

## Say Hello to **PROJECT EVERGREEN**

It started with a question (that isn't really important) and an answer (that is). From Mark, chapter 1; "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

That's pretty straightforward. Other translations say : "The kingdom of God is at hand..." But in either case, the message is clear. God's kingdom is here, now. For much of the past 2,000 years, Christianity has viewed God's kingdom in human terms: How do we humans become members of the kingdom? How are we humans saved? But the message seen throughout the Bible is that God's kingdom includes all of creation: humans, certainly; but also plants and animals; even earth and sky. As the human population of the world approaches 7 billion it is imperative that people of faith acknowledge that no part of God's kingdom can come near unless all of God's kingdom is included.

This is the birth of Project Evergreen. As Christians, as God's people we are called to take seriously this universal view of creation. We are called to be conscientious in our treatment of the earth and its resources. We are called to understand that the gifts we have been given – land and air and water; productive soil and warm sun – are not ours to squander, but ours to care for and protect, to use wisely and to offer up to God the king of all creation.

Project Evergreen is many things. It is a community of interest – people who have heard the call to creation care and are committed to learning about and responding to that call. Project Evergreen is a clearinghouse of ideas – ways Southminster as a church and we as stewards of the kingdom can be involved in caring for God's creation. Project Evergreen is how Southminster will be known – in Boise, in the Presbytery, and beyond – branded, if you will, as a leader in responding to the call to care for God's Kingdom here on earth.

The Project Evergreen community meets in several ways. We gather together on Sunday evenings to study scripture, particularly as it relates to environmental care and to share ideas and report on activities currently under way. We also gather on Facebook where a Project Evergreen "group" includes members from Southminster and several other churches in the Presbytery. And we are preparing to launch a Project Evergreen presence on the SPCBOISE.org website. There we will present information and links to topics that include various types of opportunities – ideas that can be used in our homes, our church, our workplaces, our communities, even in the mission field.

How can you be involved? Join us on Sunday evenings. We meet from 7 – 8:30 in the Jean Moore Lounge. Find us on line – Watch for announcements about the web presence. Talk to one of us at coffee hour – We're the ones with pine trees on our name tags. You can even leave a note in my box, or send me a message at: [evergreen@spcboise.org](mailto:evergreen@spcboise.org)

Project Evergreen isn't looking to change everything about how we live our lives. Project Evergreen aims to help us to be more conscientious about how we go about being God's people, tending God's garden, caring for God's kingdom. Won't you join us?

Thank you, Randy Marshall

## Project Evergreen

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