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The Answer: Restoring the Bay One Tree at a Time
Trees for Sacred Places partnership helps faith communities take environmental action

(January 19, 2016- Annapolis, MD) The Trees for Sacred Places Program, a partnership between the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance) and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC), is a unique program that brings restoration, community engagement and education to an often overlooked partner in environmental restoration, the faith community.

Participation in the program is available in Maryland for any property that is owned by any faith community. The program facilitates tree plantings on these properties by organizing the planting day and providing a free planting plan prepared by the Alliance, all the necessary planting tools and supplies, and of course, native trees.

Founded in 2013, Trees for Sacred Places has worked with 85 congregations and other faith-owned properties across Maryland to plant 12,149 trees with the help of over 1600 volunteers.

“The entire process was a great experience” says partner Mary Elliott, Reverend at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Baltimore. “We did have a lot of help and it went much faster than anticipated... It was a beautiful day. I am so happy every time I pull into the parking lot and see our little sticks.”

In addition to the Alliance’s tree plantings support, IPC offers congregations a workshop which focuses on the spiritual foundation for environmental stewardship, watershed literacy and the environmental importance of trees. The spiritual teachings are drawn from the faith tradition of the participating congregation including the sacredness of water and the social justice benefits of Bay watershed restoration.

Over the next two years, the program seeks to identify 50 more congregations to plant another 3,000 trees. Thanks to the statewide support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Prince George’s County and Montgomery County, this work will continue. Any faith community that would like to participate should contact Bonnie Sorak at bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org or call 410-609-6852. Will there be clean water for tomorrow’s children? The faith community in Maryland is demonstrating a clear commitment to answer that question with “YES!”

The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided the funding for the trees planted between 2013-
2015. The state’s *Stream Restoration Challenge* invested $6 million in programs like Trees for Sacred Places. “Through environmental literacy projects, we can help our youth understand the critical role they can play as stewards of our lands,” stated MD Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton.

See below for a listing of the congregations and properties we partnered with on this project.

**More about the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

Founded in 1971, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, with headquarters in Annapolis, MD and offices in Pennsylvania and Virginia, works throughout the Bay watershed to lead, support and inspire local action and build partnerships with individuals, communities, governments, businesses, and other groups to restore the Bay and its watershed lands, rivers and streams. For more information on about the Alliance, visit: [allianceforthebay.org](http://allianceforthebay.org)

**More about the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake**

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is dedicated to educating, supporting and motivating the people and communities of faith to care for the Earth and all its inhabitants, beginning with their own home, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. For more information about Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, visit: [interfaithchesapeake.org](http://interfaithchesapeake.org)

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List of Partner Congregations

Baltimore Sikh Society  
1731 Rita Road, Dundalk, MD 21222

Watersedge Church  
3483 Liberty Parkway, Dundalk, MD 21222

Geneva Presbyterian  
11931 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854

Saints Philip and James Parish  
2801 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21218

Temple Emanuel of Baltimore  
909 Berrymans Ln, Reisterstown, MD 21136

Christ Episcopal Church, West River  
220 Owensville Rd, West River, MD 20778

St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church  
1601 Pleasant Plains Rd, Annapolis, MD 21409

Woodbrook Baptist Church  
25 Stevenson Ln, Baltimore, MD 21212

All Saints Lutheran  
16510 Mt Oak Rd, Bowie, MD 20716

St. Andrew’s UMC School  
4 Wallace Manor Rd, Edgewater MD 21307

Friendship United Methodist Church  
22 Sansbury Road, Friendship, MD

Grace United Methodist  
5407 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21212

Union Baptist Church  
1219 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217

Salem Lutheran Church  
3825 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Holy Communion Lutheran Church  
621 Old Fallston Rd, Fallston, MD 21047

Gallery Church East Point Baltimore  
502 Fairview Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore Emmanuel Monastery  
2229 West Joppa Road, Lutherville, MD 21093

Epiphany Episcopal Church  
2216 Pot Spring Rd, Timonium, MD

St. James’ Episcopal Church & Academy  
3100 Monkton Rd, Monkton, MD 21111

St. Mary Anne’s Episcopal  
315 South Main Street, North East, MD 21901

Temple Isaiah  
12200 Scaggsville Rd., Fulton, MD 20759

Covenant United Methodist Church  
Pleasant Ridge Dr., Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Pearlstone Center  
5425 Mt Gilead Rd, Reisterstown, MD 21136

St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church  
14300 St. Thomas Church Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation  
7401 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, Maryland

Washington Adventist Hospital  
7600 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Washington Adventist University  
7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

St. Matthew’s Catholic (in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore)  
5401 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21239

Mt. Olive Baptist Church (in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore)  
West Saratoga Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Little Pines Farm  
Harford County

Bnos Yisroel Girls School Yeshiva  
6300 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215

Faith Presbyterian (in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore)  
5400 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21239

Christ the King Episcopal (in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore)  
1930 Brookdale Road, Woodlawn, MD 21244

Holy Family Catholic Church  
826 W Central Ave, Davidsonville, MD 21035

Clemes Property  
3025 Bennett Point Rd, Queenstown, MD 21658, USA

Am Kolol Retreat Center  
19520 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, MD 20839-3308

Manidokan Camp & Retreat Center  
1600 Harpers Ferry Road, Knoxville, Maryland 21758

Chizuk Amuno Congregation  
8100 Stevenson Road, Baltimore, MD 21208

St. Andrew’s UMC School  
4B Wallace Manor Rd, Edgewater, MD 21037

Pearlstone Center  
5425 Mt Gilead Rd, Reisterstown, MD 21136

Annapolis Friends Meeting  
351 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD 21401

Rockbridge Christian Academy  
911 Generals Hwy, Millersville, MD 21108

Payne Memorial  
7901 Brock Bridge Rd, Jessup, MD

Parole  
2 Hicks Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401

Second Baptists  
1808 Poplar Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401

Silas First Baptist  
91 W Earleigh Heights Rd, Severna Park, MD 21146