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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photos Available

The Answer: Restoring the Bay One Tree at a Time

Trees for Sacred Places partnership helps faith communities take environmental action

(January 19, 2016- Annapolis, MD) The **Trees for Sacred Places Program**, a partnership between the [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) (Alliance) and [Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#) (IPC), is a unique program that brings restoration, community engagement and education to an often overlooked partner in environmental restoration, the faith community.

Participation in the program is available in Maryland for any property that is owned by any faith community. The program facilitates tree plantings on these properties by organizing the planting day and providing a free planting plan prepared by the Alliance, all the necessary planting tools and supplies, and of course, native trees.

Founded in 2013, *Trees for Sacred Places* has worked with 85 congregations and other faith-owned properties across Maryland to plant 12,149 trees with the help of over 1600 volunteers.

“The entire process was a great experience” says partner Mary Elliott, Reverend at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Baltimore. “We did have a lot of help and it went much faster than anticipated... It was a beautiful day. I am so happy every time I pull into the parking lot and see our little sticks.”

In addition to the Alliance’s tree plantings support, IPC offers congregations a workshop which focuses on the spiritual foundation for environmental stewardship, watershed literacy and the environmental importance of trees. The spiritual teachings are drawn from the faith tradition of the participating congregation including the sacredness of water and the social justice benefits of Bay watershed restoration.

Over the next two years, the program seeks to identify 50 more congregations to plant another 3,000 trees. Thanks to the statewide support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Prince George’s County and Montgomery County, this work will continue. Any faith community that would like to participate should contact Bonnie Sorak at bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org or call 410-609-6852. Will there be clean water for tomorrow’s children? The faith community in Maryland is demonstrating a clear commitment to answer that question with “YES!”

The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided the funding for the trees planted between 2013-2015. The state’s *Stream Restoration Challenge* invested \$6 million in programs like Trees for



Sacred Places. “Through environmental literacy projects, we can help our youth understand the critical role they can play as stewards of our lands,” stated MD Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton.

See below for a listing of the congregations and properties we partnered with on this project.

More about the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Founded in 1971, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, with headquarters in Annapolis, MD and offices in Pennsylvania and Virginia, works throughout the Bay watershed to lead, support and inspire local action and build partnerships with individuals, communities, governments, businesses, and other groups to restore the Bay and its watershed lands, rivers and streams. For more information on about the Alliance, visit: allianceforthebay.org

More about the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is dedicated to educating, supporting and motivating the people and communities of faith to care for the Earth and all its inhabitants, beginning with their own home, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. For more information about Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, visit: interfaithchesapeake.org

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List of Partner Congregations

Baltimore Sikh Society

1731 Rita Road, Dundalk, MD 21222

Watersedge Church

3483 Liberty Parkway, Dundalk, MD 21222

Geneva Presbyterian

11931 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854

Saints Philip and James Parish

2801 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21218

Temple Emanuel of Baltimore

909 Berrymans Ln, Reisterstown, MD 21136

Christ Episcopal Church, West River

220 Owensville Rd, West River, MD 20778

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

1601 Pleasant Plains Rd, Annapolis, MD 21409

Woodbrook Baptist Church

25 Stevenson Ln, Baltimore, MD 21212

All Saints Lutheran

16510 Mt Oak Rd, Bowie, MD 20716

St. Andrew's UMC School

4 Wallace Manor Rd, Edgewater MD 21307

Friendship United Methodist Church

22 Sansbury Road, Friendship, MD

Grace United Methodist

5407 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21212

Union Baptist Church

1219 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217

Salem Lutheran Church

3825 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

621 Old Fallston Rd, Fallston, MD 21047

Gallery Church East Point Baltimore

502 Fairview Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore Emmanuel Monastery

2229 West Joppa Road, Lutherville, MD 21093

Epiphany Episcopal Church

2216 Pot Spring Rd, Timonium, MD

St. James' Episcopal Church & Academy

3100 Monkton Rd, Monkton, MD 21111

St. Mary Anne's Episcopal

315 South Main Street, North East, MD 21901

Temple Isaiah

12200 Scaggsville Rd., Fulton, MD 20759

Covenant United Methodist Church

Pleasant Ridge Dr., Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Pearlstone Center

5425 Mt Gilead Rd, Reisterstown, MD 21136

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

14300 St. Thomas Church Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD

20772

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

7401 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, Maryland

Washington Adventist Hospital

7600 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Washington Adventist University

7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

St. Matthew's Catholic (in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore)

5401 Loch Raven Blv, Baltimore, MD 21239

Mt. Olive Baptist Church (in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore)

West Saratoga Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Little Pines Farm

Harford County

Birch Family (Norrisville)

Birch Ln, White Hall, MD 21161

Catholic Charities/Gallagher Services

2520 Pot Spring Rd, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

West River United Methodist Center (in partnership with West/Rhode Riverkeeper)

5100 Chalk Point Road, West River, MD 20778

Towson Unitarian Universalist

1710 Dulaney Valley Rd, Lutherville, MD 21093

Benedictine School

14299 Benedictine Lane, Ridgely MD 21660

Columbia Jewish Congregation/Oakland Mills Interfaith Center

5885 Robert Oliver Pl, Columbia, MD 21045

Bnos Yisroel Girls School Yeshiva

6300 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215

Faith Presbyterian (in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore)

5400 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21239

Christ the King Episcopal (in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore)

1930 Brookdale Road, Woodlawn, MD 21244

Holy Family Catholic Church

826 W Central Ave, Davidsonville, MD 21035

Clemes Property

3025 Bennett Point Rd, Queenstown, MD 21658, USA

Am Kolel Retreat Center

19520 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, MD 20839-3308

Manidokan Camp & Retreat Center

1600 Harpers Ferry Road, Knoxville, Maryland 21758

Chizuk Amuno Congregation

8100 Stevenson Road, Baltimore, MD 21208

St. Andrew's UMC School

4B Wallace Manor Rd, Edgewater, MD 21037

Pearlstone Center

5425 Mt Gilead Rd, Reisterstown, MD 21136

Annapolis Friends Meeting

351 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD 21401

Rockbridge Christian Academy

911 Generals Hwy, Millersville, MD 21108

Payne Memorial

7901 Brock Bridge Rd, Jessup, MD

Parole

2 Hicks Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401

Second Baptsits

1808 Poplar Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401

Silas First Baptist

91 W Earleigh Heights Rd, Severna Park, MD 21146



Wayman Good Hope AME

100 Hoyle Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146

Ebenezer Galesville

937 Main Street, Galesville, MD 20765

Empowering Believers Church, Glen Burnie

7566 E. Howard Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060

First Baptist

31 W Washington St, Annapolis, MD 21401

First Christian Community Church

1800 Apostle Johnson Way, Annapolis, MD 21401

Frest Start

506 Lincoln Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21060

John Wesley

2114 Bay Ridge Ave, Annapolis, MD 21403

Mount Moriah

2204 Bay Ridge Ave, Annapolis, MD 21403

Mount Olive

2 Hicks Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401

Mt. Zion Lothian

41 Ark Road, Lothian, MD 20711

Mt. Zion Pasadena

8178 Artic Drive, Pasadena, MD 21122

Mont. UMC

28325 Kemptown Rd, Damascus, MD 20872

Beth. UMC

328 Klee Mill Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784

Sandy Mt UMC

2101 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg, MD 21048

Weller UMC

101 N. Altamont Ave, Thurmont, MD 21788

Lewistown UMC

11032 Hessong Bridge Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788

Brook Hill UMC

8946 Indian Springs Rd, Frederick, MD 21702

Cent Mem UMC

8 West 2nd St, Frederick, MD 21701

Fairhaven UMC

12801 Darnestown Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

William Schmidt Center

18501 Aquasco Rd, Brandywine, MD

GlenMar UMC

4701 New Cut Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21043

BWC UMC

11711 E Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759

WesleyC UMC

7745 Waterloo Rd, Jessup, MD 20794

Trinity UMC

852 Patuxent Rd, Odenton, MD 21113

NichoB UMC

1239 Murray Rd, Odenton, MD 21113

Mt Zion UMC

8178 Artic Dr, Pasadena, MD 21122

Asbury Broadneck

657 Broadneck Rd, Annapolis, MD 21409

Mt. Olive

2 Hicks Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401

Camp Pecometh

136 Bookers Wharf Road, Centreville, MD 21617

Adams UMC

937 Bayard Rd, Lothian, MD 20711