



September 4, 2008

Dear Committee Chairs of Compassion, Social Justice, Clerks of Session, Stewardship, Peacemaking & 2-cents-a-meal Contact People of Florida Presbytery:

As the presbytery's Hunger Action Enabler and Stewardship of Creation Enabler, we're proud to present to you the presbytery's Lifestyle Integrity Challenge 2008-2009. The presbytery's Compassion and Social Justice Committees have been working hard these summer months on a way to help church members and congregations become intentional about the way they live. How we live our individual and family lives is a very personal matter, but it also has global implications. In this world where some go hungry because many consume too much of the world's resources, the Presbyterian Hunger Program encourages families, church groups, and institutions to evaluate their own needs and develop new ways of being more caring and sharing of God's world.

The psalmist reminds us: **"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1).** Together let's encourage one another to be better stewards of God's creation and of the resources with which God has so richly blessed us. Together let's encourage one another to be better stewards of God's creation and the resources with which God has so richly blessed us. We will be presenting this challenge over the next year. A new area of emphasis will be introduced every two months. To aid us in this challenge, we ask individuals and congregations to consider adopting 1 or more practices under each of the areas identified for the Lifestyle Integrity Challenge. **Following are the seven areas of emphasis and the proposed timetable for this challenge:**

September - October 2008 - 1. Energy Efficiency- Using energy more efficiently leads to less demand for energy, and helps control fuel prices, makes fuel available to more people and helps the environment.

November - December 2008 - 2. Food and Health - What, how and how much we eat of certain foods determines our health. The better care we take of ourselves the more time, energy, and money we can use to serve God and others.

January - February 2009 - 3. Purchasing - What we purchase and how much we purchase affects our budgets, determines the use of the world's resources to produce goods and energy, and in turn, determines the availability of resources for the rest of the world.

March - April 2009 - 4. Water Usage - The more water we use, the less it is available to others.

May - June 2009 - 5. Transportation - The use of private and public transportation impacts our resources and the world's resources, and affects our communities.

July - August 2009 - 6. Financial Stewardship - Being good stewards of the wealth God has blessed us with is both a duty and good sense. The more we save, the less we spend, frees up money to serve God and the world with and provides the needs of our loved ones.

September - October 2009 - 7. Recycling - Recycling resources and reusing items is kind to the environment and our pocketbooks.

November - December 2009 - Evaluation - How did we do? What area was the most challenging for you? For your family? What area was easiest for you? For your family? Which area needs the most work? What new ways can you address these areas of lifestyle integrity?

Please find enclosed a reproducible flyer, a bulletin insert, a suggested minute for mission, and challenge cards for promotion in your congregation. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us with any questions you may have about the challenge or success stories that we may share with others. May God bless our endeavors to be faithful stewards of God's beautiful world!

Grace & peace,

Pam McVety, Stewardship of Creation Enabler

Pamela P. McVety

Jean Silva, Hunger Action Enabler

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