

Let's get serious about climate change

BY CHERYL JACOBS

Genesis 1.31: *God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.*

Creation is, indeed, very good. And though climate change is a serious threat to our world and the creatures in it, we know that the Creator is still at work and can renew anything.

Yet, we cannot ignore our responsibility to tend this garden that God has given us. To do so is part of our worship as well as our witness.

This is the first in a new series on how we can further green up ourselves and our churches. Each article will provide a scriptural base, an idea to raise awareness and both a personal and parish action suggestion.

Individual action: Take some time to contemplate how climate change affects you, perhaps by reflecting on a favourite feature of creation (e.g., a place, plant, animal or event).

First, be thankful; then consider if anything has changed about this thing or is likely to change in the future because of climate change? How does this change make you feel?

Trust God with any pain, concern or fear. Ask God to provide you with hope in this



and other aspects of the situation of climate change.

Parish action: Recruit a parish Green Team.

To help with this, or as a first action, invite every church member to a Faithful Climate Conversation.

The *For the Love of Creation* website offers four guides to facilitate small group conversations on climate change for various levels of background in the subject.

Resources (links at nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp):

- *Faith in Action* series – Building hope for tomorrow in the face of climate change – offered by the Parish of St. Mary, York
- *Greening Your Church*, by Norman Lévesque, Novalis Publishing Inc., 2014
- *The 7 Fruits of Greening Your Church* (<https://youtu.be/vSpLPqRAE68>)

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