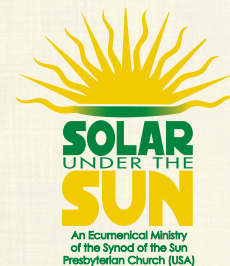


Light of LIFE



SOLAR UNDER THE SUN MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE WATT AT A TIME

Ferncliff ECO Center Completed

Ferncliff's new 5,300 sq. ft. Eco Center was designed to be an ideal site for Solar School. It was built largely by volunteers and staff using as many locally available materials as possible. The walls are made of 1200 straw bales. So far as we know, it is the largest straw bale-walled building in the U.S. While a conventional new home will have an R-value of 13 to 15 in the walls, straw bale walls have an R-value around 33. The walls are plastered (three coats inside and out) with natural hydraulic lime. Ferncliff staff calculates that they mixed 600 loads of the plaster.

The Eco Center has a large room for plenaries, worship and as space for Solar 2 participants to do their hands on work. There is a smaller classroom for Solar 1 students and five bedrooms with lodging for 22 people. Each of the bedrooms has a floor made from materials that Ferncliff was able to scavenge. One floor is made from used conveyor belts while a second floor is made from rocks made available as the camp pool is being razed. A third floor is made with whole beer bottles (about 3,000 of them!) inserted bottom's up. A final floor was made from recycled newspaper turned into paper mache and used to make a floor that looks like fieldstone.

No home for Solar School would be complete without solar power. The whole building is powered by



This beautiful building is ready for the next Solar School Graduates. Join us in May & September.



a dozen solar panels (3KW). It is a net metering system that returns unneeded power to the grid for credit. Solar School faculty and volunteers will be adding additional panels, a water purification system and other components that will give students valuable hands-on experience similar to what they can expect in the field. Other green features include a white roof to reflect heat, a solar chimney for

ventilation, rice hulls for wall and ceiling insulation, and a wood-fired, radiant floor heating system.

The Eco Center took a year to complete and cost about \$350,000 or \$65 per sq. ft. Funds were provided as part of Ferncliff's capital campaign and with a \$100,000 grant from the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering to Solar Under the Sun.

SUTS Receives Presbyterian Earth Care Award

When I lived in New Orleans, there was an expression saying, "We are so far behind; we are ahead."

Of course, this was referring to the electric rail car system that has been in existence for over 150 years. When most cities had upgraded their mass transit systems to busses, trollies and subways,

New Orleans had remained with their antiquated electric rail cars. Today, the charm and romance of this transit system is a major tourist attraction! Therefore, once again, New Orleans is ahead when it comes to old world enchantment.

The developing world is just now entering into the fossil fuel burning era in a major way. Anything that can be done to help our brothers and sisters in Christ to skip this stage will benefit everyone. I believe that solar power is certainly one of the options. This is one of the reasons that Solar under the Sun was



chosen to be the 2013 recipient of the Presbyterians for Earth Care award for restoring creation. Imagine not being tied to high dollar carbon emission burning fuels. Imagine 1.6 billion people skipping ahead to a world of clean energy with a free delivery system, the sun! Imagine being so far

behind that you are ahead. It can happen.

Chris McRae
SUTS Director

PEC MISSION STATEMENT:

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC), formerly Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, is a nationwide network that cares for God's Creation by:

- Connecting with God and others through biblical and theological reflection, study, and experiencing God in Creation;
- Equipping members with news and effective tools and resources;
- Inspiring members through conferences on timely eco-justice issues and Creation-honoring worship.

Recent SUTS Installation in Haiti



A team from Washington and Arkansas joined together to provide solar power and clean water to the community of Bainet.

SUTS Blurbs

Upcoming Solar School Session and Registration
May 1-4, 2014

September 11-14, 2014

Held at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, Near Little Rock, AR. Register online at www.solarunderthesun.org.

SUTS Grants

SUTS Grants are available from Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering. The SUTS Grant Committee convenes monthly to review applications. Please visit our website for complete details on the grant application process.

SUTS Vacation Bible School Curriculum

SUTS VBS curriculum is available for \$50. Please visit our [website](#) to order your copy today!

SUTS Stats

9 Solar Schools
191 Graduates
50+% Grads in the Field
50 SUTS Systems by June 2013
48 Systems in Haiti
1 System in Ukraine
1 System in Kenya
45 Systems Operate LWW Clean Water Systems
5 Stand-Alone Solar Systems

Newsletter Dates & Deadlines

We will publish newsletters in July and November 2014. If you have articles or pictures you would like to include, please send them to chris@solarunderthesun.org by the 15th of the previous month.

Spread The Word

Twitter—[@solarundersun](https://twitter.com/solarundersun)

Facebook—[facebook.com/solarunderthesun](https://www.facebook.com/solarunderthesun)

Website—www.solarunderthesun.org

God's Little Light Bulb

Meet Junau Louis-Jean, a college student from Haiti who is studying nursing at Hesston College in Kansas. Many paths lead to SUTS' Solar School! Please read Junau's reflection below. With your financial and spiritual support, Solar Under the Sun can continue to reach out to new partners in the U.S. and around the world. Together, we are making connections and spreading the good news of Christ's light through the gift of solar power.

—Rev. Leah R. Hrachovec, Vice President, SUTS Board of Directors

"In October of 2012 I went on a Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteer trip with Hesston College. There, I got to help rebuild fences on a property that was damaged by wildfire in the small town of Glencoe, Oklahoma. During that trip, I met Brenda Phillips, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, who talked to me about Solar Under the Sun and their work in Haiti. Through Brenda, I was put in contact with Leah Hrachovec, who helped me attend the September 2013 Solar School.



Participating at the Solar under the Sun training session was one of the best things I have done in that year. I must say that I didn't have any ideas about how to build a disconnect box, nor how to make the box run on a water system. Thanks to professional teachers at Ferncliff, 4 days later, I left the site with a fairly broad knowledge on how to make a solar/water system run. While Solar I taught leadership skills, I was part of Solar II learning how to assemble a solar energy system. The class was intense and overwhelming. I like intense and overwhelming classes, because I always feel like something good is happening. I also liked the relationships between teacher/student, and student/student. The bonding we all had was like nothing else.

Ever since I left Ferncliff, my mind stays focused on how to go about putting what I have learned at Ferncliff in practice. I did some research about the North side of Haiti, and also asked Lori Goldberg, the founder of Global Family, an orphanage that is currently running in the North side of Haiti. Lori has told me that Derac is, "The poorest rural area she has ever witnessed". I feel the urge to "share God's gift of Solar Power". As I might be going back to Haiti in June, I would like to go visit the Derac's area. When I get back, I would like to be part of a team solar team that is going back to Haiti to help the population of Derac get clean water, and help eliminate chances of the villagers of Derac getting water born sickness."

SUTS Board of Directors Kicks-Off 2014

The newly elected Solar Under the Sun Board of Directors met February 28 & March 1 at the newly constructed Eco-Center at Ferncliff Camp. As passed by the Synod of the Sun in November 2013, SUTS moved from being a standing committee of the Synod to a Board of Directors model. This allows SUTS to reap the benefits of being a network of the Synod, while strengthening SUTS for the future growth and success in its mission.

We are pleased to announce our newly elected board members to you:

Officers:

Tom Ulrich, President; Fort Smith, Ark.
Leah Hrachovec, Vice-President;
Stillwater, Okla.
Bill Mendenhall, Secretary; Jackson, Miss.
Doug Roszel, Treasurer, Bartlesville, Okla.

Committee Chairpersons & Members:

Mark Tew, Chair, Technology & System Design Committee; Oxford, Miss.
Mary Ellen Summerlin, Chair, Development & Awareness Committee; Kerrville, Tex.
Ashley Goad, Chair, Accounting & Finance Committee; Shreveport, Lou.
Steve Fairbanks; Stillwater, Okla.
Jim Freeman; Shreveport, Lou.
Christianne Chase; Enid, Okla.

Ex-Officio Members:

David Gill, Ex-Officio; Little Rock, Ark.
Bill Galbraith, Ex-Officio; Little Rock, Ark.
Dan Saperstein, Synod of the Sun Co-Leader for Mission & Partnership; Dallas, Tex.
Valerie Young, Synod of the Sun Co-Leader for Administration; Dallas, Tex.
Chris McRae, Solar Under The Sun Director; Fort Smith, Ark.



SOLAR UNDER THE SUN

An Ecumenical Ministry
of the Synod of the Sun
Presbyterian Church (USA)



Scan this QR code for more information!

We thank the many Solar Under The Sun donors! Without you, this ministry would not be possible.

Churches

Clinton Presbyterian Church,
Clinton, LA
First Presbyterian Church,
Bartlesville, OK
First Presbyterian Church,
Belton, TX
First Presbyterian Church,
Camden, AR
First Presbyterian Church, Ft.
Smith, AR
First Presbyterian Church,
Karnes City, TX
First Presbyterian Church,
Kerrville, TX
First Presbyterian Church,
Miami, OK
First Presbyterian Church,
Mountain Home, AR
First Presbyterian Church,
Stillwater, OK
First Presbyterian Church,
Texarkana, TX
Holiday Island Presbyterian
Church, Holiday Isle, AR
Westminster Presbyterian
Church, Fort Worth, TX

E.F. Beck
Alan Clarke
John Cronk
Vicki & Roy Deskin
Janet Drummond
Steve Edminsten
Kathleen Ekeberg
Ashley Goad
Wil & Michelle Howie
Burnis Leavens
Sue Liu
Danny & Karen Logan
Erin McMaster
Chris McRae
William Mendenhall
John Miller
Robert Remsburg
Susan Rogers
Doug & Flora Mae Roszel
Kimberly Shrull
Sally Smith
Phyllis Speck
Kay Stewart
Mary Ellen Summerlin
Kathy & Jerry Vaughn
Sylvia Washer

Organizations

Arkansas Presbytery
Presbyterian Women

Central Presbyterian Church,
Russellville, AR
First United Presbyterian
Church Presbyterian
Women, Fayetteville, AR
Grace First Presbyterian
Women, Weatherford, TX
Harmony Presbyterian APW,
Clarksville, AR
Heartland Presbytery
Mendenhall Family
Foundation
Palo Duro Presbytery
Presbytery of Arkansas
Presbytery of South Louisiana
Presbyterian Women's Assoc.,
Siloam Springs, AR
Presbyterian Women of the
Presbytery of the Pines
Presbyterian Women of FPC
Searcy, AR

In Honor Of/From

Shirley Dixon Miller/Frances
Phares
Harold Younger/Stephanie
Kotarski
Harold Younger/Suzanne Kline
Beth, Rich, Jake & Ryan
Sarey/Bill Galbraith

Ann Smith/ Andrew Odom
Harold & Jan Skaggs/Carol
McDonald
Chris & Ruthie McRae/Ann
Smith
Chris & Ruthie McRae/Tom
Ulrich
Jane Portis/Dr. James Works
Katy Bedunah/Carmen
Sullivan
Leah Hrachovec/Kay Stewart
Mike Murray/Melanie
Williamson
Judy & David Fletcher/Brett
Fletcher
Valerie Knox/Susan Rose
Judy Fletcher/David Fletcher
Mark Packwood/David
Fletcher
Jim Freeman/Barbara
Callaway

In Memory Of/From

Casidy Cook, Carter Cook &
Jackson William Cook/Bill &
Sybil Galbraith
Richard Hall/Mr. & Mrs. William
Gage
Richard Hall/David & Judy
Fletcher

Individuals

Neva Beasley