



Prince George's County Newsletter August 2017



Faith-Based Organizations Step Up to the Plate for Clean Water in Prince George's County

Our Mission

The mission of the Chesapeake Bay Trust is to promote public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of the water quality and aquatic and land

INTRODUCTION

Citizens in Prince George's County that attend and work with faith-based organizations are learning how to care for their grounds and protect the environment through support from the

resources of the Chesapeake Bay region and other aquatic and land resources of the State. The Trust will engage residents of the region in programs that lead to actions that measurably improve local communities and increase resource stewardship.

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Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship grant program. Several groups received grants over the last three years to install environmental practices that support healthy neighborhoods, clean water, and engage the congregations.

These projects planted trees, installed bioretention or other stormwater practices, installed cisterns to capture water from the rooftops, and held environmentally themed workshops. The grantees worked with the faith-based community to learn how to protect the environment.

This Prince George's County E-Newsletter provides three examples of the ongoing projects supporting the Alternative Compliance Program (ACP), what they are working on now, and ideas for how a faith-based organization can support cleaner water and become stormwater stewards. A full list of the past awardees and their faith-based projects are provided at the end of this newsletter.

Project Highlight: Centro de Apoyo Familiar

More than 200 Prince George's County families have been reached through Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF)'s Aguas Sana: Familias Sanas/Healthy Waters: Healthy Families project in which church promotoras (community health promoters) are trained as stormwater educators. These stormwater educators then provide educational workshops at the churches with a goal that these citizens will take action. By increasing citizen responsibility, we can all keep our city and county clean. The participating churches in this award are part of CAF Network, a consortium of churches affiliated to CAF and are churches that are interested in making a difference in their communities.



Contact Walkiria Pool (wpool@mycaf.org) or Damaris Frias-Batista (dbatista@mycaf.org) for more details.

Photo: (Right) Promotora training future faith-based stewards about the importance of clean water.



Project Highlight: Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

The Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) has developed a *God's Water Heroes* Vacation Bible School curriculum and trained several faith leaders on how to deliver the program for their church's youth. This summer, pastors and other leaders are offering the camp for children in their communities, spreading the word about the

importance of being faithful stewards of the environment. The following churches are participating in the training: Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, Fort Washington Baptist Church, Walker Mill Baptist Church, Jerusalem AME, Richie Baptist Church, Union Bethel AME, St. Stephen's Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church of North Brentwood.

IPC also supports 20 congregations in learning more about the ACP and how they can engage in the ACP's Outreach and Education (option 2) and Green Care and Good Housekeeping (option 3).

Contact Jodi Rose (jodi@interfaithchesapeake.org) or Anna Awimbo (anna@interfaithchesapeake.org) for more details.

Photos: (Top) Hands on outdoor workshop at St. Stephen Baptist Church (Temple Hills). (Left) Union Bethel AME vacation bible school outdoor exercise (Temple Hills).

Project Highlight: People for Change Coalition

People for Change Coalition provided workshops for faith-based organizations to connect with resources that to apply for new grant opportunities, learn more about the Alternative Compliance Program, and learn how to connect their sacred ground to environmental projects. These programs delivered tips about pollution reduction, sediment control, stormwater solutions such as rain barrels, pet waste control, recycling, and many other solutions. The congregations share these training materials in their bulletins, newsletters, and events. The programs were well-received and will lead to action projects that improve the streams and rivers.

Contact Sandy Pruitt (sandy@pfccoalition.org) or Jerry McLaurin (jerry@pfccoalition.org).

Photos: (Below) People for Change Coalition is providing technical assistance to faith-based organizations.



SUMMARY

Increasing citizen awareness of and engagement in stormwater management issues is a critical focus of Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE). Stormwater pollution is from runoff from all property owners contribute, including faith communities that own large parking lots and large roofs. These grant opportunities increase capacity and empower the citizens to be a part of the solution for clean water.

The Prince George's DoE outlines the ACP "Outreach and Education" and "Green Care and Good Housekeeping" actions needed to conduct a successful program and provided the property owner responsibilities in the program on its website on the [ACP website](#).

Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program – Faith-Based Organization Focused Grants Awarded

Over the last three years, the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program supported engaging the faith-based community in environmental stewardship with the following awards.

- ***Accokeek First Church of God:*** To support the Alternative Compliance Program by installing stormwater best management practices (BMPs), providing outreach workshops to residents, and fostering good housekeeping practices.
- ***Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc.:*** To plant 750 trees on faith-based organization grounds and to provide them with educational workshops on stormwater BMPs.
- ***Anacostia Riverkeeper:*** Held four stormwater education workshops and installed stormwater harvest and re-use systems at First Baptist Church of Glen Arden (Landover), Ambrose Catholic Church (Cheverly), and St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic (Hyattsville).
- ***CENTRO DE APOYO FAMILIAR:*** To provide citizen engagement to the Latino community and faith-based community organizations through workshops and training seminars. This project will support the ACP's Outreach and Education (option 2) and Green Care and Good Housekeeping (option 3).
- ***End Time Harvest Ministries:*** Provided citizen engagement using a tree planting event for the Wellness Ambassadors, students, and citizens that will learn how local actions can improve the environment.
- ***Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake:*** To develop and implement faith-based "train the trainer" sessions for ten congregations and provide technical assistance for twenty congregations to implement the ACP's Outreach and Education (option 2) and Green Care and Good Housekeeping (option 3).
- ***Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake through the Alliance for the Chesapeake***

Bay: Held workshops at Turner Memorial African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church (Hyattsville), Jerusalem AME Church (Clinton), and Mishkan Torah Synagogue (Greenbelt) to educate faith leaders on stormwater runoff and provide tools to overcome technical and financial obstacles to project implementation.

- **People for Change Coalition:** Provided technical assistance to Southern Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (Temple Hills), Eastern Community Church (Landover), Mt. Paran Baptist Church (Clinton), and Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church to increase their knowledge of stormwater stewardship, enroll them in the Alternative Compliance Program, and supported them as they applied for the Rain Check Rebate Program and grants.
- **People for Change Coalition:** Provide technical assistance for four faith-based organizations: 1) Beloved Community Church, Accokeek; 2) Largo Community Church; 3) Ritchie Marlboro Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro; and 4) Walker Mill Baptist Church, Capitol Heights. This project will support the Alternative Compliance Program options 2 and 3.
- **Union Bethel AME Church:** To support the Alternative Compliance Program by installing stormwater best management practices (BMPs), facilitate development of outreach workshops to impact of individual activities that support water quality such as trash reduction, better pesticide and herbicide use, and vegetation maintenance efforts.

This program can only support secular efforts.

See a full list of grants awarded online [here](#) and contact Sadie Drescher (sdrescher@cbtrust.org) for more information about the grant program.



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