

# Interfaith Creation Care Forum Slated for Oct. 24

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One of the most fundamental tenets of religion – mankind’s care of the creation provided – is beginning to garner a fresh look by area congregations and conservation groups alike. In an effort to bring Upstate congregations together to share their experiences, the Center for Humans and Nature, Upstate Forever, Wofford College, and Audubon South Carolina are hosting a one day interfaith workshop, *An Introduction to Creation Care*, on October 24 in Greer.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Rusty Pritchard, President of Flourish ([www.flourishonline.org](http://www.flourishonline.org)) and former editor of *Creation Care*, the magazine of the Evangelical Environmental Network. Flourish was co-founded by Dr. Pritchard after he and others recognized that churches need access to ministry resources on creation care that build faith, encourage discipleship, and demonstrate practical concern. His address will be titled *New Evangelicals, Old Evangelicals, and the Care of Creation*.

Other scheduled speakers include Trish Jerman of the South Carolina Energy Office, who will explain the SCEO’s ConserFund Loan Program as well as other resources available to non-profits. Professional HVAC engineer Wade Crow will discuss improvements that can be made to existing church buildings; Rabbi Yossi Liebowitz will discuss Temple B’nai Israel’s efforts in Spartanburg; Erin Campbell and Wayne Leftwich will present a section of the film *Renewal* and will discuss activities at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson; Tameria Warren and Chequita Jones of Bible Way Church of Atlas Road in Columbia will address how to set up a “green team,” and Upstate Forever’s Brad Wyche will discuss environmental challenges and opportunities.

The forum is being funded by the Center for Humans and Nature. CHN’s Low Country Director Dr. Bruce Coull, Dean Emeritus at the School of the Environment, USC Columbia, stated “Most South Carolinians believe that God created us and all those important parts of the ecosphere upon which we depend. Our dominion is to be good masters of these resources.”

“We want congregations of all faiths to feel comfortable talking about this very important subject. Creation care covers everything from building energy use, which offers an opportunity for congregations to save money, to purchasing decisions, such as utilizing local food sources and creating community gardens, and to managing and protecting lands owned by faith institutions. These decisions impact our planet and they impact how we care for our fellow human beings as well,” stated Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever.

The forum will close with an announcement by Dr. Ron Robinson, Chaplain at Wofford College, about the formation of a South Carolina Chapter of Interfaith Power and Light, to be housed initially at Wofford.

The forum is from 2pm to 6pm at the City of Greer Municipal Complex (301 East Poinsett Street, Greer, SC 29651). Clergy and laypersons alike are welcome. It is free of charge but registration by October 15 is required. Please contact Shelley Robbins at Upstate Forever to register or to request more information (864-327-0090 or [srobbins@upstateforever.org](mailto:srobbins@upstateforever.org)).

Media members are kindly asked to respond to Shelley Robbins at [srobbins@upstateforever.org](mailto:srobbins@upstateforever.org) or 327-0090.