

April 1, 2008

Choir,

No, this is not an April Fool's letter, though I just realized the date! I finally have some more substantial information to give you re: the Earth Day Celebration program on Saturday, April 12. Printed here is the text of the poster that has been sent out to the churches of the New Hampshire Conference:

Earth Day Celebration

*Focusing on the greening of our
worship, liturgies, hymns, and sermons*

**South Church UCC
27 Pleasant Street
Concord
April 12, 2008
8:30 a.m. to noon**

Eight church choirs' anthems and New Century Hymnal
Congregational hymns will celebrate the sacred in the earth

John Hart, Professor of Eco-Theology at Boston University
School of Theology will give the keynote address:

***“Melting Mountains, Burning Farms:
Global Warming and Christian Faith”***

All within the setting of a program of earth care
worship and liturgy

Not to miss: especially for pastors, worship and
music people, social justice committees and

general population!

Put it on your calendar now!

It certainly is planned to be a big deal - I am sorry that the publicity has been practically nil - it seems that Conference events aren't always publicized very well at all at the local church level . . .

At any rate, I know that it is a lot to ask of you to spend this much time, though I do believe, from a "green" standpoint, that it should be worth it, from what I can see of the plans for this service/conference/event.

Will you all let me know one way or another by Thursday, April 3, or no later than Sunday, April 6 whether or not you can attend? We will be the host choir, though I believe there may only be 4 church choirs involved rather than the 8 the committee had hoped for. The groups would include, as of this writing:

Northwood Madbury First UCC, Concord South Congo

Now, for the music, I am trying to get a setting of an ee cummings poem completed by Thursday night. That may take more doing than I am able to do in its entirety, so, we will also work on: "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter; "The Song of Creation" by Wilbur Held (unison!); "I Sing As I Arise Today" (unison!) - a hymn done as an anthem from the Episcopal Hymnal. These, except possibly the Rutter, are all easy. We will work on these the next two Thursday night rehearsals in addition to our regular music.

Can we have a reasonable sized group for this event? I do hope so! You will all earn extra stars, I promise!

Sincerely,

Mark