



### Trees for Sacred Places (TFSP) Testimonials 2013-2015

*This past fall we planted 91 trees on our three acre property. Nearly 50 people of our parish participated including children as young as three. The project gave birth to a green committee which has now installed energy efficient lights and is looking at a rain garden and rain barrels. Some of our "planters" are turning parts of their lawns into forests too.*

~Pastor John Burk, Holy Communion Church, Fallston

Video testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aFWHu2pV34>

*WAU would like to thank for your contribution to Service Day Spring 2015! The message was quite provocative and resonated with us all. We will remember to "send downstream what we would desire to receive from upstream (paraphrase)." We pray this is not the last time we are able to partner with IPC, WAH, and the city of Takoma Park in service. May God richly bless you and increase your ministry.*

~ Kaneil Williams, Washington Adventist University Chaplain of Missions, Takoma Park

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*On behalf of Washington Adventist Hospital, thank you Kolya and everyone else for the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile, environmentally-responsible partnership.*

~Marc Bloom, Executive Director, Community Relations/Support Services, Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park

*The [spiritual and environmental education] workshop was a wonderful addition to our Tu Beshvat programming and will serve as good reflection piece come May when we get to the actual planting.*

~Rabbi/Cantor Rhoda JH Silverman, Temple Emanuel of Baltimore

*Please let me add my appreciation to Rabbi Silverman's. I was delighted to meet you and have you present to and join our congregation for the afternoon. I was thinking how nice it would be to tell the religious school students that the trees (which they will help plant) are THEIR trees, and to direct their attention to how well they are growing over the years.*

~Daniel Rosen, AICP, Conservation Program Development & Implementation, Maryland Department of Planning, member of Temple Emanuel of Baltimore

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*The trees we planted at Friendship United Methodist Church in Spring 2014 are thriving! We had such a great turnout on planting day, everyone was energized for what turned out to be a wonderful faith-in-action effort that served as a great example for the larger community, which happens to be very near the shores of Herring Bay.*

~Jennifer Greiner, Habitat Goal Team Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, member of Friendship United Methodist Church, Friendship



**Workshop Attendee Responses to the Question: "How has this changed you?"**

*Educate more people about the benefits of trees.*

*I will volunteer for the tree planting project.*

*Reduce runoff on my home property.*

~TFSP Workshop participants, St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church, Easton

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*I will think about trees differently after this!*

*I'm going to plant a tree for the first time in my yard.*

~TFSP Workshop participants, Watersedge Baptist Church, Dundalk

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*The workshop was beautiful. Loved the Web of Life activity--- great! Showed that the environment is a system – what happens to the whole system when one part is removed.*

*Everyone could participate! -- all ages, all abilities*

~Rosie Perthel, Geneva Presbyterian Church, Potomac

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*I am so excited about this program!*

~TFSP Workshop participant, Union Baptist Church, Baltimore

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*I loved the connection between religion and today's planting.*

*Devotion and motivation are all connected.*

*Plant more native species.*

~TFSP Workshop participants, Gallery Church, Baltimore

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*I learned that runoff control is essential to maintaining the health of the watershed.*

*Push congregation to take a more active role, especially on property; and in my own yard!*

~TFSP Workshop participants, All Saints Lutheran Church, Bowie

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*Plant more trees. Less monoculture landscaping.*

~TFSP Workshop participants, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Upper Marlboro

*Plant more trees, install rain garden.*

*Protect what we have.*

~Epiphany Episcopal Church, Timonium

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*Diminish lawn and increase perennials and native plants.*

*Connect with the small stream on our property.*

~ TFSP Workshop participants, Holy Communion Lutheran Church, Falston