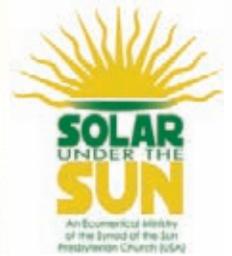


# Light of LIFE

ISSUE 5, JULY 2012



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

## SUTS Celebrates 3rd Anniversary

## God's Little Light Bulb



▲ SUTS celebrates 3rd birthday at Presbyterian Women's Gathering in Orlando, FL

July 4, 2009, a team of 13 adventured to Haiti to see if they could make a solar-powered clean water system prototype a reality. Three years later, the first Solar Under The Sun system, in Arcahaie, Haiti, is running as if it was brand new!

Just look at what we have accomplished:

- 6 Solar Schools
- 147 Trained Volunteers
- 24 Solar-Powered Clean Water Systems installed in Haiti
- 2 Stand-Alone Solar Power Systems installed in Haiti
- 3 Partnerships in place with communities in Ukraine, Kenya and Honduras

With each passing Solar School, the technology and resources our instructors and staff present are

reaching new levels of ease and understanding. Our survey teams continue to create sustaining relationships with communities in need all over the world.

How are we celebrating the anniversary? By attending General Assembly and Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering, of course! GA was 7 days of story telling, relationship building and a family reunion amongst SUTS volunteers from across the country. We extend a special thank you to the Pittsburgh-based volunteers who handed out materials, built a beautiful display, and packed up our booth.

With the opportunity to publicize the ministry opportunities SUTS is

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I have just returned from a successful "Solar School Abroad" to Haiti with Solar Under the Sun, where we worked in Arcahaie, Blanket, Mirebalais, Montrouis, and Cazale. We updated three existing solar-powered clean water systems and completed retrofit to solar energy on a 4th system. Our 5th visit was to survey a site for a future installation.

Haiti is a hard place to be. It's also for me a place that will be hard not to return to. When I attended Solar School in 2011, the most important thing I learned wasn't how to wire a disconnect box or do an electrical needs assessment. Rather, I learned that *anything and everything* we do in response to God's graceful leading is not extraordinary, it is expected. The Director of Solar Under the Sun, Chris McRae, shared these words at the end of our training and put

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## Special Thanks!

Solar School would cease to exist without the rich diversity of volunteers serving each year.

Solar School #6 felt a little “younger” with the addition of two amazing young adults, Katherine Norwood and Claire Sparks.

Katherine, a Solar One grad, came on board to keep our staff in line! Though the task was daunting, she served as the Solar School Administrator with flair and ease.



She even wore an additional hat on Sunday morning to give a beautiful message during our closing worship service.

Claire, a veteran of the Solar Pilot Project, documented the activities from Solar School and produced a promotional video for SUTS teams to share with their friends, families, churches, and communities. Download it from our website or <http://vimeo.com/43308198>.

We thank Katherine and Claire for their outstanding work and service to Solar Under The Sun. Without you, and our many volunteers, we'd be lost!

### LIGHT, continued from page 1

our perspectives in the right place, the spiritual place, the service place.

Over the course of 7 days in Haiti, I learned exactly what Chris meant. SUTS is not about us. It is about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit leading us in service for His children. It is about listening to God, preparing your self, and doing His work. Speaking about not what we have done, but what *GOD IS DOING*. We read the Bible and sometimes ask “God, where are these miracles we read about? Why aren't you doing the amazing things you did 2,000 years ago?” Are such vivid and obvious miracles contained to biblical times? I tell you this: They are not.

TODAY – God is making clean water rise from the rocks in Haiti.

TODAY – The children of Haiti are not raised from the dead; *God is keeping them alive*.

The Bible was written thousands of years ago. Instead of asking God, “Where are our miracles of

the Bible?” we must shift our thinking. God has given us the brains and the means to perform and serve according to HIS driven works.

The clean water in Haiti is God-driven. The healthy child of Haiti is God-driven.

You and I live in opulence, not even recognizing most of the comforts our lives. We live, also, not recognizing the miracles of today. All of the details, things, people, and happenings that must come together to make a clean water system and to make it run by the power of the sun and by *the power of the SON of God*.



▲ Lyla Jane Portis, Solar 1 Grad, and Ashley Broadhurst, SUTS Administrator.

Being lead to Haiti by God and His supportive church family, I have returned recognizing God's “Today Miracles.” It is often said after mission and service, that those serving return much more blessed than those served. God works the miracle, and we get the

fabulous opportunity of doing the hands-on worldly part of a much larger, inconceivable plan.

Haiti *IS* a hard place to be; however, when you acknowledge the physical and emotional difficulty experienced during a working visit to one of the world's poorest countries, you then, too, begin to acknowledge God's very present miracles in our lives. I thank Haiti for giving this gift to me.

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Lyla Jane Portis  
Solar School Graduate  
Texarkana, Arkansas

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### CELEBRATE, continued from page 1

providing, churches from across the USA were excited to learn about the potential involvement for solar mission projects. Likewise, PW Gathering was an excellent arena to celebrate the 2012 Birthday Offering. Hundreds of Presbyterian women stopped by to pick up information, take pictures and chat solar mission projects. The Spirit filled the four days in Orlando! ►

# SUTS Blurbs

Solar School Sessions  
and Registration  
September 13-16, 2012  
May 2-5, 2013

September 12-15, 2013  
Held at Ferncliff Camp &  
Conference Center,  
Near Little Rock, AR  
Register online at  
[www.solarunderthesun.org](http://www.solarunderthesun.org)

## SUTS Liturgy, Hymn & Devotionals

Is your church looking for materials to use to celebrate God's Creation? Visit our website to download a special hymn, prayers, Scripture and liturgy for any worship service.

## 2012 Newsletter Dates & Deadlines

We will publish newsletters in November, March & July. If you have articles or pictures you would like to include, please send them to [ashley@solarunderthesun.org](mailto:ashley@solarunderthesun.org) by the 15th of the previous month.

## SUTS Grants

Grant applications for Haiti Solar Projects are now available on our website.

## Spread The Word

Twitter

@solarundersun

Facebook

[facebook.com/solarunderthesun](http://facebook.com/solarunderthesun)

Website

[www.solarunderthesun.org](http://www.solarunderthesun.org)

As SUTS leaves its "terrible" two's and three's behind to enter its fantastic fourth year, Solar Schools 7 and 8 are on the calendar, and we are gearing up to complete projects in the Ukraine and Kenya, expanding projects to Honduras, and breaking ground on the new Solar Eco-Center at Ferncliff Camp. Praise be to God for His great blessings!

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Susan Rose  
SUTS Board of Directors  
Campus Minister, University  
of Arkansas

# Ferncliff Hosts Second Annual SOLAR CAMP

What do you get when you mix 7th-9th grade campers, Ferncliff staff, and ample sunshine? SOLAR CAMP 2012! This summer, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center hosted the second Solar Under The Sun Solar Camp. This year's campers learned about solar energy, did a lot of solar cooking, and even built solar powered toys they could take home.



▲ Students build their solar ovens to bake goodies!

During the first part of the week, campers learned about different types of energy, like radiant and heat energy. We used a 30-foot long solar balloon and solar cookers to demonstrate how radiant energy can be captured, converted to heat, and used for various purposes. Campers had fun while learning!

By mid-week, every camper had made their own solar cookers and demonstrated their use. A tradition at Ferncliff is to have a "Hobo pack" dinner, where campers make foil wrapped meals and cook them on the coals of a fire. Rather than fire, our campers

used their own solar ovens to cook hamburger patties, potatoes, carrots, and onions. They were **delicious**. Not one of our meals was burned (which I can't say about some of the meals cooked over the coals). In addition to Hobo packs, we made solar baked cookies, brownies, muffins, and cinnamon rolls. We were well fed!

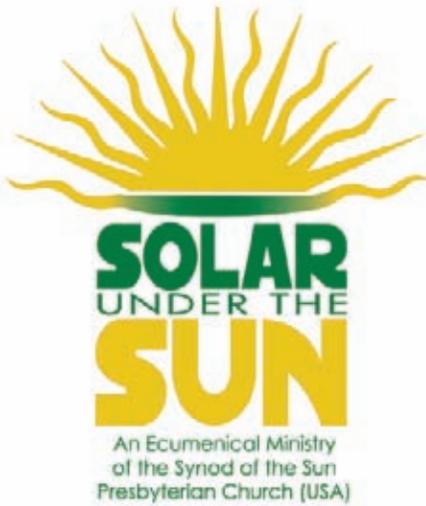
To learn and practice with solar generated electricity, we first started with small solar powered toys. Some made puppies that wagged their tails, some revolving air-planes, and some solar cars. Every student took joy in learning about electrical circuits, following directions and

paying special attention to detail, but the best was watching their face light up as they saw their project spring to life in full sun. We also used the SUTS Solar Trailer for demonstration.

All this, plus the usual camp activities like swimming, hiking, games, energizers, archery, and a ropes course (to name a few), helped to make a successful Solar Camp 2012. If you have 7th-9th grade students in your family or church, consider sending them to Solar Camp next summer. Every year we learn more about living in the light and capturing its powerful energy.

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Rollin Wycoff  
Solar School Graduate  
Camden, Arkansas



Synod of the Sun  
 6100 Colwell Blvd. Suite 200  
 Irving, TX 75039



Scan this QR code for more information!

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

**Individuals**

Michael Beasley  
 Linda Boulton  
 Leavens Burnis  
 John Cronk  
 Mary D'Alessio  
 John & Renee Dickens  
 Janet Drummond  
 Pamela George  
 Lyle Gerard  
 David Gill  
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 Leah Hrachovec  
 Valerie Knox  
 Chris McRae  
 Brian McWilliams  
 William Mendenhall  
 John Westfall Morrison  
 Elizabeth Johnson Pense  
 Susan Rose  
 Doug Roszel  
 Tom Ulrich

**Churches**

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**In Honor Of/From**

Linda Boulton/Mark Tew  
 Ashley Broadhurst/Jan Koerner  
 David Fletcher/Tracey Bergfield  
 Chris McRae/Ann Smith  
 Oakhurst Presbyterian Church/David & Judy Fletcher  
 Flora Mae Roszel/First Presbyterian Church, Bartlesville, OK

**Share God's gift of Solar Power**

*From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised. -Psalm 113:3*

**I want to support Solar Under the Sun**, and be a partner in bringing solar energy to people in need.

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 Amount:  enclosed or  pledged  
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 (Pledge to be paid by date: \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 Given  in memory of or  in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send acknowledgement to:**

Mail to: Solar Under the Sun, 6100 Colwell Blvd. Suite 200, Irving, TX 75039 or send by email to: [contact@solarunderthesun.org](mailto:contact@solarunderthesun.org)  
 For more information: [solarunderthesun.org](http://solarunderthesun.org) or 866-381-7075