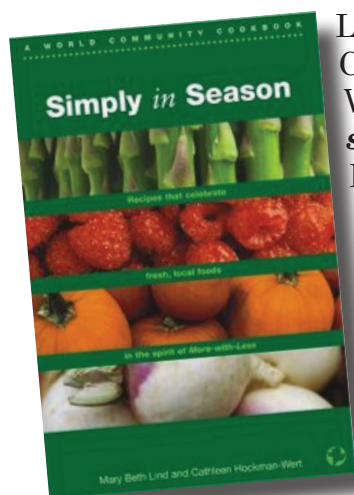
L. Shannon Jung, Director of the Center for Theology and the Land at the University of Dubuque and Wartburg Theological Center, issues a clarion call to

Christians to heed the ethical and spiritual connections among food, eating, health, community, work, addiction, the environment and globalization. He notes that in the Bible eating involves enjoyment, providence, goodness and delighting on the one hand; and hospitality, justice, mission and sharing on the other. The author takes a hard look at the environmental and social costs of our corporate food system and he challenges us to consider how we can change this food system through our eating habits.

Koenig-Bricker, Woodeene. ***Ten Commandments for the Environment: Pope Benedict XVI Speaks Out for Creation and Justice***. Notre Dame, IN: Ava Maria Press, 2009 (Paperback).

Pope Benedict XVI has quietly, but with passionate resolve, spread a message that seems more in keeping with an environmental scientist than a spiritual leader: "Save the Planet" is his message. This book outlines a range of statements and actions of the Pope that are supportive of saving God's creation. Chapter titles include: "Commandments for the Environment;" "Use, Don't Abuse;" "One for All, All for One;" "Gaia Isn't God;" "What Price Progress?" "We're All in the Same Boat;" and "It's All Gift." While

based on Catholic doctrines, there is a message in this book for all Americans.



Lind, Mary Beth and Cathleen Hockman-Wert. *Simply in Season*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2005.

Through stories and simple “whole foods” recipes, *Simply in Season* explores how the food we put on our tables impacts our local and global neighbors. It shows the

importance of eating local, seasonal, and fairly-traded food, inviting readers to make choices that offer health and security for our communities, for the land, for our bodies and spirits. Authors Cathleen Hockman-West and Mary Beth Lind tested over 1500 recipes that were submitted in response to a call for local seasonal recipes, then chose and organized the best of the recipes in this amazing cookbook.

Nestle, Marion. *What to Eat*. New York, NY: North Point Press, 2007 (hardcover and paperback).

*What to Eat* has become the definitive guide to making healthy and informed choices about food. The book is packed with important information, useful advice and maxims to live by from the acclaimed nutritionist who “has become to the food industry what...Ralph Nader (was) to the automobile industry” (St. Louis Post Dispatch). As Nestle takes us through each supermarket section—produce, dairy, meat, fish—she explains the issues, cutting through foodie jargon and complicated nutrition labels, and debunking the misleading health claims made by big food companies. With her as our guide, we are shown how to make wise food choices and are inspired to eat sensibly and nutritionally.

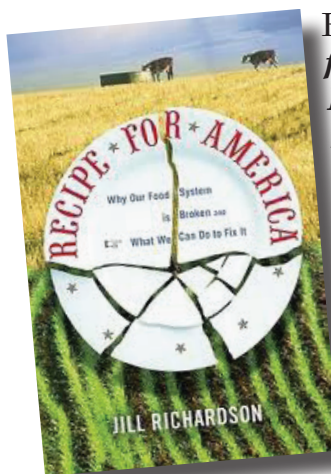
Petrini, Carlo. *Slow Food Nation: Why Our Food Should be Good, Clean and Fair*. New York, NY: Rizzoli Ex Libris, 2007 (hardcover).

Several recent books have alerted us to such

dangers as genetically modified organisms, food-borne diseases and industrialized farming. *Slow Food Nation* provides answers to these challenges. Here the charismatic leader of the Slow Food movement, Carlo Petrini, outlines many different routes for taking back control of our food. The three central principles of the Slow Food movement are as follows: 1) food must be sustainably produced in ways that are sensitive to the environment, 2) those who produce the food must be treated fairly, and 3) the food must be healthful and delicious. In his travels around the world, Petrini has witnessed firsthand the many ways that native people are feeding themselves without making use of the harmful methods used in industrialized countries. *Slow Food Nation* shares this wisdom and helps us build a better way of eating in our communities here.

Pollan, Michael. *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2008 (hardcover), 2009 (paperback).

Michael Pollan's book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, launched a national conversation about the American way of eating. *In Defense of Food* shows us how to change it, one meal at a time. Pollan proposes a new answer to the question of what we should eat; it comes down to seven simple, but liberating words: “Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants.” Pollan's bracing and eloquent manifesto shows us how we can start making thoughtful food choices that will enrich our lives, enlarge our sense of what it means to be healthy, and bring pleasure back to eating. In the process, we will be changing our industrial food system, one forkful at a time.



Richardson, Jill. *Recipe for America: Why Our Food System is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It*. Singapore: Ig Publishing, 2009 (paperback).

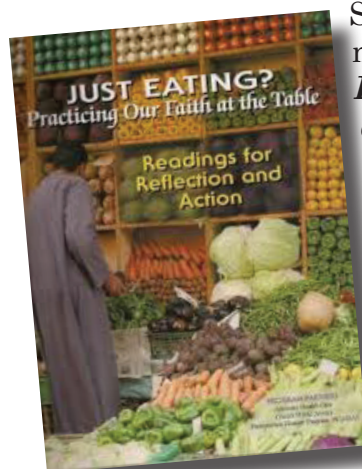
Jill Richardson first discovered her talent for writing about food issues at the Daily Kos. Her book *Recipe for America*



organizes into one smooth narrative information as disparate as employing undocumented workers and lobbying that goes into the Farm Bill. The pieces of the enormous puzzle of legislation, policy, science and environmentalism are woven together in a book that can serve as an introduction to those unfamiliar with the sustainable food movement or expanding the base of knowledge of those who have been reading on the topic for years.

Robbins, John. *The Food Revolution: How Your Diet Can Help Save Your Life and the World*.

Find the truth about popular diets, genetically modified foods, mad cow disease, and the health effects of what you eat. In this provocative book, best-selling author John Robbins exposes the dangers behind many of today's foods and reveals the extraordinary benefits of healthy alternatives. *The Food Revolution* shows people how to extend their lives, increase their vibrancy and vitality and take a stand for a more compassionate and sustainable world. John Robbins was born the only son of Ira Robbins, founder of the Baskin-Robbins ice cream empire. He was groomed to take over the empire, but he chose to walk away and be true to his own values while contributing to the health and well-being of others.



Schrock, Jennifer Halteman. *Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table*.

This is a seven-session curriculum—with participant booklet and leader's guide—that explores the relationship between the way we eat and the way we live. The study incorporates scripture,

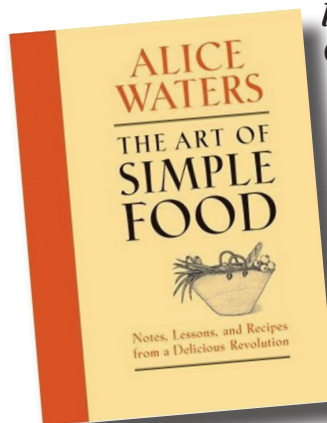
prayer and stories from the local and global community to explore five key aspects of our relationship with food: the health of our bodies; the challenge of hunger; the health of the earth that provides our food; the ways we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships; and the opportunities for action, renewal and trans-

formation in our eating practices (individuals and faith communities). Published by the Presbyterian Hunger Program and available from [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) (click on Advanced Search).

Schut, Michael, editor. *Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread*. Denver, CO: Living the Good News (The Morehouse Group), 2002 (paperback).

Michael Schut reminds us that food is a joyful gift that so often mediates the sanctity and preciousness of life. This collection of reflections by Wendell Barry, Bill McKibben, Elizabeth Johnson, Alan Durning and others helps readers consider the moral, spiritual and economic implications of eating. Readings focus on the enjoyment and spirituality of good food, ways in which eating connects us to the land and to each other and on the economic and environmental impacts of our daily food choices. The book includes an eight week study guide for groups or individuals, which leads to action: setting a table that is healthy, joyful and just.

Waters, Alice. *The Art of Simple Food: Notes, Lessons and Recipes from a Delicious Revolution*. New York, NY: Clarkson Potter, 2007 (hardcover), 2010 (paperback).



Perhaps more responsible than anyone for the revolution in the way we eat, cook and think about food, Alice Waters has “single-

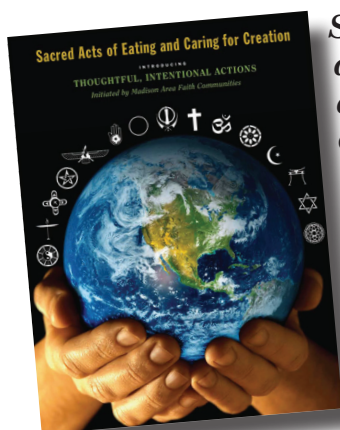
handedly changed the American palate” according to the *New York Times*. She shares her simple but inventive focus on a passion for flavor and a reverence for locally-produced, seasonal foods. With an essential repertoire of timeless, approachable recipes chosen to enhance and showcase great ingredients, *The Art of Simple Food* is an indispensable resource for home cooks. Here you will find Alice's philosophy on everything from stocking your kitchen to mastering fundamentals and preparing delicious, seasonal meals all year long.

***Food Security and Economic Justice: A Faith-Based Study Guide in Poverty and Hunger.*** Des Moines, IA: National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 2011 (paperback).

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference—a faith-based membership organization focused on agriculture, food and the land—has just published this study guide and call to action on hunger and poverty. It begins with the world as we know it: a world with resources and knowledge to produce ample food for all and yet too many people have little to eat and few resources to lift themselves out of poverty. The guide concludes with possibilities for action by individuals and groups: changing attitudes and behaviors in a spirit of solidarity with the poor and stewardship of God's creation. This booklet was written for Catholics, but could be a study guide for people of various denominations.

***The Green Bible.*** New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 2008.

This New Revised Standard Version of the Bible will equip and encourage people to see God's vision for creation and help them engage in the work of healing and sustaining the earth. With over 1000 references to the earth in the Bible, compared with 490 references to heaven and 530 to love, the Bible carries a powerful message for those who wish to be good stewards of the earth. Each of these references to the earth are highlighted in green print, thus enhancing study of the Bible from a perspective of earth stewardship.



***Sacred Acts of Eating and Caring for Creation.*** Produced as part of the 2010 Food, Faith and Earth Day sponsored by the Churches' Center for Land and People and other faith-based organizations. [www.cclpmidwest.org](http://www.cclpmidwest.org)

As people of faith, we can do much to care for creation and foster healthful, ethical, mindful eating. This booklet highlights a number of programs devised by forward-looking faith

communities in Madison, WI, including Harvest of Hope Fund, Food Pantries, Food Pantry Gardens, Garden Ministries, Holiday Community Meals, Islamic Environmental Group, Sharing the Harvest, Winter Farmers' Market and Brunch, Environmental Teams, Rain Garden, and Alternative Transportation Sunday. An inspiring compilation of things Madison area churches are doing to foster the sacred acts of eating and caring for creation.

## Films/DVDs



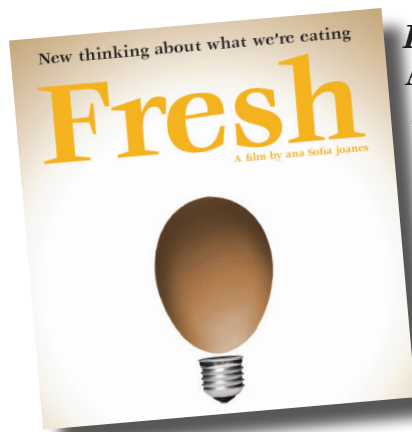
***Food Fight*** - When we walk into a supermarket, we assume that we have the widest and best possible choices of healthy foods. But over the course of the

20th century, our food system has been co-opted by giant corporate forces whose primary interest is profit rather than providing the public with fresh, healthy and sustainably-produced food. This film traces a counter-cultural movement which grew out of California in the 1960s and was led by Alice Waters to create an alternative to the highly industrialized agricultural model. The unintended result was the birth of a vital local-sustainable-organic food movement which has brought back taste and variety to dining tables. ***Food Fight*** is a fascinating look at how American agricultural policy and food culture developed in the 20th century and how the California food movement has created a counter-revolution against big agribusiness. Go to the website [www.foodfightthedoc.com](http://www.foodfightthedoc.com) for details on how to purchase the film (\$24.95 for standard edition DVD; \$195 for educational edition).

***Food, Inc.*** - Filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exploring the highly industrialized underbelly that has been hidden from the American consumer. Our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of giant corporations that put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of



American farmers, the safety of workers and our environment. We now have new strains of E.coli, the harmful bacteria that causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually. We also are riddled with widespread obesity, particularly among children, and an epidemic level of diabetes in adults. The film features interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser (*Fast Food Nation*) and Michael Pollen (*In Defense of Food*), along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield's Gary Hirschberg and Polyface Farm's Joel Saladin and it reveals shocking truths about what we eat, how it's produced, and the impacts of this food system. The film includes scenes that may be difficult for some people to watch. A discussion guide and postcard with 10 tips for healthy eating are available from the website: [www.foodinc.movie.com](http://www.foodinc.movie.com) or check video store for availability.

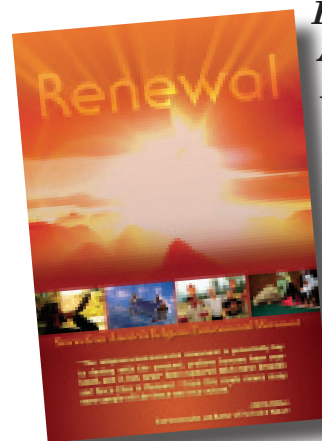


**Fresh** - Filmmaker Ana Joanes is on a mission to change the way we produce and consume food. *Fresh* looks at the hazards of industrial farming vs. the benefits of small-scale sustainable farming and highlights heroes

across the country who are changing the way we eat by shifting to local and sustainable farming methods. Joel Saladin of Polyface Farm is one of the pioneers of this movement, but the film also chronicles Will Allen of Growing Power in Milwaukee, an urban farmer who is aggressively combating the scarcity of food choices in poor, urban environments. This film moves beyond a critique of our highly industrialized agricultural system and spurs viewers to take action by supporting sustainable farming methods through the food choices we make on a day-to-day basis. The filmmaker's goal is to initiate a food movement by promoting screenings of the film in homes and communities across the country. Go to the website: [www.freshthemovie.com](http://www.freshthemovie.com) for details on how to purchase the film for screenings in homes or community settings (home cost: \$29.95; small

community screening: \$100; large community screening \$200 or more).

**Earth Bound: Created and Called to Care for Creation** - This is a six-part series on DVD (20 minute segments on two DVDs with study guide) that looks at Christians' complex relationship with God's creation where we have confused the concepts of dominion over and stewardship of the earth. It examines the origins of misconceptions about scripture's portrayal of creation and it shows how people throughout the church are living out a vocation of relating to and caring for creation. Walter Brueggemann, David Rhoads, Barbara Rossing, James Kenneth Echols and Gordon Straw are just a few of the theologians and Biblical scholars who offer insights on theology and creation through this DVD series. Available from Seraphim Communications: <http://store.seracomm.com>



**Renewal: Stories from America's Religious Environmental Movement** - This documentary (on DVD) is inspired by the many Americans who are answering a spiritual call to confront the enormous challenges of environmental degradation. From within their Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist

tradition, these men, women and children are finding ways to become caretakers of the earth. In addition to the 90 minute presentation titled *Renewal*, there are shorter, but enhanced versions of each of the individual stories which include: "A Crime Against Creation" (Evangelical Christians fight destruction of Appalachia); "Going Green" (Green Faith helps congregations take first steps to environmental action); "Food for Faith" (Muslim faith forges bonds with sustainable farms); "Compassion in Action" (A Buddhist community leads campaign to save trees); "Eco-Justice" (the Spirit inspires a battle against industrial contamination); "Interfaith Power and Light" (People of all faiths across America mount a religious response to global warming). Available from the Renewal Project: [www.renewalproject.net](http://www.renewalproject.net)

## On-Line Resources

**Our Place in God's World: Garden Curriculum.** Written by Kimberlee Eighmy with support from Jeff Wild and Bret Shaw, Project Team Members: [www.yourplacematters.net](http://www.yourplacematters.net)

**Our Place in God's World** is a set of six Biblically-based lessons to be used with gardening ministries. The theme of these lessons is rooted in Psalms 24: 1-2 which proclaims our relationship, or place, within God's world. These lessons are designed to help children, beginning at age four and extending through elementary ages and adults, to become more conscientious in their observations of the natural world and to begin to understand the interconnectedness of all Creation. Each one-hour lesson includes age-appropriate activities and opportunities for intergenerational learning both inside and outside the garden.

**Caring for Our Corner of Creation: Enhancing Your Congregation's Sense of Place.** Written by Peter Bakken with support from Jeff Wild and Bret Shaw, Project Team Members: [www.yourplacematters.net](http://www.yourplacematters.net)

This five-session study-action curriculum is designed to help a congregation appreciate its place in God's Creation more deeply and care for it more creatively. Class members will study scripture, explore their church building and grounds, and discuss what their local congregation, landscape and community means to them in the light of their Christian faith. Then, in a final action-planning session, they will bring together the knowledge and insight they have gained to imagine and implement new ways their congregation can expand its mission in its own unique corner of creation.

## Websites

### Center for Rural Affairs

[www.cfra.org](http://www.cfra.org)

Established in 1993 in an old store front in northeast Nebraska, the Center for Rural Affairs has grown to a national organization with 30,000 supporters across the country doing pioneering work to rebuild America and reform federal policy. The Center is committed to advocating for policies that support rural com-

munities, reduce poverty, reward stewardship, promote sustainable agriculture, strengthen small farms and businesses, promote renewable energy, and foster healthcare reform. The Center is also committed to developing leaders and providing resources for persons working in rural areas.

### Dane Buy Local

[www.danebuylocal.com](http://www.danebuylocal.com)

Dane Buy Local is a coalition of independent businesses, organizations and citizens in and around Dane County, WI acting in alliance to keep Dane County communities prosperous and sustainable. This coalition supports the following principles: local ownership and purchasing, small business practices and ethics, sense of community, belonging and inclusion, respect, sustainability, value of uniqueness, commitment to future generations, better quality of life for all, and building social and economic capital. Dane Buy Local has over 540 members and is one of the many successful buy local initiatives nationwide.

### Earth Ministry

[www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)



Earth Ministry is a Seattle, WA non-profit organization committed to engaging the Christian community in environmental stewardship. The organiza-

tion works in partnership with individuals and congregations to respond to this moral challenge through education, lifestyle choices and environmental advocacy. While rooted in the Christian tradition, the group actively engages all religious communities on climate and energy issues through Washington Interfaith Power and Light. They publish an award-winning quarterly journal entitled *Earth Letter*; their resources are in use across the U.S. and Canada.

### FairShare CSA Coalition

[www.csacoalition.org](http://www.csacoalition.org)

FairShare CSA Coalition (formerly the Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coali-



tion-MACSAC) is a non-profit organization in south-central Wisconsin that supports and connects Community Supported Agriculture farmers and eaters. Through education, outreach, community building and resource sharing, FairShare works to foster locally produced, organic food and strong connections between eaters, their farms and their communities. FairShare offers their cookbook, *From Asparagus to Zucchini: A Guide to Cooking Farm-Fresh Seasonal Produce* on their website and in retail outlets. They also sponsor a Partner Share program to reduce financial barriers to CSA membership by offering members cost-sharing opportunities.

## Faith in Place

[www.faithinplace.org](http://www.faithinplace.org)

Since 1999, Faith in Place has partnered with over 600 congregations of all faiths—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Unitarian and others—in Illinois to give them the tools to become good stewards of the earth. Their mission is to help people of faith understand that issues of ecology and care for creation are at the forefront of social justice “We must practice love and justice in the way we use the ecological commons of air, water and soil.” Faith in Place partners with several churches in the Chicago area to offer Winter Farmers’ Markets, a program initiated by the Churches’ Center for Land and People.

## Family Farm Defenders

[www.familyfarmers.org](http://www.familyfarmers.org)



Family Farm Defenders (FFD) is a non-profit organization based in Madison, WI that works to create a farmer-controlled and consumer-oriented food

system, using democratic principles that empower farmers to speak for themselves in their quest for social and economic justice. To this end, FFD supports sustainable agriculture, farm worker rights, animal welfare, consumer safety, fair trade and food sovereignty. FFD also supports cooperative marketing efforts for farmers and bridging the socioeconomic gap between rural and urban communities.

## Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability

[www.farleycenter.org](http://www.farleycenter.org)



The Linda and Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability is located outside Verona, WI on 43 acres of beautiful farm and wooded land. It was es-

tablished to promote ecological sustainability, social justice, peace and socially progressive changes. Each month, the Farley Center shines light on a sustainability issue that needs attention or change. The Center also sponsors educational activities, social action groups, community partnerships, ecological demonstrations, beginning farmer programs, organic farming initiatives and a green cemetery.

## Growing Power

[www.growingpower.org](http://www.growingpower.org)

Growing Power is a national non-profit organization, headquartered in Milwaukee, WI, supporting people from diverse backgrounds and the environments in which they live, by helping to provide equal access to healthy, high quality safe and affordable food for people in all communities. Growing Power provides hands-on training, on-the-ground demonstrations, outreach and technical assistance to develop Community Food Systems that help people grow, process, market and distribute food in a sustainable manner. Will Allen, CEO of Growing Power says this: “I believe we cannot have healthy communities without a healthy food system.”

## Land Stewardship Project

[www.landstewardshipproject.org](http://www.landstewardshipproject.org)



The Land Stewardship Project, a non-profit membership organization headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, is dedicated to fostering an ethic of steward-

ship, promoting sustainable agriculture and developing sustainable communities: “A great nation’s health and strength depend on our soil, land, farmers and conservationists.” The work of the Center is currently focused on four areas: Community-Based Food and Economic Development; Farm Beginnings; Stewardship Science; and Federal/State Policy and Organizing.

### National Catholic Rural Life Conference

[www.ncrlc.com](http://www.ncrlc.com)

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC), headquartered in Des Moines, IA, includes bishops, religious leaders and key persons who are joined in a common effort to serve the rural church, rural people and their communities. Their mission is to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ for the social, economic and spiritual development of rural America with responsibility for the care of God’s creation. Current emphasis is on the following issues: Rural Outreach and Ministry; Stewardship of Creation; Agriculture and Food; and Farm Worker Justice.

### REAP Food Group

[www.reapfoodgroup.org](http://www.reapfoodgroup.org)



The Research, Education, Action and Policy (REAP) Food Group is a non-profit organization based in Madison, WI working to build a regional food

system that is healthful, just and both environmentally and economically sustainable. REAP is committed to projects that shorten the distance from farm to table, support small family farmers, encourage sustainable agricultural practices and address food

security for everyone. They sponsor several programs: Food for Thought Festival; Buy Fresh, Buy Local; Farm to School; Farm Fresh Atlas; Burgers and Brew; Taste of the Town; and Pie Palooza.

### Wormfarm Institute

[www.wormfarminstitute.org](http://www.wormfarminstitute.org)

Dedicated to integrating culture and agriculture, the Wormfarm Institute (Reedsburg, WI) is an evolving laboratory of the arts and ecology. It offers



fertile ground for creative work: “Planting a seed, cultivating, reaping what you sow...both farmer and artist have these activities in

common.” The Wormfarm Institute is a non-profit organization working to build a sustainable future for agriculture and the arts by fostering vital links between people and the land. The Institute sponsors an Artist Residency Program (with residencies of two weeks to six months) and Roadside Culture Stands (beautiful roadside stands that sell fresh, local produce and the work of local artists).

## Taking Action: A Final Note

As people of faith, we are called to be good stewards of the earth. Our faith can help guide our decisions about the food we eat and the farming practices we support; thus, it can help us to be good stewards of the earth’s resources. Use the resources listed here to help foster your congregation’s understanding of and commitment to the link between food, faith and farming!

To find out more about Churches’ Center for Land and People:

Website: [www.cclpmidwest.org](http://www.cclpmidwest.org) • Email: [tomnelson.art@gmail.com](mailto:tomnelson.art@gmail.com) • Phone: 608-438-7154