

## **Annual Report, 2008-2009**

### **Green Sanctuary Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to serve as a catalyst in our congregation's journey towards sustainability and effective involvement with environmental issues. We accomplish this purpose by following UUA's Green Sanctuary Process, ultimately resulting in UUCB becoming accredited as a Green Sanctuary.

Events: The Green Sanctuary Committee organized 10 events this year. Eight of these were made available by Dick Rehberg's Critical Environmental Issues project: Dangerous Catch, Burning the Future: Coal in America, "Hot, Flat, and Crowded", Biodiversity, Energy and the Home, Greening the City of Binghamton, Oceans: Resources at Risk, and Plan B 3.0. The other two events were the Earth Day service and UUCB Gardening Work Days. We also helped with other events that were organized by other committees. Examples include: RE Summer Program, Van Jones Ware Lecture DVD showing, Sarah Jane Johnson community dinners, Jumpin' January, Ethical Eating Film Series, Youth Con, BRSC Silent Auction, and VINES presentation.

Projects: Projects are at the heart of the Green Sanctuary Program. Some of these are organized and implemented directly by Green Sanctuary members while others represent collaboration with another UUCB committee. To date, UUCB has completed 17 projects and 20 projects are in progress. For a current list of projects we are working on, see the Green Sanctuary Bulletin Board. Pick one that appeals to you and let the project leader know that you'd like to help out.

Other Accomplishments: We completed the Congregational Assessment in September, set up a UUCB Green Sanctuary web page ([uubinghamton.org/gs/green.html](http://uubinghamton.org/gs/green.html)), established the Green Sanctuary Bulletin Board, and produced the "Green Matters" column in each Beacon.

Milestones: On April 23, UUCB was recognized by the Broome County Legislature for its green initiatives. We have now completed the first three phases of the Green Sanctuary Process and are working on the fourth phase -- preparing the application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy.

What's Next: Our plan is to send UUA our Green Sanctuary Candidacy application this summer, continue to work on projects this next church year (with emphasis on those projects needed for Green Sanctuary Accreditation), and then, if we are ready, apply for accreditation next summer.

Project Area Group Leaders: Dick Rehberg, Susan McAnanama, Darlyne Mitchell, and Wes Ernsberger

Communications Leader: Gerri Wiley

Congregational Assessment: Lisa Sienkiewicz and Susan McAnanama

Project Leaders: Carol Miyake, Kris Gilbert, Trebbe Johnson, Susan McAnanama, Wes Ernsberger, Lee Shepherd, Lynne Theophanis, Gerri Wiley, Dick Rehberg, Lillian Theophanis, Sergio Rapu, Petra Stone, Rema Loeb, and Darlyne Mitchell

Active Participants: Beverly Singer, Eric Loeb, Tom and Dolores Elliott, Cindy Cotten, John Patterson, George McAnanama, Chris Rounds, Jerome Rigot, Cindy Jones, and Scott Clarke

Many others have been and will be involved. Indeed, the success of our congregation's Green Sanctuary initiative requires broad participation by the congregation.

Wes Ernsberger, Chair