



Summer Newsletter July, 2008

Dear MIP&L Members and Friends,



Ahhh, summer.
Sweet,
Sweaty,
Somnolent,
Summer.

**A time for rest & reflection.
A time for *Shabbat*.**

But also a time to do some serious planning for your house of worship's inevitably more expensive 08-09 winter energy usage.

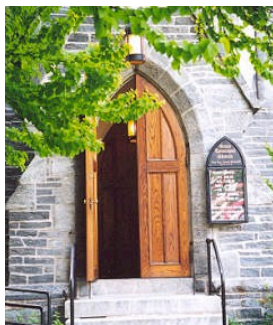
Remember, MIP&L has a HUGE variety of "mutual ministry" resources available to you on our website.

[Come on over to MIPandL.org](http://MIPandL.org) and stay a while!

In this early summer issue of our newsletter you'll find...MIP&L at the Lowell Folk Festival...a grace-filled story of creation-ministry at Grace Church, Amherst...how teenage Episcopalians in Massachusetts are determined to save our precious planet...and more.

Read on!

Mutual Ministry Notes: from Grace Church, Amherst



For as long as I can remember, I have been bothered by waste: of things, of energy (human and other kinds), of time, you name it. Perhaps this is inherited from my parents who lived through the Depression, though they modeled using resources carefully without talking about it.

When I was teaching in Brookline, my Pre-Kindergarteners caught on quickly, wasted very little and indeed were the first in the school to push for paper recycling. (*A little child shall lead them.*)

My move to Amherst, MA, was a plus as far as environmental awareness is concerned. No sooner had I joined Grace Church than a committee, Greening Grace, was set up to keep "green" on the minds of all as we renovated and restored the buildings. How fortunate we were that The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas had just joined the staff of the church and agreed to lead the committee. She articulated, more clearly than I had ever done, the spirituality of the issue of

Breaking News

[Governor Deval Patrick signs landmark Green Communities Act](#)

What is our "Mutual Ministry?"

"Mutual ministry" in the context of environmental stewardship recognizes two fundamental realities for the community-of-faith

1. All are called to minister, not just clergy.
2. For everyday applications of faith, we understand, learn and then implement best and easiest when a friend, colleague, neighbor helps.

Said simply, for energy actions, you don't need to understand the engineering, you simply need to know the "right thing to do", and the best way to know that is hear it from someone you know and trust.

So each of us has the assignment of being ready to respond to the call for "help"!

-Tom Nutt-Powell
President & Co-Founder of
MIP&L

Quick Links

environmental stewardship. God has created and given us this beautiful earth and we need to love and care for it. It's as simple and as complex as that. Margaret's gentle leadership has converted many who had ignored the environmental issue before.

Greening Grace now is involved with many other things beside church restoration - a Polar Bear Plunge in December in an icy river attracted many in the community including the swim team from the local high school - Keep Winter Cold! The bottled water issue is a concern nationwide and we are sharing the information that Amherst water is tested four times daily as opposed to bottled water - mostly never. Plastic bags - we will be selling canvas bags at our Christmas Fair. We have sold CFL bulbs at coffee hours. In March, 2007, many people, including Margaret, left Northampton in a blizzard following a rousing speech by Bill McKibben and walked to Boston, stopping overnight at local churches and synagogues and offering evening programs on climate change. A huge rally in Copley Square followed a service in Old South attended by hundreds. Religious Witness for the Earth sponsored this Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue. Greening Grace also took part in SteptUp I and II and Focus the Nation. We've had large and small eco fairs. Monthly, we write an Eco-Tip for the church newsletter. About a dozen people went on the Low Carbon Diet during Lent. We've been very supportive of the move in the Pioneer Valley to "eat local." There was a huge controversy about building a BioMass plant directly upwind from Amherst and we learned all about it and offered our opinions to anyone who wanted to listen!

That just scratches the surface of what we have done in the four years I have lived here. However, we aren't even making a dent in all that needs to be done to save God's wonderful creation, this fragile earth, our island home.

Ann S. Lowell
Grace Church, Amherst

C'mon out and visit MIP&L at the Lowell Folk Festival!!

How can you beat great music, great ethnic food, and getting your "green" on- all at the same time?!

The Lowell Folk Festival kicks off Friday evening, July 25 at the Dutton Pavillion in downtown Lowell and continues over the entire weekend throughout the city of Lowell.



Look for the MIP&L table! We'll be there with all kinds of helpful info & advice on kick-starting an environmental ministry at your house of worship, and how you can energize your faith community to join in!

[Find out more about the Lowell Folk Festival.](#)

[Check out "Izzitgreen"](#)
[\(Get the scoop on "green" or NOT?\)](#)

[Get a copy of the documentary Renewal from MIP&L](#)

Young Episcopalians
with a Passion to Save
Creation

Read about the
Diocese of
Massachusetts' Youth
Leadership Academy
and a group of
amazing young
people who are doing
God's work through
greening their homes
and churches.

MIP&L is proud to be
a part of their effort.
We are inspired by
these kids, and you
will be, too!

[In the current issue
of the Episcopal
Times.](#)



Declare your Energy Independence!!!!
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Because if we don't, who will?

Sincerely,
Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light