



Interfaith
Partners for the
CHESAPEAKE

God Makes the Rain We Make the Runoff

www.interfaithchesapeake.org

Forming Faithful Stewards, Caring for Sacred Waters

IPC is building a network of faith advocates who...

- Deeply care for creation as a reflection of their love for God and others
- Model behavior in their congregations and neighborhoods
- Bring to bear the faith-based voice on issues

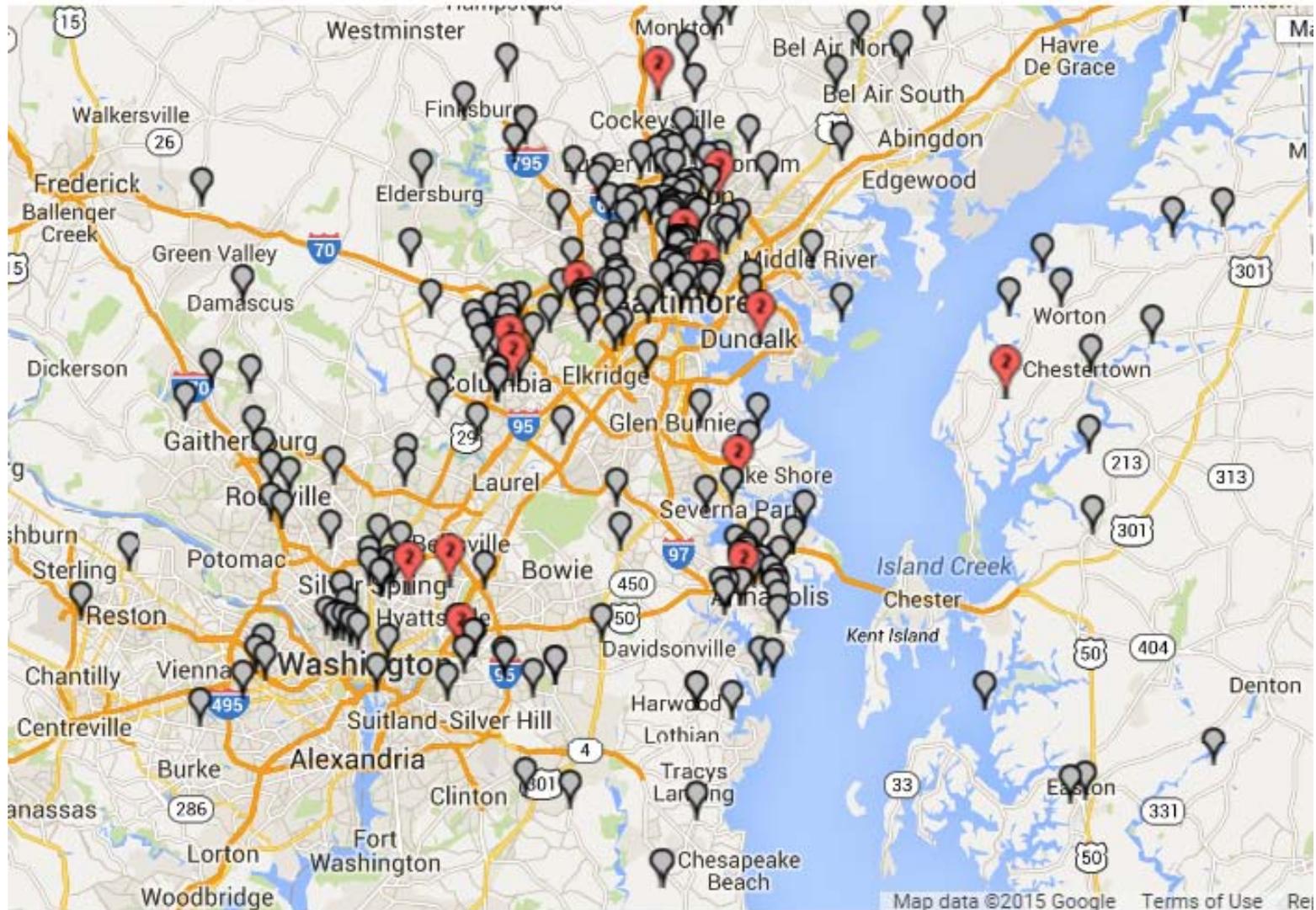


How does IPC build this network?

- Spiritual Resources
- On-Site Projects
- Gatherings
- Relationship-building



Who are we working with?



God Calls Us to Care for Creation and One Another





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



Water As GOD's First Relationship



One Body



Water Equity is a Social Justice Issue

The issue of water equity is about

- Human life
- Plight of the poor
- Right to life



Water Quality
is about
Social Justice

Water Is a Human Right

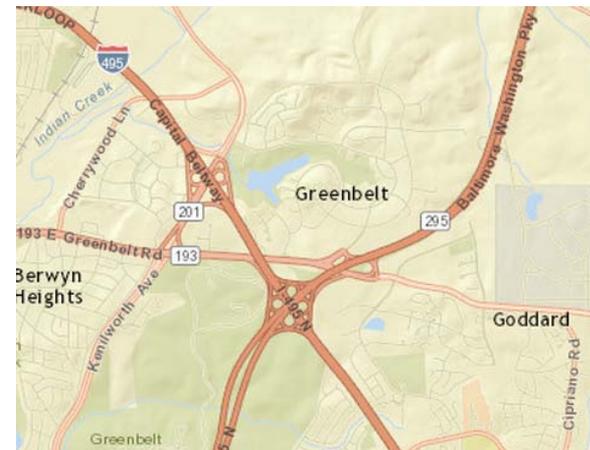
- What people do and who they become is shaped by where and how they have access to fresh, clean water.” (*Just Water*, Christina Peppard, 2014)
- UN Estimate: By 2025, 180M people will be living in regions with absolute water scarcity; 2/3 of the world will be under stress conditions
- Water quality degradation and water scarcity will affect the poor foremost

Not everyone can afford to buy their water – *who will be banished to the desert?*



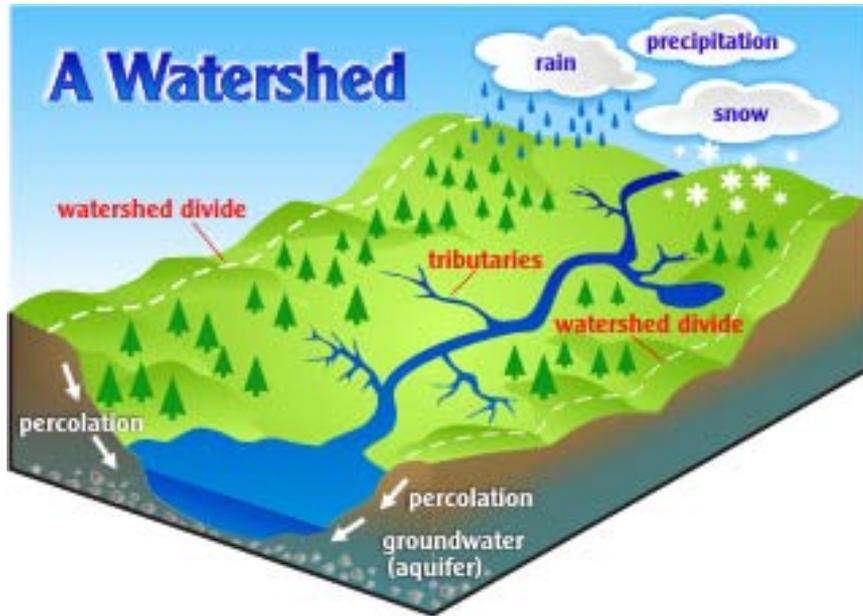
Need to Protect What Little We Have

- Less than 2.5% of water on Earth is fresh water
- Only 1% is available for human use
- Of that, 30% is groundwater; only 0.3% is surface water
- Drinking water for Prince George's County water comes local rivers: Potomac and Patuxent Rivers*



*[Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission](#)

What is a Watershed?



We are persuaded that the best way to orient the church's ecological work and witness is through bioregional literacy, planning and action, which focus on the actual watersheds that we inhabit.

~ Ched Myers, Theologian

<http://watersheddiscipleship.org/>

3 Elements:

- 1) Ecological Readings of Scripture
- 2) "Re-placed" Theology, Spirituality and Practices
- 3) Watershed Ecclesiology

We live in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

EIGHT BASINS OF THE CHESAPEAKE

① SUSQUEHANNA

② POTOMAC

③ JAMES

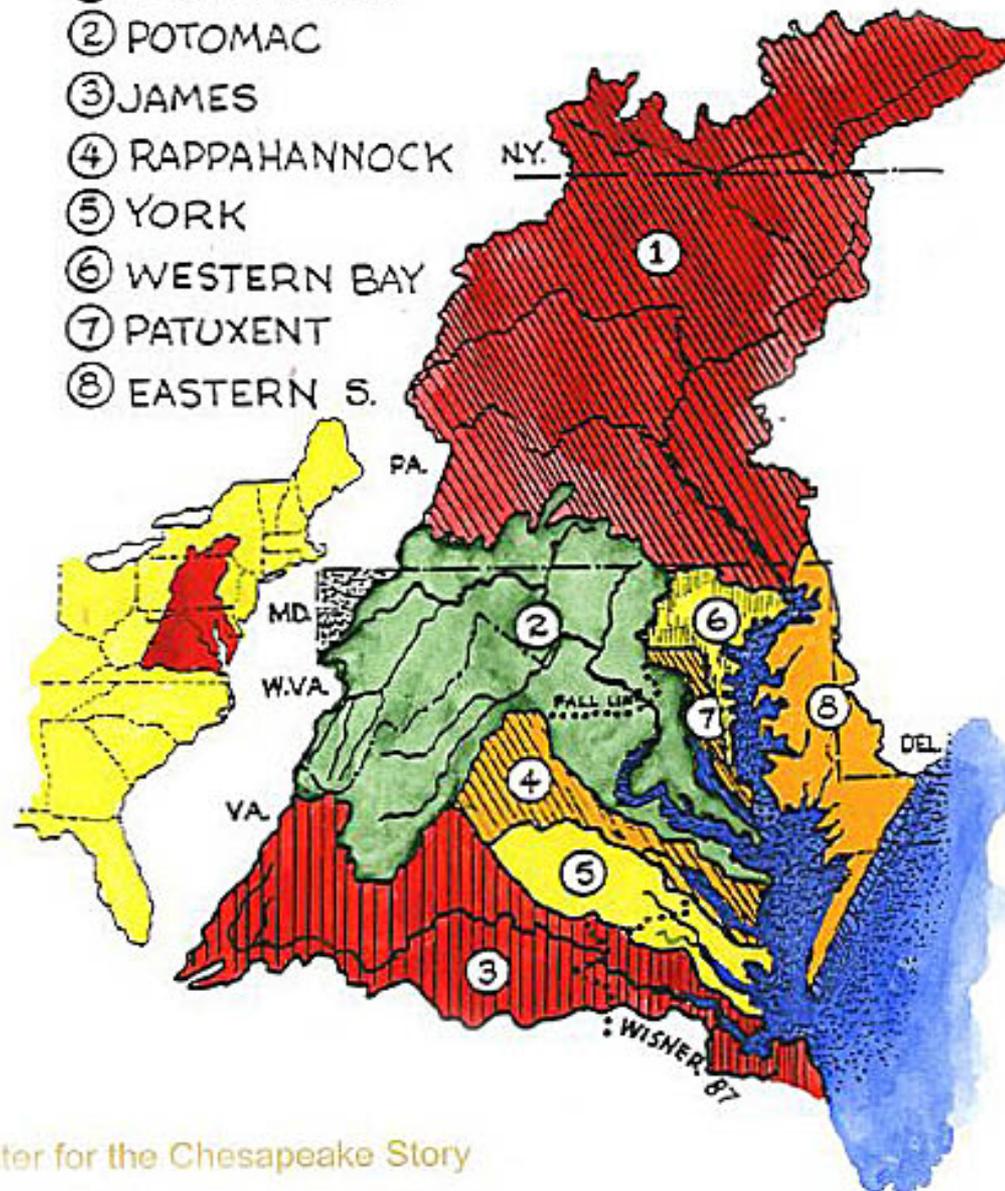
④ RAPPAHANNOCK NY.

⑤ YORK

⑥ WESTERN BAY

⑦ PATUXENT

⑧ EASTERN S.



God Makes the Rain

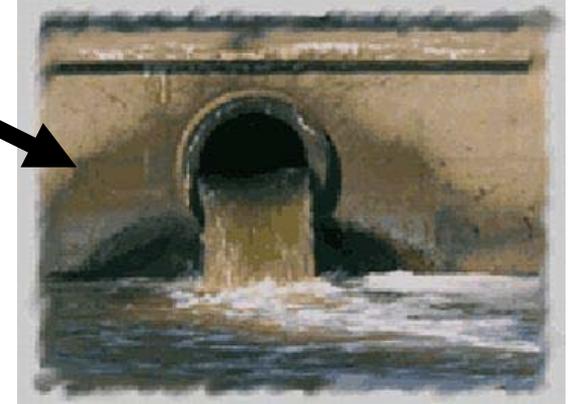
...But we make the runoff



Rain falls here and
combines with
pollutants



Heads to the drains
and brings with it all
pollutants in its path –
it is now
polluted runoff



Polluted runoff empties
into our streams and
rivers which lead to the
Bay





Sources of Surface Water Degradation

- Trash
- Raw Sewage
- Industrial and Legacy Toxics
- Polluted Runoff*



Photo courtesy of
Chesapeake Bay Program

****Polluted Runoff is the only source of pollution that is still increasing in the Bay***

Where do I begin?

- Complex problems do not have one-size-fits-all solutions
- You must begin with what you have influence over
 - Your community
 - Your actions
 - Your elected officials
- You can change hearts and minds
- Root yourself in hope!





Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church



What can your congregation do?

- In-the-ground projects on their property
 - Tree-plantings
 - Rain gardens
 - Rain barrels
 - Downspout disconnection
 - Community gardens
 - Parking lot changes to control runoff
- Letter-writing on public issues
- Teach Congregants what they can do at home
- Invite IPC or other speakers to help raise awareness



What is the Trees for Sacred Places Project?



- A partnership
 - Contributes the Maryland state goal of reforestation
 - Offers:
 - a Spiritual and Environmental Workshop
 - Planting plan using all native trees
 - Crew leader, training and tools for planting day
- All FREE!**
- Can be a component of your Alternative Compliance and Sacred Grounds project.

Why Plant Trees?

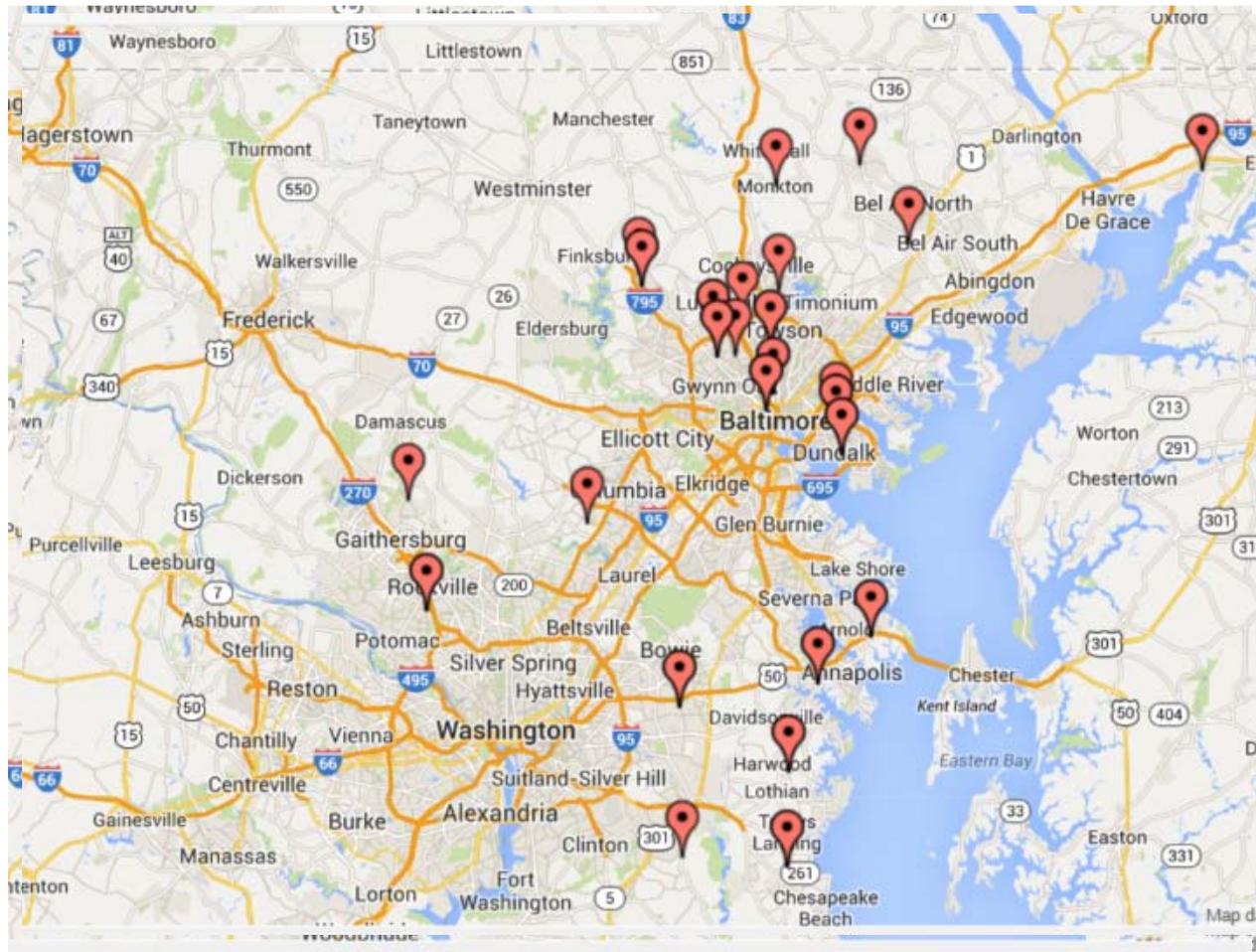
Benefits for whole ecosystem/ harmony in Creation
Contributes to: health & healing the web of life

- Watershed stewardship
- Restore habitat for wildlife
- Filter pollution, prevent runoff, improve water quality
- Prevent soil erosion
- Reduce carbon footprint



“the leaves of the tree for the healing of the nations” Rev. 22:2

Trees for Sacred Places: Impact Over Time



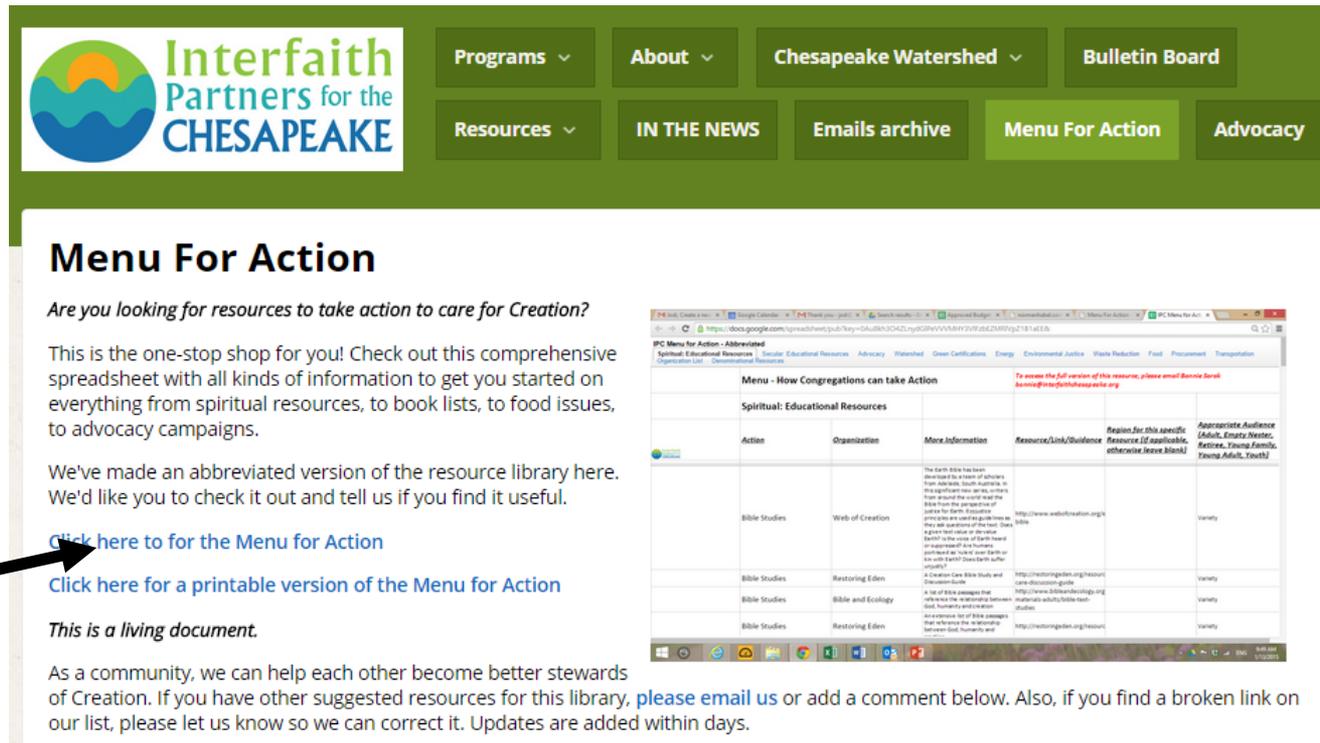
2013

2014

2015

Looking for more Ideas?

Start at: www.interfaithchesapeake.org
Click at top: Menu for Action



Interfaith Partners for the CHESAPEAKE

Programs ▾ About ▾ Chesapeake Watershed ▾ Bulletin Board

Resources ▾ IN THE NEWS Emails archive **Menu For Action** Advocacy

Menu For Action

Are you looking for resources to take action to care for Creation?

This is the one-stop shop for you! Check out this comprehensive spreadsheet with all kinds of information to get you started on everything from spiritual resources, to book lists, to food issues, to advocacy campaigns.

We've made an abbreviated version of the resource library here. We'd like you to check it out and tell us if you find it useful.

[Click here to for the Menu for Action](#)

[Click here for a printable version of the Menu for Action](#)

This is a living document.

As a community, we can help each other become better stewards of Creation. If you have other suggested resources for this library, [please email us](#) or add a comment below. Also, if you find a broken link on our list, please let us know so we can correct it. Updates are added within days.

Menu - How Congregations can take Action		To access the full version of this resource, please email Barrie Savel		
Spiritual: Educational Resources				
Action	Organization	More information	Resource/Link/Guidance	Appropriate Audience (Adult, Emancipator, Retiree, Young Family, Young Adult, Youth)
Bible Studies	Web of Creation	The earth Bible has been developed by a team of scholars from Africa, South America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and the Pacific. It is a unique Bible that reflects the values and concerns of the world's poor and marginalized. It is a Bible that is relevant to the lives of all people, especially those who are poor and marginalized. It is a Bible that is a gift to the world.	http://www.webofcreation.org/	Variety
Bible Studies	Restoring Eden	A Creation Care Bible Study and Devotional Guide	http://restoringeden.org/resources/creation-care-bible-study/	Variety
Bible Studies	Bible and Ecology	A set of Bible passages that address the relationship between God, humanity and creation	http://www.bibleandecology.org/	Variety
Bible Studies	Restoring Eden	A Creation Care Bible Study and Devotional Guide	http://restoringeden.org/resources/creation-care-bible-study/	Variety

Help us build the library! This is a living Database.

Be a Public Advocate

- Write
 - Your legislator
 - Op-Eds and LTE's
- Organize discussions at your congregation
- Who will be the voice to ensure Clean Water for All?





Interfaith
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CHESAPEAKE

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Bulletin Board

IN THE NEWS

Programs

Past Programs

Current Program

10,000 Trees

That sounds like a lot of trees, but 10,000 trees will do a lot for the water and the land. That is why IPC is recruiting congregations to help.

This program is for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. IPC will provide education, training, and spiritual support in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and work with you to help you understand the spirituality of stewardship and water in our faith traditions. We will provide wide hands-on training for tree planting and maintenance and invite your congregations' volunteers on the planting day. [MORE](#)

Blue Water Congregations

Building off the success of the 2013 ScWAP program (see below), Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and Blue Water Baltimore are excited to offer this outstanding program to congregations in Baltimore City/County who wish to install stormwater management practices on their grounds! As property owners, congregations can reduce their contribution of polluted runoff by installing rain gardens, retrofitting their parking lots, and other best management practices. This program offers congregations the

Email Address

Join

Events
and news

Programs to
engage your
congregation

Resources

**GOD MAKES THE
RAIN, BUT WE MAKE
THE RUNOFF**

Get It?

Earth Day



**An
Excellent
Resource**

for worship and

God – the world is a mess. Why don't you do something?!?



Matthew West
"Into the Light"

I did.
I created you.

Imagine the Potential...

- **Prince George's County, MD : 750 Congregations**
only about 10% of these are enrolled in the
Alternative Compliance Program

Let's Start the Ripple Effect!

*Data from the Association of Religion Data Archives
<http://www.thearda.com/rcms2010/>

