

BROWNSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christian Growth Division

Summer 2009

GOD'S STEWARDS CARE

Introduction/Purpose

This summer, we're trying something different for Church School here at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church. We're going online! Yea!!!! But "why" you ask? Because schedules change and many people are away over the summer.

Our regular Sunday morning times at 330 South May Street have been in place for years. Though schedules change, we are given the opportunity to 'be church' and learn about God wherever we are at anytime!



So, here we go. Be ready to learn with your family, neighbors, or just by yourself. We're going to count on you to learn about **"STEWARDSHIP AND GOD'S GIFT TO US . . . OUR HOME . . . THE EARTH!!!"**

A Bit of a Roadmap

Lessons will always include a goal or the main point of the lesson, God's Word, a story, an activity, and end with prayer. Oops! And a song! Don't forget about Music!

Be certain and check out the Goodies Page, or Resources, that help us in Worship wherever we are, and share with your family. And, if you have a brainstorm or hit a snag, call Karen Allen at (910) 692-6252. She'll respond in no time flat!

Lesson 1

BROWNSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christian Growth Division
Summer 2009

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH

Learning to Be Responsible Stewards of God's Creation!

THE BIG IDEA: Learning to take care of God's Earth...all the time...any time!

AGE: All levels or helping each other learn by sharing new/old ideas!

MATERIALS: Ad magazines and/or newspapers, stapler, and/or yarn

BLESSING BOX: Don't forget to put your pennies, nickels, and dimes in the Blessing Box!

GOD'S WORD: Genesis 1:1-31

MUSIC: "This Little Light of Mine"; Doxology

Beginning: Read the Creation Story in Genesis 1:1-31. Review the things that God did to create the Earth. What was added in this reading? (humankind in the image of God)

What did it mean when God gave humankind "dominion over every living thing..." in Verse 28? Think about the word "responsibility" or "stewardship."

Activity: Using magazines or newspapers, find articles or pictures of things that you want and things that you need. Divide a sheet of paper down the middle, labeling one side "I need" and the other side "I like." Glue or tape them in place. Talk about these pictures and what it means to want and to need. Make a cover and fasten the sheets together with staples or a piece of yarn.

Follow Up: Review the words "responsibility" and "stewardship." Review the "need" and "like" lists and see how each connects with stewardship.

REVIEW

1. What did God create on the 6th day?
2. What does "dominion" mean?
3. What is the difference between a "need" and a "want"?

CLOSING

Sing "This Little Light of Mine" and close with the Doxology, a hymn of thanksgiving.

Lesson 2

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AGE: All levels or helping each other learn by sharing new/old ideas!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and a newspaper! Even the Funnies!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change — that is, pennies, nickels, and dimes — in the Blessing Box

GOD'S WORD: Genesis 1:1-24

MUSIC: "'Tis the Gift to Be Simple"

SETTING THE STAGE! Name all of the things God created in the Genesis 1:1-24 Creation Story. Put them in order — using your Bible is great! — and then do the following:

Think about the earth and how you and your family live on it, use it, take care of it, making certain that you include your pets as well!

Ask these questions:

1. Do you recycle? If so, what items?
2. Do you use Compact Fluorescent Bulbs? If so, what wattage? The whole house or in special areas?
3. How many miles per gallon does your car(s) average? Thirty-five or more is really great!
4. Do you dry clothes on a clothes rack or outside on a clothes line?
5. Which appliances are energy-efficient? (2001 or younger)

Divide a piece of paper into two columns with the headings THINGS WE DO and THINGS TO IMPROVE.

Tour your home and talk about what each person sees that is a strong stewardship practice and those areas to strengthen. Things to observe are lights turned off/on, thermostat setting, CFL's locations, etc.

Everyone can get involved doing the same thing with drawing things that are recycled, clothes on a rack(!), the Energy-Saver Star found on appliances, etc. Use magazines for ideas or cut out pictures. To really make things personal, take a photograph with your digital camera, print out, and post on the . . . Energy Star Refrigerator!!!

Finish by choosing 2-3 areas that you would like to focus on for the week. Use Stars cut from Yellow construction paper to post in areas to remember!

If time permits, do a follow up each day rewarding yourselves for improvement(s) that you listed earlier. Ice Cream anyone?!

BIG QUESTION: "In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth." How does our part of the world look at the end of the day?

"'Tis the Gift to Be Simple, 'Tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, And when we find ourselves in the place just right 'twill be in the Valley of Love and Delight!" Shaker Hymn

Lesson 3

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AGE: All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper! Even the ... Funnies! AND a dictionary! YOUR COMPUTER!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change — that is, pennies, nickels, and dimes — in the Blessing Box.

GOD'S WORD: Psalm 8, Divine Majesty and Human Dignity

MUSIC: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Remember: Read together for a change of activity!

THE STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S AIR! BREATHE DEEPLY!

Setting the stage!

1. What do you think about when you hear the word STEWARD? (A steward manages the affairs of another or the things that belong to another.)
2. Who made the earth? Where can you find the answer to this question?
3. If God made the earth, then what belongs to God?
4. What is our job on earth? (For starters, WE are GOD'S stewards who care for the earth and EVERYTHING in it. We were created in God's image, and therefore our care of the earth and all that is in it should take on God's image---and we believe that to be a loving, caring God.)

Facts about AIR!

1. The average person breathes 20,000 breaths per day, 3,000 gallons of air per day or 2 gallons of air per minute
2. Clean air is needed so people can breath without suffering from health problems
3. Clean air is needed to preserve our forests, streams and lakes for recreation and wildlife
4. **Humans can live for days w/o water and weeks w/o food, but only a few minutes w/o air!**

Over the course of a week, use a newspaper or magazine, find pictures illustrating a source of energy; an example of something harmful to the environment; two environmental terms; a non-renewable resource; an energy-efficient product; an article on environmental abuse. Discuss.

What's so bad about Ozone? Smog? Ozone is a very reactive gas that damages almost any surface it touches, including our lungs and airways, the leaves of plants and man-made materials such as rubber and fabric. Breathing Ozone is like a sunburn on the inside of the lungs. That makes it hard to breathe for people with health problems, like asthma or emphysema.

CHALLENGE: Find the Air Quality Index for Southern Pines. The AIQ colors mean:

- **Green:** Good
- **Yellow:** Moderate
- **Orange:** Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, i.e. respiratory or heart disease. Drive less.
- **Red:** Unhealthy: Everyone should limit or avoid physical activity. Drive less.
- **Purple:** Very unhealthy. Everyone should avoid physical activity. Drive less.

REMEMBER: THE HARDER YOU BREATHE, THE MORE AIR POLLUTION YOU TAKE IN.

CHECK THE TELEVISION, RADIO, NEWSPAPER, AND INTERNET: www.ncair.org


Lesson 3 — Adults Only

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TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH

ADULTS ONLY... WELL, EVERYTHING'S NOT TOO CHRONOLOGICAL! Besides, you get to work/learn at your own pace on your own schedule! Check the second page for Scripture references, Hymns, Prayers, and Original Writing Projects.

Now, check out these websites that originate with the PC(USA) website. **Calculate your Carbon Footprint** and see how many globes/earths would be needed to sustain your lifestyle. **An eyeopener!**

- <http://www.climate.org/about/topping2007.html>. The **PRC was founded in 1995** to promote ecological action and environmental justice within the denomination, and in 2006 the Presbyterian Church USA became the first denomination in any nation to ask its members as a matter of faith to **commit to carbon neutrality**.
- <http://www.prcweb.org/index.cfm>. Presbyterians for Restoring Creation. Many links to explore to learn what PC(USA) is to develop environmental stewardship.
 - <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=4374646&page=1>
- <http://www.prcweb.org/index.cfm>. **Carbon Fast for Lent** : Click [here](#) to view a story on ABC News about the Chapel Hill UMC going on a Carbon Fast for lent!
- <http://www.ncccojustice.org>. **National Council of Churches of Christ: justice for God's planet and God's people. EXCELLENT.**
[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small business.sb congregations:](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations)
[If America's more than 300,000 houses of worship cut energy](#)
 - Nearly \$200 million would be saved for congregations' missions and other priorities
 - More than 2 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented, equivalent to the emissions of about 400,000 cars, or to planting over a half million acres of trees.More than 5.4 billion kWh of electricity would be available without additional cost and pollution **AND** Download the no-cost ENERGY STAR for Congregations Guide: [Putting Energy into Stewardship](#)  (1.3MB) and use our [Technical Resources](#) to learn ways that your congregation can achieve energy efficiency.
- <http://www.ncccojustice.org/climateprinciples.html>. **Faith principles on Global Warming: Justice, Stewardship, Sustainability and Sufficiency.**
- <http://www.newdream.org/lgbym/2008/05/living-green-from-9-5/>. **Audit your own workday and see how much you can reduce your carbon footprint.**
 - <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>: **The Story of Stuff!**
 - <http://www.thematrix.com/>: **Four matrix films.**
- <http://www.thematrix.com/interactive/index.html>: **Takes us to a processing plant where we learn how fast food is produced.**
<http://www.ncccojustice.org/ehprinciples.html> : Principles for a healthy body and spirit.

Lesson 4

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TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH

Learning to Be Responsible Stewards of God's Creation!

THE BIG IDEA: Learning to take care of God's Earth...all the time...any time!

AGE: All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper!
Even the ... Funnies!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change in the Blessing Box.

GOD'S WORD: Psalm 150

MUSIC: "This Is My Father's World" (This could be our theme hymn!)

SING: "This Is My Father's World" **or read** as a choral reading/groups/solo.

Verse 1 (Thought: *Wonder if you could memorize this with your family?*)

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought.

Verse 2

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

ART: Draw/paint/photograph/cut from magazines pictures of those things listed in the hymn that God created.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

How does nature sing?
What things announce God's praise?
How does God speak to us?
How can we protect the birds, the trees, and sky? (That's a BIG one.)

Which of the five senses (YOU KNOW — See, Smell, Touch, Hear, Taste) are used to help us enjoy God's Creation? *Which one would you say is most important?* Why?

READY TO GO GREEN — Turn off the TV/Games...AND...instead listen to Nature's Song OR the Sounds of the people who live in your home! Record them and play back for fun. In the process, you used your abilities AND ... helped save a few carbon footprints! Oops! That's another lesson!

Memory Challenge!

God's Word: Psalm 150. "Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in his mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His surpassing greatness!

Continue by locating and reading from your Bible. Everyone can join in on the first and last phrases: PRAISE THE LORD!

PRAYER: Recite/Sing "This is My Father's World" together. AMEN.

TKOGC Tip: Did you remember to put away all of your materials? And recycle(!) what you don't need anymore? Oh! TKOGC = Taking Care of!

Lesson 5

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TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH

Learning to Be Responsible Stewards of God's Creation!

THE BIG IDEA: Learning to take care of God's Earth...all the time...any time!

AGE: All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper!!!!!!
Even the ... Funnies!!! AND a dictionary!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change in the Blessing Box.

GOD'S WORD: Genesis 1: 8-9; Psalm 150

MUSIC: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

WATER!

Question: According to Genesis One, which day did God create the seas? Name the seas just for fun!

ACTIVITY: Need a recorder here, please! Have one person record all of the ways we need water and ways we use water. List ways that water can be wasted. List ways that **YOU** save water.

Question: Why is it important to be responsible stewards of water? Can you think of a time when water use was restricted, that is guidelines were developed to regulate watering lawns, washing cars, etc.

What are some changes in our area that have resulted in the need for ... conservation. (Use dictionary if you are uncertain to meaning.)

If you said more people, you're right on target! BUT is there MORE water Moore? You may want to review the Water Cycle at this point and then answer that question. OR GOOGLE that question. Talk about it and see what everyone thinks. Develop a motto or theme for you and your group/family to remember to help remember how to use this resource.

Ready to Go Green? (Make a chart and place in family information area!)

- Run dishwasher only when FULL!
 - Run Washing Machine only when FULL!
 - Turn water off when brushing teeth.
 - Take showers, 2-3 minutes is a goal, rather than baths.
 - Use a bucket to catch cold water before showering and then ...water the plants, after your shower, of course!
 - Empty beverages outside, on plants, etc. Even...ice!
 - When heating water, heat only what is needed; i.e., coffee, tea, etc.
 - NO LEAKY FAUCETS, PLEASE.
 - Use the local car wash. It uses less water.
- Your ideas...

Remember: One way we show Love for God is by Loving God's Creation. That includes...your neighbor! Romans 13:10 says "Love does no harm to its neighbor."

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the gift of water. **Help us to be responsible stewards in the use of water so that all of your people can have what they need. Amen.**

Lesson 6

BROWNSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Summer 2009

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH

Learning to Be Responsible Stewards of God's Creation!

THE BIG IDEA: *Learning to take care of God's Earth...all the time...any time!*

AGE: All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper!
Even the ... Funnies!!! AND a dictionary! YOUR COMPUTER!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change in the Blessing Box.

GOD'S WORD: Genesis 1: 8-9; Psalm 150

MUSIC: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." Remember: Read together for a change of activity!

WATER! (continued)

Hey! Here are some WATER FACTS: www.simpleliving.org

- No life on earth is possible without water.
- Water provides a home for nearly 90% of all living plants.
- Water covers 75% of the earth's surface, but 99% of the water is either salt water in the oceans or frozen in glaciers. Only .8 % is fresh.
- If all the glacier ice that exists today melted, a layer of water approximately 196 feet deep would be added to all of the world's oceans---and many coastal lands submerged!
- You can live w/o food for more than a month, but w/o water for less than a week.
- 25,000 people die every day for lack of clean drinking water.
- Although only a fifth of a gallon is all one needs to survive, a person must take in 2 ½ quarts of water a day to maintain a normal water balance in the body.
- Mothers in some countries walk 15 miles (the distance to Carthage?) each day for water, sometimes requiring 8 hours a day. In the U. S., on the average, we use 200 gallons of water a day per person!
- All water is recycled! What you drink today may contain a molecule that a dinosaur once drank!
- Watering the lawn averages 10 gallons of water PER minute. Brushing teeth while leaving the water running can take 10 gallons! By cutting it off while brushing, you can save 9.5 gallons!!!!
- It takes 1,000 gallons of water to produce an aluminum can. Recycling cans will save water!

IT TAKES WATER TO MAKE THINGS:

- *One Sunday Newspaper takes about 150 gallons!*
- One automobile tire takes about 2,000 gallons.
- One slice of bread takes about 37 gallons.
- One ton of oil takes about 180 tons of water.
- One ton of paper takes about 250 tons of water.

WOW! QUESTION: If one gallon of water is what 4-5 people need to survive, how many people could survive from ONE Sunday Newspaper ? Did you get 750 gallons?

AMAZING! Hey! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Save water by recycling papers, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, magazines...that's pretty neat!

Think/REFLECT: The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives. *Sioux Proverb*

Lesson 7

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AGE: All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper!
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MUSIC: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." Remember: Read together for a change of activity!

THE STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S AIR! BREATHE DEEPLY!

Setting the stage!

What do you think about when you hear the word **STEWARD?** (A steward manages the affairs of another or the things that belong to another.)

Who made the earth? Where can you find the answer to this question?

If God made the earth, then what belongs to God?

What is our job on earth? (For starters, WE are GOD'S stewards who care for the earth and EVERYTHING in it. We were created in God's image, and therefore our care of the earth and all that is in it should take on God's image---and we believe that to be a loving, caring God.)

Facts about AIR!

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Clean air is needed to preserve our forests, streams and lakes for recreation and wildlife

Humans can live for days w/o water and weeks w/o food, but only a few minutes w/o air!

ACTIVITY: Over the course of a week, use a newspaper or magazine, find pictures illustrating a source of energy; an example of something harmful to the environment; two environmental terms; a non-renewable resource; an energy efficient product; an article on environmental abuse. Discuss.

What's so bad about Ozone? Smog? Ozone is a very reactive gas that damages almost any surface it touches, including our lungs and airways, the leaves of plants and man-made materials such as rubber and fabric. **Breathing Ozone is like a sunburn on the inside of the lungs.** That makes it hard to breathe for people with health problems, like asthma or emphysema.

CHALLENGE: Find the Air Quality Index for Southern Pines. The AIQ colors mean:

Green: Good

Yellow: Moderate

Orange: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, i.e. respiratory or heart disease. Drive less.

Red: Unhealthy: Everyone should limit or avoid physical activity. Drive less.

Purple: Very unhealthy. Everyone should avoid physical activity. Drive less.

REMEMBER: THE HARDER YOU BREATHE, THE MORE AIR POLLUTION YOU TAKE IN.

Lesson 8

BROWNSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christian Growth Division
Summer 2009

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH

Learning to Be Responsible Stewards of God's Creation!

THE BIG IDEA: Learning to take care of God's Earth...all the time...any time! AGE: All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper!!!!!!

Even the ... Funnies!!! AND a dictionary! YOUR COMPUTER!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change in the Blessing Box.

GOD'S WORD: Psalm 8, Divine Majesty and Human Dignity [Paraphrase in your own words]

MUSIC: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." Remember: Read together for a change of activity OR make up your own melody!

THE STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S AIR! BREATHE DEEPLY! (PART 2)

IT'S GETTING HOT HERE! Many scientists believe that the rising levels of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" are the cause. Carbon dioxide is important to life. Plants take CO₂ from the air to grow, while giving off oxygen that we need, and animals, to survive.

BUT WE'RE GETTING TOO MUCH! Why? The burning of gas, oil, coal and other fossil fuels. The increase of CO₂ in the air has caused the temperatures to rise around the world, a process called Global Warming. It is more accurate to say Climate Change because the effects are broader than just temperatures.

RESEARCH: Look for information about melting glaciers and ice in the Arctic and high mountain ranges. Check out the global sea levels over the past century.

How could our low-lying coastal areas be affected here in North Carolina? How could droughts and changing weather patterns affect the growth of farming and forests? How can we decrease the severity of Global Warming?

WHAT TO DO? Drive less; Combine trips; Take your lunch to work or school instead of driving out to eat; Better insulate your home; Buy energy-efficient appliances; Maintain correct air pressure in tires; Don't burn trash or yard waste; Recycle and buy products made with recycled materials; Choose a fuel-efficient vehicle; Turn off unused lights; Carpool.

HUGE: Making products from recycled materials, rather than from new or "raw" materials, saves huge amounts of energy---and pollution.

Recycling: 1 glass bottle saves enough energy to run a 100-watt light bulb for 4 hours; 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to run a 100-watt bulb for 20 hours; 1 ton of paper saves enough energy to run an average home for 4 months!

Read the Bible to Learn How to Care for God's Creation: Hint: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Leviticus 19:18. Caring for God's Creation is showing our love for God. That's pretty easy. Taking care of God's earth and everything on it is ... loving God!

PRAYER: Thank you God for this wonderful earth. Help us care for your gifts of water, air, plants, and all resources so that we may give you all of the Honor, Praise, and Thanksgiving. Amen.

Lesson 9

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Christian Growth Division
Summer 2009

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH

Learning to Be Responsible Stewards of God's Creation!

THE BIG IDEA: Learning to take care of God's Earth...all the time...any time! **AGE:** All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper! Even the ... Funnies!!! AND a dictionary! YOUR COMPUTER!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change in the Blessing Box.

GOD'S WORD: Psalm 150. (Can you memorize some of this? All of it? Go for it!)

MUSIC: "For the Beauty of the Earth" Remember: Read together for a change of activity OR make up your own melody!

PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER POEM

REMEMBER: A steward is one who cares for or manages another's property.

Use one of the words below as the title and write a cinquain poem about the word stewardship by using the following form and choosing words that express that subject:

Steward
Gifts
Offering
Responsibility
Care

Directions:

Line 1: A title of one word or one subject.

Line 2: Two words about the subject (either a phrase or separate words).

Line 3: Three verbs. Action words! Run or running! Or an adverb! Words that end in *-ly*, such as *lovely*, etc.

Line 4: Four words, or more, that tell about the feeling for line one. Can be a phrase.

Line 5: One word that means same as first line (or reuse the first word or ...Amen).

EXAMPLE:

Steward
God's Property
Caring Growing Enriching
Happy in God's Service
AMEN

Poem Two: Using these words: Creation, Earth, Sky, Plants, Seas, Light, Darkness, Man, Genesis 1:1 as Line 4

Poem Three: Creating your own. Can you write a *cinquain* about Global Warming/Climate? Yes, of course you can along, with friends, or family!

MUSIC: This week perhaps you and your friends/family could sing the Doxology at mealtime. Use the Lord's Prayer when you ... share your poetry! Enjoy God's Creation!

Lesson 10

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AGE: All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper!
Even the ... Funnies!!! AND a dictionary! YOUR COMPUTER!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change in the Blessing Box.

GOD'S WORD: Psalm 8, Divine Majesty and Human Dignity. Use as a choral reading (taking turns).

MUSIC: "A Charge to Keep I Have" Remember: Read together for a change of activity.

A CHARGE TO CARE: Sung to "A Charge to Keep I Have"

A charge to care I have (What is the 'charge'?)

A God to glorify (part of the catechism)

Care for the world and all of life (is this stewardship?)

On Earth and in the sky.

A **steward** of the earth,

Plants, water, creatures, trees.

My **goal in life**, my joy and love:

My Lord and God to please.

(Find a synonym for the words in bold print.)

I hear God's charge again,

"See that my earth is kept."

Yes, Lord, I pledge my life to you,

Your trust, I now accept. Amen.

What two senses are used in this verse? Well, maybe a 3rd.

What does 'pledge' mean? Do we demonstrate that?

Delia Halverson: NEW CALL TO MISSION

Idea: Look through the Presbyterian Hymnal that have the theme of our responsibility to God and to all of God's Creation, including people. Look under earth, love, missions, nature, outreach, peace, and... stewardship. Share these and discuss. Select key themes.

CHALLENGE: Summarize some of the ideas in the lessons on Caring for God's Creation. Use one of your favorite hymns as a form to arrange your words. Then...this is the fun part...set those words to either the tune of your favorite hymn or create your own melody.

Steward Search: Can you name people through the ages who have acted as stewards and cared for the world and God's people? Hint: Voit Gilmore who gave much land to the state of North Carolina for preservation. Joyce Kilmer. Saint Francis of Assisi. Rachel Carson; Ed Vaughn, the town's first horticulturalist; the Boyd Family...Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve; etc. Someone in your family?

Find photos of these individuals, or sketch them, discuss them, and discover what they did to be recognized as model stewards of God's Creation.

Lesson 11

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THE BIG IDEA: Learning to take care of God's Earth...all the time...any time! AGE: All levels!
MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper!!!!!!
Even the ... Funnies!!! AND a dictionary! YOUR COMPUTER!
BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change in the Blessing Box.
GOD'S WORD: Psalm 8, Divine Majesty and Human Dignity. Use as a choral reading (taking turns).
MUSIC: "Cool It" [Go to website and print out the lyrics.](#)

"COOL IT"---The Global Cooling Song

Words and Music by Raffi

©2007 Homeland Publishing/Troubadour Music Inc.

[Go to RaffiNews.com](#) to download this song. The lyrics are included and a YouTube segment.

Enjoy this song. Notice how things that contribute to GlobalWarming/Climate Change are part of the lyrics.

Things to add to the list:

Say au revoir to standby. Check that all electrical equipment is switched off when not in use. The TV alone will save a hefty 20kg of carbon dioxide per year!

Give your dishwasher a day off or promote it to a Grade A energy efficient appliance.

USE LOCAL SHOPS OR FARMERS MARKETS (WWW.FARMERSMARKETS.NET) INSTEAD OF DRIVING TO OUT-OF-TOWN SHOPPING PARKS. They will thank you.

Unplug your mobile phone charger: it uses electricity even when it's not charging.

Are you recycling everything possible? Look into it today/this week.

Turn your thermostat down in cold weather and up in warmer weather.

Find one way to save paper today: reuse an old envelope or print double sided!

Change from plastic bags to your rucksack for grocery shopping. Buy items with less packaging.

Compost! Put the nutrients from food waste back into the soil — not into a methane-emitting landfill.

Draw the curtains to keep the heat in and the sun out!

Could our church be greener? What are some of your thoughts.

Can you add some more? E-Mail Karen Allen at Karen@brownsonchurch.org

Prayer: Pray for God's people to be Stewards of the Earth. Include specific things that need attention. End with Thanksgiving for our home, God's Earth. AMEN.

Lesson 12

BROWNSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christian Growth Division
Summer 2009

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S EARTH

Learning to Be Responsible Stewards of God's Creation!

THE BIG IDEA: Learning to take care of God's Earth...all the time...any time!

AGE: All levels!

MATERIALS: Your Bible, pencil and paper, drawing materials if you feel creative, and...a newspaper!
Even the ... Funnies!!!

BLESSING BOX: Put your daily change, that is, pennies, nickels and dimes in the Blessing Box.

GOD'S WORD: Genesis 1:1-24

MUSIC: "Tis the Gift to Be Simple" **BACK WHERE WE STARTED!**

THE FINAL ROUNDUP FOR SUMMER 2009!

Learning to be a Steward for God's Creation is a HUGE task! But it's definitely fun to learn how we can identify things to change to help reverse Global Warming. Check out these websites below to get started with all of the information to help us be God's Steward's for God's Creation.

Have Fun! Don't forget to sing, research the Bible for leading our search, pray, keep a journal, compose your own songs and keep singing the strong hymns of faith.

APPRECIATION AND A LITTLE HISTORY

Thank you for participating in this new venture for Christian Education at BMPC. Our early leaders practiced recycling very early as our history tells us the first offering plates were made of...**PINE STRAW!** The first 'pews' were seats from the Picquet Theatre, the first organ the Theatre Organ at the Picquet Theatre. One lady even gave the money she saved for a new winter coat to build the new church and wore her husband's coat instead. Talk about reusing! And, everytime you go into the Media Center or any library, you are sharing / reusing books that have been placed there for many people to use. Look around wherever you are and see what is being recycled/reused. You will be quite surprised!

http://www.nccouncilofchurches.org/areasofwork/committees/nc_interfaith_power_light/energy_conservation_resources.htm: Click on Resources and go to 10 Simple Things..." and then go to the Carbon Calculator for your Carbon Footprint.

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/3915>: Click on 10 Ways to Save and Go Green and "Million Dollar Car Campaign".

<http://www.coamerica.org>: America's only screened green businesses; contains Hot Topics.

<http://www.carbonfootprint.com>: or <http://www.newdream.org>. (PC(USA) Enough for Everyone.

A Carbon Footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases we produce. It is measured in units of carbon dioxide. How big is yours? Find out, then reduce it and offset it!

<http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign>: Invites you to be part of the billion tree campaign to reduce CO2 and reduce global warming/climate change.

YES, WE DO HAVE SOME ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, but with information, initiative and always "Loving God with all our heart..." and our neighbors as ourselves, **We can move forward!** AMEN !