



## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2015**

**9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

(RE at 11:00 am only)

**“Giving Life the Shape  
of . . .”**

**-Rev. Matthew Cockrum**

**OCTOBER 4, 2015**

**9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

(RE at 11:00 am only)

**“Black Lives Matter:  
From Walden Pond to  
Ferguson”**

**-Rev. Tom Goldsmith**

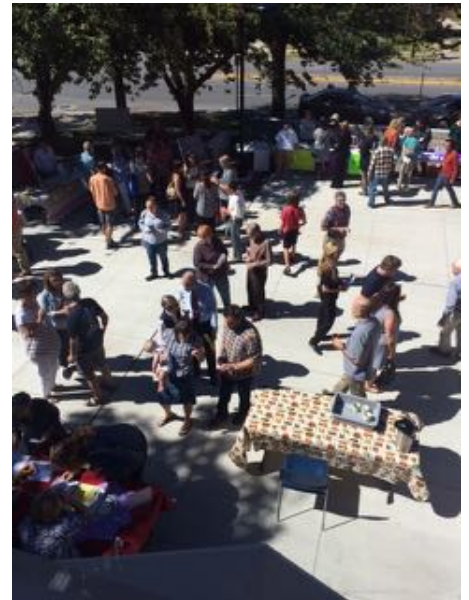
**OCTOBER 11, 2015**

**9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

(RE at 11:00 am only)

**“Ten Commandments  
for an Imperfect  
World”**

**-Rev. Tom Goldsmith**



*Activities Fair 2015 - photos by Lori Shields*

## Auction 2015 - A New Approach

*-Submitted by Julia Rossi*

Our Auction this year will be held on November 14, 2015

The last fund raising auction we had was in January of 2014. Terry Tempest Williams was our guest of honor and the auction was a big success. We generally raise between \$32,000 and \$40,000 which is a lot of money and really important to our church. So why don't we have it every year? Well, frankly there is something called burnout and it doesn't just happen to the auction committee. Donors burn out too and so do attendees. We have been dipping from the same well for quite some time. The same people work on the committee, the same people come to the auction, the same people donate to the auction and, often, the same people spend money at the auction! So this year we want to recruit some new donations, increase attendance, and focus on populations that rarely attend such as young adults and parents of young children. We may offer discount tickets or younger people or first time attendees. We are going to look for some donations that will appeal to the younger set. If you have ideas on how we can improve the auction and have a broader appeal, please contact Julia Rossi, Auction Chairperson ([auction@slcuu.org](mailto:auction@slcuu.org)) Hope to see you there!

## First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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The Torch is published approximately 23 times per year, every other week during the regular church year & once per month during the summer.

### Next Publication Date

October 12, 2015

### Submission Deadline

October 5, 2015 (Monday)  
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after September 29th to ensure timeliness.

### Editor

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To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext. 202 or [torch@slcuu.org](mailto:torch@slcuu.org)

# Congregational Briefs

## First Church Orientation & Information Sessions

Third Thursday and First Sunday. Remember that! New to First Church? Been around awhile but considering becoming a member? Now there are monthly chances for you to meet others, ask questions, learn more Unitarian Universalist and First Church history. Beginning on Sunday, October 4, and continuing on the First Sundays of each month thereafter, Rev. Matthew Cockrum (and other First Church celebrities) will be on-hand in the Parlor between services (10:15-11:00) for a brief conversation and informal info session. Beginning on Thursday, October 22 and on the third Thursdays of the month thereafter (we know...the 22nd isn't a 3rd Thursday), Revs. Tom Goldsmith and Matthew Cockrum will lead inquiry sessions at church, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Please contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum at [clminister@slcuu.org](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org) or 801.582.8687 ext. 205 to reserve a space for Thursday the 22nd and to request child care if needed. No reservation needed for Sundays.

## Hospitality Happening

Consider yourself a welcoming person? Need a good excuse to be an extrovert? Like having a task to do in Coffee Hour? Consider volunteering as an Usher, Greeter or member of the Coffee Crew one Sunday a month. A simple training will take place after services on Sunday, October 11, 12:45-2:15 (with treats provided). For more information contact the Rev. Matthew Cockrum, Congregational Life Minister at [clminister@slcuu.org](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org) or 801.582.8687 ext. 205.

## Fall Highway Cleanup

Please set aside a couple of hours on Saturday morning, October 3, to keep Utah beautiful by joining our group of volunteers to remove litter along a 4-mile stretch of State Road 65 extending from Mountain Dell towards East Canyon. Remember, you get to keep any treasures you find (\$,\$\$\$,\$\$\$\$-?). Meet at THE church at 9:00 AM to carpool, or at 9:30AM at the Parleys Canyon UDOT maintenance facility adjacent to the Mountain Dell golf course. The state requires that participants be eleven years of age or older.....BUT, there is no upper limit. Bring gloves and a positive attitude. We should be finished by 11:30 AM. For any questions, or to sign up, please contact Frank Steffey at 801-277-2509. Anybody interested in taking over the leadership of this beneficial activity should also contact Frank Steffey.

## Home Hosting

After the Parliament of World Religions, if you've still got time on your calendar, bandwidth in your life to attend or room in your house to provide home hospitality to conference-goers, please contact the

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# Reverently Yours

I'm writing this column while Pope Francis is still in Cuba, a day away from touching U.S. soil. So it is likely that by the time you read these words you'll be suffering from Papal Fatigue. You won't feel like you'll be needing still more commentary on the pope known best for swimming against the tide.

The acronym Kiss: Keep It Simple Stupid, might well describe Pope Francis' M.O.

Strip his speaking platform of everything ornate, down to a simple plywood seat upon which he will occasionally sit. Pope Francis, I have read, has a singing voice similar to mine, so others will lead those parts in the liturgy that call for more melodic chanting. (There's something a little off when God's primary representative on earth can't carry a tune. Perhaps singing is left best for the angels).

The fact that Pope Francis will address poor immigrants in Spanish will make a lot of American presidential candidates nervous, especially Donald Trump who opposes everyone who's bi-lingual. Regardless, however, in which language the Pope speaks, his message, wrapped in the very essence of his being, will make clear to all who have ears to hear that the poor are suffering unnecessarily due largely to the greed of wealth.

Pope Francis arrives to our shores just as Christianity boasts absurd propositions like God loves the rich, God wants you to be rich, and God makes you rich because He likes you. American Christianity has a distinct capitalist flavor, subscribing more to the ideas of Ayn Rand than Jesus of Nazareth.

The Pope interprets Christianity quite differently. Relying on the gifts of Liberation Theologians from the 1950's and 60's, Pope Francis prepares a major overhaul of Christianity by regarding Jesus exclusively as an advocate for the poor. The Vatican never liked that idea 50 years ago, and accused theology that addressed the needs of the poor as Marxist. (Names, names, names). The Catholic hierarchy felt particularly defensive

## Rev. Tom Goldsmith

because it was named as belonging to the privileged class that oppresses the poor. Any rational being would understand that the church had billions of dollars in assets to protect. You just can't give it away.

But Liberation Theology never pretended to be rational when it came to protecting privilege. Their point of view, quite simply, makes "sin" a target to be eradicated. They define sin as would any upstanding Unitarian Universalist: The systemic perpetuation of social injustice, poverty, and human rights violations.

Liberation theologians may get into a bit of trouble when they profess that God has a preference for the poor and marginalized and powerless. Scripture does not exactly prioritize God's preferences. If you get into that game you could just as well proclaim that God has a preference for white supremacists or for large CEO bonuses. But imagine if you were God. No, go ahead, and for a moment pretend you're God. And you look down from your heavenly perch and see this enormous income disparity; a few people living in 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Penthouse apartments and a disproportionate number of poor living in squalor. What would be your preference if you were God? It's that divine spark that rests in all our souls that make us strive for justice. And for those who don't, they have let greed douse their flame of divinity and thus live their lives in sin. It's a very simple equation.

The Pope comes at the right time as America weighs the direction of it's future to be voted upon next November. We hear a lot of hate against immigrants; we hear an inclination to strip health care from millions of the poor; we hear of exploiting our earth's precious resources for personal gain. I am comfortable injecting the word "sin" into the conversation. Sin that must be eradicated at least at the polls. I'm comfortable regarding Jesus as an advocate for the poor. For whom else? The rich have their loopholes. Let the poor have Jesus. TRG

# In the Life

We're finally entering my favorite season...autumn! It even sounds yummy...with the "um" sound at the end. Every year following September 21 I can feel the anticipation for crisp air, crisper leaves, opportunities to wear sweaters. I can't remember a time when I didn't like this season.

It's a tougher time for some of us...those who are light sensitive...those who turn in darker days and longer nights toward darker moods.

**Queer Activism in Salt Lake City** - The National GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Task Force is supporting a conference, Faith & Family LGBTQ Power Summit, in Salt Lake City at the Radisson Hotel Downtown, October 20-23. This conference is, in part, designed to create a counter to religious and political conservative movements that fund homophobia around the world.

From the conference website (<http://www.thetaskforce.org/utah-faith-family-lgbtq-summit/>):

"The Faith & Family LGBTQ Power Summit is a four-day gathering that, through the lens of racial and gender justice, will provide inspiration, skills, capacity building and concrete strategies as we explore how our faith and the practice of radical welcome can build grassroots power. Hear from experts like the Southern Poverty Law Center, Political Research Associates, Center for Constitutional Rights, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, IPAS, Equality Utah, Auburn Theological Seminary, and SoulForce."

## Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Autumn can remind us of loss.

You may not be surprised, then, to know that loss and letting go are also favorite topics of mine. My favorite mystic, the 12th-13th century Dominican Meister Eckhart, wrote a great deal on the value of detachment...and how it surpassed even the value of love. His writings have been compared to Eastern and Buddhist philosophies.



In "The Fall of Freddy the Leaf," a book for all ages on loss and letting go, author Leo Buscaglia narrates the life cycle of leaves on a tree. As the book ends the main character/leaf, Freddy, is floating toward the snow-covered ground, looking up at the tree and able to see it in its entirety for the first time in his life. It's a comforting thought, that at the point of loss we may be able to glimpse meaning in greater, fuller clarity.

What are you wrestling to release...or not to? How might its meaning find greater clarity in its absence? Is a rival - political, personal or professional - an opportunity to see a fuller picture? Could the struggle in your life lead you not only to clarity but also to a softer landing?

However this autumn finds you, may you open yourself to the Work it holds for you...and within you.

Here's to The Work, Friends.

Peace, Faith & Passion,  
Matthew



# Religious Education News

## RE Arts Program

Starting in early November and continuing for eight weeks, First Church's elementary-age children will discover that Sunday Mornings at Church get a new look and feel. After many hours of focus groups and networking earlier this year, First Church's Religious Education (RE) Program is ready to roll out an engaging classroom component that revolves around visual and performing arts as well as, of course, the core principles of the Unitarian Church.

"At the request of my colleagues, including parents and Church members, we are planning to raise fun factor in religious education for our elementary age children," says RE Director Julie Miller. "We know that the integration of these arts forms into elementary and secondary school curricula has a direct and beneficial influence on learning and self-esteem, so we're looking forward to presenting these proven educational practices to our Unitarian families."

Integrated into the RE curriculum, arts programming will provide children with new ways to express their inherent and personal creativity. Arts projects, by design, will be educational in nature. The key to the new program is experienced arts teachers, who will collaborate with our volunteer parent classroom teachers to present engaging, enriching and rewarding activities in the classroom.

"We have created a partnership with Megan Hallet, who heads up Framework Arts, a non-profit, project-based organization in Salt Lake City," says Julie Miller. "She has an extensive and impressive background in arts education, and has lined up a roster of experienced artists for us--people who work as arts teachers in schools throughout the city."

Framework's engagement with First Church will, first and foremost, embrace the core Unitarian values. During RE class time, arts educators will present a variety of art forms including, but not limited to, drama, music, movement, painting, sculpture, bookmaking, printmaking and collage.

Within an eight week period--one session scheduled for the fall and one for the spring--arts educators will rotate among RE classes serving pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. As this is the first year of the new program, it will be closely monitored for quality and relevance. A performance by our children is scheduled for January 2, 2016.

A note regarding the RE schedule: during the two 8-week sessions when the arts program is offered, children will go directly to their classrooms at 11am. Room assignments are as follows:

Pre-K through K	Room 205
Grades 1/2	Room 207
Grades 3/4	Room 201
Grades 5/6	Room 208
Infants & Toddlers	Room 109
0 - 3 yr olds (childcare provided)	

The first 8-week session is scheduled from Sunday November 8 through January 3, 2016. The spring session runs from March 13 through May 8, 2016. Updates on the schedule will appear regularly in The Torch newsletter and on our website [www.slcuu.org](http://www.slcuu.org). Feel free to contact RE Director Julie Miller ([dre@slcuu.org](mailto:dre@slcuu.org)) or RE Assistant Nancy Moos ([reassist@slcuu.org](mailto:reassist@slcuu.org)) with your comments or questions!

## Congregational Briefs (continued from page 2)

Rev. Matthew Cockrum, Congregational Life Minister at [clminister@slcuu.org](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org) or 801.582.8687 ext. 205.

### Dinner and Dialogue

Dinner and Dialogue Doesn't that have a wonderful ring to it? A time for sharing two favorite human activities: eating and talking. I can't imagine anyone not enjoying getting to know others in our church in such a low-key, fun way. Won't you please consider signing the Dinner and Dialogue book at the Welcoming Table this Sunday either as a HOST or a GUEST, and I will coordinate getting you together. As a HOST you set the date and the menu and decide how many guests you can accommodate. Guests sign up to ATTEND and contribute by bringing a dish to share. It's a lovely way we have of getting acquainted around here. I'm new at this, but will try to answer your questions if you call Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 or send an email to [suppers@slcuu.org](mailto:suppers@slcuu.org). I have gotten to know some very lovely people at our church through this activity. Why not give it a try??

### Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the

Haven Room at the Church. The book for October 27 is "The Emerald Mile," by Kevin Fedarko. All are welcome.

### Would you give it to your mother to use?

That's the standard the Refugee Resettlement Committee (RRC) uses to evaluate donations. Threadbare chairs and sofas covered with cat hair aren't appropriate for mom. Neither is furniture with broken legs. Mom also is appreciative of like-new towels and sheets. She's not keen on worn ones. Mom always deserves a new mattress and box springs. Used ones go to the landfill. The RRC believes that arriving refugees should begin their new lives in Utah with the best, second-hand furnishings it can provide. The need for donations is constant. Please support this important humanitarian issue., and once the mother standard has been met, call Joe Dubray at (801) 930-9640 to schedule a pick-up.

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## Environmental Ministry News

*-Submitted by Joan M. Gregory, Co-Coordinator, Environmental Ministry*

### Climate Justice – Sacred Lands and Cultures of Indigenous Peoples

*This fall, Environmental Ministry in collaboration with the Social Justice Council will be shining the light of climate justice on the threat and impact of energy extraction, land destruction, and cultural eradication on the sacred lands and cultures of indigenous peoples.*

**STANDING ON SACRED GROUND FILM SERIES**  
Indigenous communities around the world and in the U.S. resist threats to their sacred places—

the original protected lands—in a growing movement to defend human rights and restore the environment. In this documentary series, native people share ecological wisdom and spiritual reverence while battling a utilitarian view of land in the form of government megaprojects, consumer culture, and resource extraction as well as competing religions and climate change. The series exposes threats to native peoples' health, livelihood, and cultural survival in communities around the world.

*Environmental Ministry continued on next page*

## Environmental Ministry News (continued from page 6)

Throughout the film, indigenous people tell their own stories—and confront us with the ethical consequences of our culture of consumption. The *Standing on Sacred Ground* films were produced by the Sacred Land Film Project [<http://sacredland.org/>], a project of Earth Island Institute [<http://www.earthisland.org/>], to deepen public understanding of sacred places, indigenous cultures and environmental justice.

### Pilgrims and Tourists

*Friday, October 2, 2015, 7-9PM, Eliot Hall*

Around the world, indigenous communities stand in the way of government megaprojects. In the Russian Republic of Altai, traditional native people create their own mountain parks to rein in tourism and resist a gas pipeline that would cut through a World Heritage Site. In northern California, Winnemem Wintu girls grind herbs on a sacred medicine rock as part of a ceremony honoring their passage to adulthood, as elders protest U.S. government plans to enlarge one of the West's biggest dams and forever submerge this touchstone of a tribe. A discussion will follow the film.

### Islands of Sanctuary

*Friday, November 20, 2015, 7-9PM, Eliot Hall*

Native Hawaiians and Aboriginal Australians resist threats to their sacred places in a growing international movement to defend human rights and protect the environment. In Australia's Northern Territory, Aboriginal clans maintain Indigenous Protected Areas and resist the destructive effects of a mining boom. In Hawai'i, indigenous ecological and spiritual practices are used to restore the sacred island of Kaho'olawe after 50 years of military use as a bombing range. A discussion will follow the film.

Donations are appreciated, but not required. Proceeds go towards our purchase of the films in the *Standing on Sacred Ground Series* and towards the work of the organizations featured in our local screenings of this series.

### **Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change**

Co-Sponsored by: Social Justice Council, Anti-Racism Committee, and Environmental

Ministry, First Unitarian Church of SLC. Generous donations by members of the Quaker and Unitarian communities have made it possible for Paula Palmer to travel to Utah and to facilitate this workshop at The Parliament of the World's Religions and both the workshop and the training at First Unitarian Church.

Facilitator: Paula Palmer, Director, Toward Right Relationship Project, Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee, Boulder Friends Meeting (Quakers), Boulder, Colorado

Workshop: Monday\*, October 19, 2015, 7:00-9:00PM

Training for Future Workshop

Leaders: Tuesday\*, October 20, 2015, 6:30PM-9:30PM

(previous attendance at a workshop is required)

Location: Eliot Hall

Indigenous leaders are calling on people of faith to raise awareness about the historical and ongoing injustices committed against Native Peoples, and to seek ways of building right relationship with them in accord with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In response to this call and with the advice of Native American educators, the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee developed a 2-hour workshop called, "*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples.*" Workshop participants enact a 40-minute script and then reflect on and share their responses in a "talking circle" or worship-sharing format. A Resource Kit is provided so that groups can pursue further study of the issues and consider what "right relationship" might mean in their own circumstances. In the Doctrine of Discovery we find the roots of Injustice. In the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples we find the seeds of change. How can we nurture these seeds to bring forth the fruits of right relationship among all peoples? This workshop is a deeply moving and impactful experience. It will change you. And it will change how you understand history and the injustices committed against

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## Environmental Ministry News (continued from page 7)

Native Peoples. <http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship/>

Toward Right Relationship Project Director, Paula Palmer, is a sociologist, writer, and activist for human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. She will be here in Salt Lake City for The Parliament of The World's Religions where she will present the workshop. Throughout her life Paula has advocated for Indigenous peoples' rights

through research, writing, community-based projects with Indigenous peoples in Central America and the United States, and international campaigns. The American Friends Service Committee, the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, and the United Nations Association of Boulder County have honored her with human rights awards. Paula created workshops titled, "Roots of

*Environmental Ministry continued on page 10*

## Understanding White Privilege Workshop

*Presented by the Anti-Racism Committee of First Unitarian Church of SLC*

**Thurs, Oct 1, 6:30-8:30PM, Room 208, RE Building**

Reading Discussion – "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," by Peggy McIntosh

**Thurs, Oct 8, 6:30-8:30PM, The Haven, RE Building**

Film Discussion – Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity

**Thurs, Oct 15, 6:30-8:30PM, Room 208, RE Building**

Reflection and Discussion – Taking Action to Fight Racism in our Everyday Lives

In her essay "Unpacking the Knapsack of White Privilege," Peggy McIntosh challenges herself to develop a list of ways in which her Whiteness affords her unearned privileges. Many of the privileges she lists reveal a world which reflects Whiteness back to White people, and confirms White as the standard, expected, default, or normal category. She writes:

*"I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented....I can easily buy posters, post-cards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys and children's magazines featuring people of my race....I can choose blemish cover or bandages in "flesh" color and have them more or less match my skin."*

The thing that is so harmful about these facts is that they inform White people that their reality is "The reality," or it is the **only** reality with which they need to concern themselves. Also because this White reality is constructed as normal it can be tempting to assume that the experiences of other's don't differ greatly from our own, or we may project normalcy onto or perceive normalcy in others even when they insist that their reality departs greatly from our own. In short, we are always looking in the mirror at ourselves, and because of this we don't notice those whose experiences many differ significantly from our own.

To understand racism and to work toward a racially just world it is necessary that White people learn to recognize their own privilege and learn about the experiences of People of Color. To help facilitate this recognition the Anti-Racism Committee is offering a three part workshop on Oct 1, 8, and 15. This workshop, entitled, "Understanding White Privilege," will help us get acquainted with the idea of "white privilege," and answer questions we have about this term. We will discuss how racism functions in today's society, and how we can be activists against racism in our everyday lives. This workshop has 3 sessions. Please plan to attend all 3 if at all possible. Please RSVP to: [arc@slcuu.org](mailto:arc@slcuu.org) by Wednesday, September 30.



# September/October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am	28	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	Oct. 1 White Privilege Series begins 6:30 (pg. 8)	2 Env. Min. event 7pm (pg. 7)	3 Fall Highway clean up 9am (pg. 2)
4 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm RE at 11:00 am  First Church Information session 10:15 in Parlor (pg. 2)	5 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	6	7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	8	9	10
11 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am  Hospitality Happening 12:45 (pg. 2)	12 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201	13	14 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	15	16	17
18 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am	19 Torch Submissions Due 10 am  Roots workshop (pg. 7) 7pm	20 Leader Roots Training (pg. 7) 6:30	21 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	22 UU Orientation session 6 pm in Haven (pg.2)	23	24
25 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am	26	27 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg.6)	28	29	30 RE Halloween Party (details coming soon)	31

## Other Dates to Note

November 14, 2015 Church Auction at Rice Eccles Stadium (pg. 1)

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
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## Environmental Ministry News (continued from page 8)

*Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*" (for adults) and *"Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization"* (for middle schools and high schools) and has presented them more than 80 times in 16 states. She also trains and certifies volunteers to facilitate these workshops and extend their reach to faith communities, schools, colleges and universities, and civic organizations nationwide.

RSVP Required: RSVP to Joan Gregory: joanmzg@gmail.com with: your name, phone number, email, and which event (workshop or training or both) you will be attending. If child care is needed, please indicate how many children. *If you are attending the Training, please note that previous attendance at a Workshop is required.* Attendance at the

Workshop is limited based on the number of chairs we can set up in a circle in Eliot Hall, so please be sure to RSVP.

Donations are appreciated, but not required. Please come. Please RSVP. A donation is not required. However, donations will be gratefully accepted at the workshop and training.

Questions: Contact Joan M. Gregory, Co-Coordinator, Environmental Ministry, CELL: 801-949-2906, EMAIL: joanmzg@gmail.com.

\* *Days of the week were incorrectly listed by the author in the previous Torch article. These are the corrected days of the week.*