

CARING FOR CREATION NEWS

April 2008

What seemed like an unusually long and persistent winter has passed. The weather has turned and spring is here. By the time you read this the daffodils will be in bloom and the crocuses will already have come and gone—that's assuming, of course, that my nemeses, the rabbits, didn't get them first!

Spring rains are on the way and we look forward to their arrival. They're one of the ways that we note the changing of the seasons and the passage of time. Soon that old lyric will be on everyone's lips: April showers bring May flowers.

In open areas, falling rain soaks into the ground and percolates its way down to the subterranean aquifers. Eventually the aquifers discharge their water into the rivers and lakes, that's how they're renewed. However, in our urban environment, rain can be a mixed blessing. City streets and rooftops are impermeable and the water can't soak in, it just runs off.

Urban runoff scrubs any surface that it flows over, carrying that content directly to our lakes and rivers. Motor oil, gasoline, fertilizers—they all end up being injected into our water ways.

Hope Church is taking steps to reduce the runoff from our impermeable surfaces. Last fall we commissioned a study by a rain garden specialist. (A rain garden is literally a garden, but designed in such a way as to hold rainwater thereby allowing it to seep into the ground.) We have received her report and recommendations.

The Building and Grounds Ministry has endorsed the rain garden concept and the Caring for Creation Ministry has agreed to form a task force for implementation. There's much to do and we need your help. We're looking for people with expertise in funding/grant writing, project management, publicity, and gardening.

Together we can take steps that improve our environment and fulfill our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation. A rain garden can be one of the visible ways in which we match belief to action. If you are able to help, please contact me.

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Coordinator