

# CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER: EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE

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**Pride goeth before destruction, and an  
haughty spirit before a fall. Prov. 16: 18**



We have all seen this horrendous picture, and we  
know what it leads to. . . .



British Petroleum and the Minerals Management  
Service of the Federal Government have

sinned against God's Creation. But, before  
we get too self-righteous, they were doing it  
for us, for our consumption.

A recent sermon began by noting the result of  
our rates of consumption and called us to  
Christian simplicity.

“A critical factor for our time is that the  
environment is becoming ever less capable  
of sustaining the growing impact of our  
escalating consumption patterns.  
Everywhere our forests are overlogged, our  
agricultural lands are overcropped, our  
grasslands overgrazed, our wetlands  
overdrained, our groundwaters overtapped,  
our seas overfished, and nearly all our  
terrestrial and marine environment is  
overpolluted with chemical and radioactive  
poisons. Worse still, our atmospheric  
environment is becoming ever less capable  
of absorbing either the ozone-depleting  
gases or the greenhouse gases generated by  
these activities without creating new  
climatic conditions to which human beings  
cannot indefinitely adapt.

Today we must reconsider our consumption  
patterns not only because there is strong  
moral basis for doing so. We must  
reconsider our consumption radically and  
fundamentally, because as a planet we have  
no other choice. Simple life is a compelling  
necessity now.

Christian simplicity frees us from the  
modern mania to possess, accumulate, and  
the attitude that “more is better.” It brings  
sanity to our compulsive extravagance, and  
peace to our frantic spirit. Simplicity enables  
us to live lives of integrity in the face of the  
stark realities of our world. It is not a  
faddish attempt to respond to the ecological  
crisis that is threatening us now. Christian  
simplicity is more than a reaction to the  
modern crisis. It gives us the basis for  
developing a strategy for action to address

many of our social inequities. The answer to the problem of the survival of the planet lies in spirituality as much as it does in politics, science, or economics.” **Living Simply: Imperative Now**, Shantilal Bhagat <http://www.webofcreation.org>

## So, What Do We Do?

**First, embrace a radical theological idea**—paradise is here, now. This earth that God made for us was initially a Garden, a paradise. Rebecca Ann Parker suggests in “We Are Already In Paradise,” that for too long we “have followed Adam and Eve, clinging to each other, cowering and half-naked, turning their backs on the gates of paradise and wandering into an exiled existence. . . .But what if it is we who have walked away? In our mad dash to get somewhere else, what if it is we who have separated from each other, from the garden, from God calling our name in the cool of the day? UU World, Summer 2010) (Also see Saving Paradise, Beacon Press, 2008.)

**Second, conserve.** Bob Herbert writes in today’s New York Times, “When are we going to stop behaving so stupidly? Now we’re fouling the magnificent Gulf of Mexico and ruining entire communities along the southern Louisiana Coast.

The first thing we can do is conserve more. That’s the low-hanging fruit in any clean-energy strategy.

It’s fast, cheap and easy. It’s something that all Americans, young and old, can be asked to participate in immediately. In that sense, it’s a way of combating the pervasive feelings of helplessness that have become so demoralizing and so destructive to our long-term interests.” **“Our Epic Foolishness” 5/31/2010**

The choices we make, make a difference.

**This?**



**Or this?**

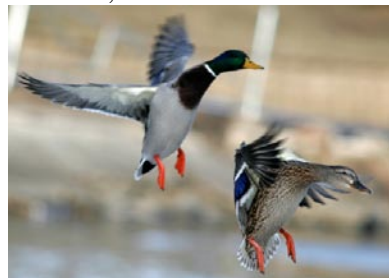


10 miles to the gallon or 50?

Maybe we can’t change cars today, but there are many small and important steps we can each take. How much is enough? How many trips to town do we have to make?

The Rev. Forrest Church preached once about “How To Begin (Changing Your Life).” His first step, “Begin by doing what you can. No more, but also no less.” And “Begin in the middle. . . .Don’t wait around for the perfect starting pistol. . . .Jump the fence. Enter the race in the middle. Here. Now. As you are.”

After all, this is what we all want, is it not?



Email [shifford@centurytel.net](mailto:shifford@centurytel.net) with suggestions.