
DECEMBER 2011 GREEN TIPS

WEEK 1: SPEND, SPEND, SPEND OR SERVE, SERVE, SERVE

During this Advent season, if it's feasible, why not consider giving a gift of your service or paying for the service of a professional to aid a friend or relative. In these tough economic times for so many, offering or performing these services to a friend or relative is all the more valued. Every thing from baby sitting to snow plowing; plumbing to health care or an occasional visitation – they all count. It's service, rather than more stuff.

WEEK 2: GIFTS YOU MAKE

Some of the most precious, meaningful and memorable gifts we have given or received are ones that were "home-made." Prime examples in this church include such items as Eve E's prayer shawls, Donna C's quilts, Suzanne B's or Jo-Ann R's food preparations, to name just a few. If you have a creative skill, share the fruits of your labors of love as a Christmas, birthday or everyday gift for a friend or relative.

WEEK 3: TURN OUT THE LIGHTS

We're not talking here about the exit lights in the church. On 24/7, they are LED, draw next to no electric power and will probably last at least 70,000 hours. The Christmas Tree lights are also LED.

In spite of the signs reminding us to turn out all unneeded lights in Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary, we have become negligent. Let's turn on only those lights needed and turn them off as soon as they are no longer needed. At home, turn off the lights when you leave a room. Make it a habit.

WEEK 4: LET US RESOLVE

Over the past few years, just about all of us have probably changed some of the hardware, appliances and our own behaviors to cut waste, cost and abuse of the planet in the past few years – all with good intentions. What we need now is to check on how faithful we have been to those changed BEHAVIORS. On a Christmas list for the planet, ourselves and future generations, let us make a list of all the behaviors that we could adopt or re-enforce as better stewards of God's creation in 2012.

Keep the list throughout the coming year. When one behavior has become habitual, check it off and move to another item on your list. When Advent rolls around next year, let's count the number of leaves we have turned over – those changes, old and new, we have made and kept. Then be truly proud of the advances we have made.