

Forming faithful stewards, Caring for sacred waters

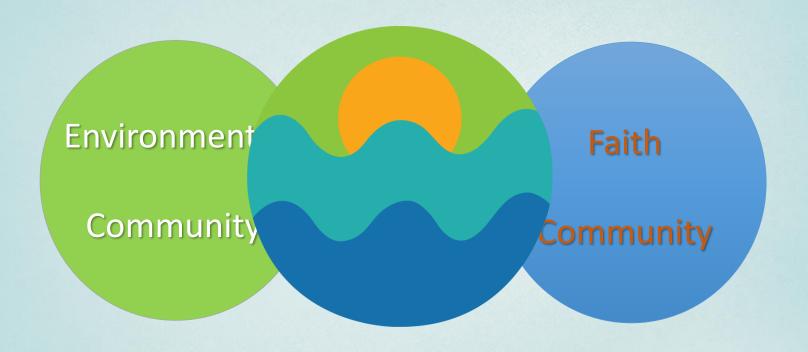
Bonnie Sorak, Outreach Coordinator







Translator



Connector

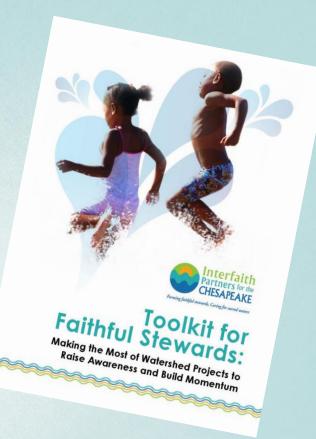


IPC's Role



Information

Formation



Transformation



Faith Teachings on care for the environment



- Christian connect water with baptism and stewardship; broaden "love thy neighbor" to natural world
- Jewish Tikkun O'lam, repair and restoration of the whole world.
 Mikvah a ritual bath
- Muslim unique role and responsibility of the human to be guardians of God's Creation. Ablution – preparing for prayer
- Buddhist interconnectedness of all life, compassion for the suffering of the natural and human world
- Sikh Air is the Teacher, Water is the Father and Earth is the Great Divine Mother of All and we must respect and protect her -Guru Nanak



Our Common Home: Care for Creation = Care for Our Neighbor

"We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature."

Laudato Si, Pope Francis [139]





Water is Sacred Water Connects us to each other



How we treat water is a reflection of our love and respect for God and others.



What Can I and My Faith Community Do?

3 Ways to Spread Hope

Forming Faithful Stewards:

Raise awareness

Caring for Sacred Waters:

Take **action** at your congregation and home

Going forth: Engage in advocacy at the local, state, or federal level

We can help you do all these things!



Trees for Sacred Places
planting at Columbia Jewish
Congregation/Oakland Millis
Interfaith Center, Columbia, MD



Trees – God's Cure-all

Over 14,000 Trees
planted at faith
institutions in
Maryland in 4 years!



Tree Planting Day at Christ the King Episcopal Church, Woodlawn, MD

Find a tree planting program in your watershed!

- Contact your County Dept. of Environment
- Look at MD Dept. of Natural Resources website:
 How to choose & care for trees, Recommended Tree List,
 Coupon for \$25 Off purchase of one tree!



Examples...

- Baltimore Sikh Society Tree-Planting
- Salem Lutheran Downspout Planters

Chizuk Amuno – 3 bioretention systems to capture 2

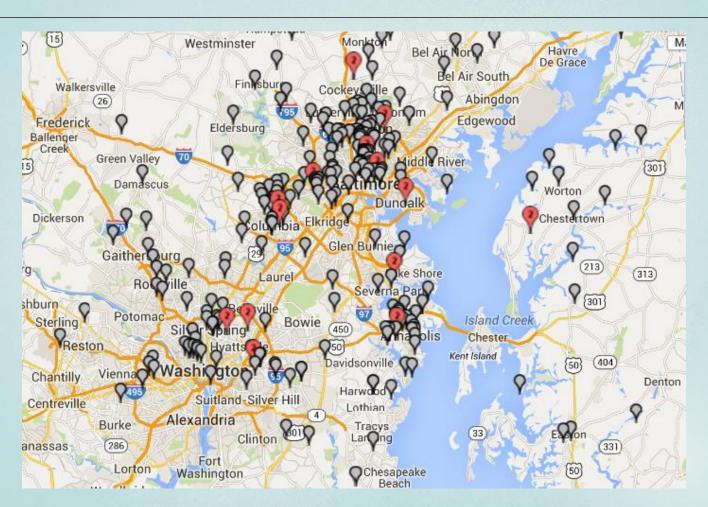
acres of runoff (\$35,000 grant)

- Metropolitan Memorial UMC rain gardens in parking lot
- Maryland Presbyterian Church offsite composting with vendor
- St. John the Baptist energy audit





Who's Doing this Already?



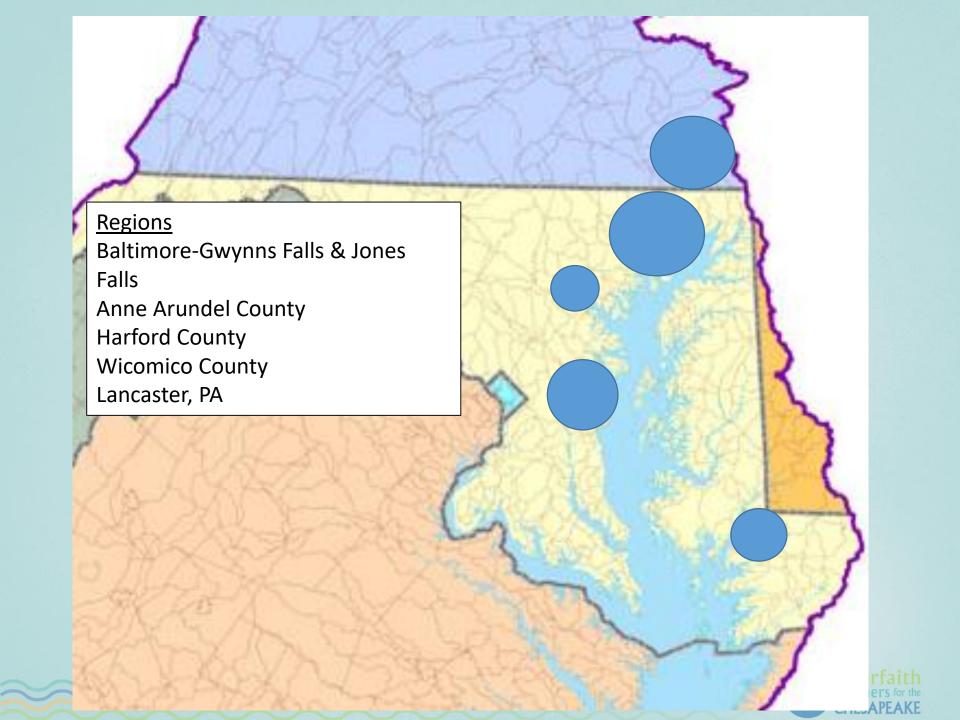












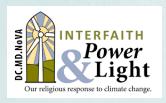






Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund







Jones Falls & Gwynns Falls



Anne Arundel



Harford





Wicomico





Lancaster, PA





Multi-Region Water Quality Goals

- Equivalent of 20.4 Acres of treatment
 - 18.25 lbs. P
 - 12,080 lbs. S
 - 144.98 lbs. N
- Engage 100 new congregations
 - 36 pollution-reducing projects
 - 36 Green Teams
 - 1,525 people with changed behavior
 - Green teams formed
 - Behavior change campaigns
 - Reach 3,750 people
 - 2,095 volunteers
 - Educational events
 - Green Team volunteers
 - Actions such as stream cleanups, tree plantings, etc.



Imagine the Potential...

- Places of Worship in State of Maryland 5,000+
- Places of Worship in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed 16,000+

Let's start the Ripple Effect!



*data from The Association of Religion Data Archives



www.interfaithchesapeake.org

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