



Top stories in this newsletter



Conference



Why C3



C3 Board Members



Quotes from History



Loving What God Loves: A Conference on Caring for Creation

October 18, 2022

9:00 am - 12:00noon

Yates Baptist Church, Durham, NC

Featuring

Norman Wirzba – Duke University Gilbert T. Rowe Distinguished Professor of Christian Theology; Senior Fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics



Robert Davies – Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Department of Physics at Utah State University



Megan Pardue – Pastor at Refuge Home Church, Durham, NC and 2021 C3 Sermon Challenge Winner



Don Gordon – Founder and CEO of C3



Woodland Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas—C3 Church of the Year, 2022

C3 will host its first conference at Yates Baptist Church in Durham, NC, on October 18 from 9 am until noon.

Loving What God Loves: A Conference on Caring for Creation will feature leading voices in the creation care movement. Norman Wirzaba, a leading global voice at the intersection of theology and ecology, will give the keynote address at 9 am. He will be followed by Robert Davies, a leading physicist who has devoted the last 15 years of his life to climate science. Wirzba and Davies will join together to answer questions from participants through a Zoom conversation.

The conference will conclude with a worship service on the topic of creation featuring the Rev. Megan Pardue, the C3 Sermon Challenge winner in 2021.

The cost of this virtual conference is \$10 per person. The registration link is found below. This will be a wonderful conference that will inform and inspire you to be a better steward of God's earth.

To register, click link: Register for Conference



Why C3

Welcome to the first newsletter produced by C3. I'm grateful you are reading

this and hope you will give us a few more minutes to inform you about what we are doing and why.

I want to begin by telling you why I started C3 a little

over two years ago. It was a conflation of many factors. First, there was growing scientific evidence that the world was facing an existential crisis. Overwhelming scientific consensus said that climate change caused by CO2 emissions caused mainly by human behavior was putting the life as we know it, at great risk. While there is a tiny minority that

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Christians Caring for Creation

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calls this scientific view “alarmist” and unnecessary, it is extraordinary how the weather models designed by scientists over the past 50 years are eerily accurate. Even as I’m writing this newsletter, a hurricane is about to smash the west coast of Florida, creating storm surges never seen by humans living today. Yes, we’ve always had hurricanes, tornados and droughts, but they are more intense and destructive now. Climate change is happening. It’s costing us billions of dollars already in infrastructure damage and agricultural loss. Furthermore, it is having a more devastating impact on the poor, who are less mobile and less able to overcome personal losses.

A second reason I started C3 was my grandson, who is now 3-years-old. Added to the grandchild litter are two more, a granddaughter and a grandson. It dawned on me that these children

would likely (hopefully) live into the 22nd century. I began to think about the world I was leaving them. Following the reasoning from above, that world could be a very uninhabitable place as soon as the last half of the 21st century. And if my grandchildren, who have the privilege of living with loving parents with more than



Don and August

sufficient means, are threatened, what about the billions of children who don’t have those safeguards. I didn’t want to be a grandparent who simply showed up at birthday parties and attended soccer games. Loving future generations would require more than sentiment. It would require thoughtful choices and even sacrifice. As a Christian who has been conditioned to love neighbors, walking on the other side of the road to ignore the problem was unacceptable.

A third reason for the creation of C3 was my encounters with younger generations, beginning with my 3 daughters and their spouse, but not limited to them. Having the privilege of teaching 18-22-year-old college students awakened me to the angst the younger generation feels about their future. Greta Thunberg and Donald Trump have one very important trait in common with one another. They both have a large following, because what they are saying with bold bluntness finds resonance with a large percentage of

people. Greta has achieved notoriety because there are already so many young people who feel her sense of desperation about the future. The church of Jesus Christ is losing a large portion of its younger Christian population because they don’t believe the church cares about them. If the church is going to

remain silent or dismiss the existential crisis of our times and their future, then what good are we? Why bother with an organization that is myopic about the problems they are facing? No wonder, they aren’t coming to church.



I started C3 because I believe faith and science can and should be partners in the pursuit of truth and solving problems. I have committed to be a voice for the earth, because I have grandchildren that will inhabit this earth for the next 80 years. I have invested in this organization because I care about the witness of the church and its perpetuation in the life of the younger generations. Yes, I believe in the providence of God and that ultimately God is in control of all things, but I also know the biblical witness from the Garden of Eden to the missionary fields of Paul has shown God to be a Great Commissioner, commissioning his people to share his message and commit their energies to extend his mission. God made Adam and Eve stewards of the garden, and he made Paul a steward of the Gospel to the Gentiles. They all had work to do. And so do we.

I invite you to join us in this sacred work, to be faithful stewards of the earth and rebuild the church for the glory of God.



Christians Caring for Creation



C3 Board Members

Why do other members of the C3 board see the need of our work?

When I was a little girl, I was haunted by a commercial from "Keep America Beautiful" that showed a native American with tears in his eyes as he looked at the environmental damage and litter all around. Read more....Even then, I wanted to run into that commercial and start picking things up. As an adult, I still want to pick things up. The environment is not just where I live, it's also where I often worship. It's where I feel close to God. I imagine that is true for many people. We have a calling to respect and care for God's creation as part of our faith. Our commitment to this call will help to ensure that the "beauty of the earth and the glory of the skies" are there for generations to come.



Lea Slaton

This week we joyfully welcomed our sixth grandchild, Shepherd ("Shep"), into the world. He is tiny, surrounded by a loving extended family, and completely dependent on this increasingly unpredictable world that we're passing along to him. As Don mentions, being a grandparent tends to open something in our hearts that focuses our attention away from ourselves and toward the future in ways we might never have thought possible. I find myself awake in the wee hours wondering how I can make a difference for him and for all the children in our lives. I know that personally I can do my best to live and work sustainably to the best of my ability, but to have a true impact, I need to partner with like-minded people, multiplying our voices and our efforts. Thankfully, C3 offers me that opportunity.



Mike Massar

Board of Directors

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- Mike Massar, San Antonio, Texas
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- Christian McIvor, Raleigh, NC



Quotes from Church History

"Let us turn our eyes to the Father and Creator of the universe, and consider...the total absence of any friction that marks the ordering of his whole creation."

Clement of Rome (ca. 37-101 AD), Letter to the Corinthians 1:19

"The initial step for a soul to come to knowledge of God is contemplation of nature. "

Irenaeus (120-202) (Continued on page 4)



Christians Caring for Creation

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“One day, Honi the sage, was walking on the road and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked the man, ‘How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?’

The man replied, ‘Seventy years.’

Honi then asked the man, ‘And do you think you will live another seventy years and eat the fruit of this tree?’

The man answered, ‘Perhaps not. However, when I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my father and grandfather. Just as they planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees.’”

Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a
(second or third century)

The National Picture



The total generation of trash in 2018 in the US was 292.4 million tons or **4.9 pounds per person** per day.

Of that, **32.1%** was recycled or composted and **50%** was sent to a landfill.

Paper and paperboard products made up **23%** (the largest percentage) of all the materials in US trash. Paper and paperboard make up **66.54%** of the materials that are recycled.

The average family can waste **180** gallons per week, or **9,400** gallons of water annually, from household leaks.

Since 1993, the average sea level has risen at a rate of **0.12 to 0.14 inches per year**—roughly twice as fast as the long-term trend.

Eight of the top 10 warmest years on record for the contiguous 48 states have occurred since 1998, and 2012 and 2016 were the two warmest years on record.

Facts and Figures from the EPA website.

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