

Please find our January newsletter below.

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Christ the Redeemer Church Makes an Impact at Hope House



We are so grateful to Christ the Redeemer Church of Lake Orion, MI and our

neighbor Abdul and his son for the great work they did at Hope House on Saturday, December 5th! These volunteers showed up in force and used their carpentry skills to make significant improvements to our shed and bathroom. Check out a few photos below to see their handiwork, and visit our website for more photos: <http://www.voices4earth.org/2015-event-photos.html>



Voices for Earth Justice is Looking for New Board Members



Are you interested in saving the planet and volunteering on a board of directors? If so, please contact Voices for Earth Justice Development Director, Dr. Janet Stankowski, OP at opjanet@gmail.com.

VEJ Holds Three Successful Events in December



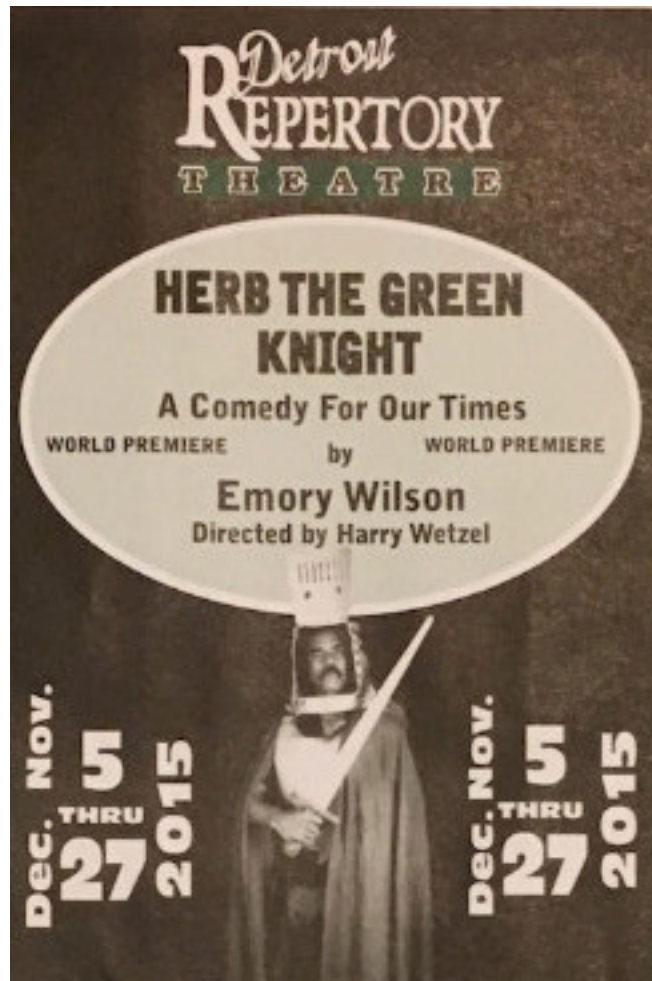
VEJ held three events in December - a fundraiser at the Detroit Repertory Theatre on December 6th, a Prayer in the City for Peace on the Winter Solstice on December 20th (presenters pictured above), and a report-back by Detroit climate justice and faith activists who attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris.

VEJ sold tickets to the play *Herb the Green Knight*, a comedic play about the serious issue of climate change. All tickets were sold to the event, and everyone enjoyed the high quality acting and substantive storyline.

On the 20th, VEJ teamed up with [Repair the World: Detroit](#) to hold an interfaith prayer for peace in commemoration of the winter solstice. Beautiful reflections were offered by women from many faith traditions. Afterward, participants enjoyed each other and a simple meal of bread, soup, and desserts.

Two days later, VEJ co-sponsored an event at St. Charles Borromeo Church where three Detroit-based activists shared about their experiences at the COP21. The three then led a discussion about what Detroiters can do to be a part of the climate justice movement.

Check some pictures from each event below, and view the full galleries on our website: <http://www.voices4earth.org/2015-event-photos.html>.



VEJ supporters enjoyed an engaging, relevant and humorous play about climate change at the Detroit Repertory Theatre on December 6th.

Photos from the 2015 Interfaith Prayer in the City for Peace:



Marcia Lee, Ahmina Maxey and Bryce Detroit share their experiences from COP21:



**Patty and Naim Visit International Academy
in Bloomfield Hills**



Back in August, students from International Academy High School spent a day volunteering at Hope House (you can see pictures from their visit on our [2015 Events gallery](#) page). A few months later, Voices for Earth Justice Executive Director Patty Gillis and Garden and Outreach Coordinator Naim Edwards returned the favor when they visited International Academy on December 18th. Naim and Patty led two hands on sessions: 1. environmental justice advocacy by writing letters to policymakers, and 2. making a mural for the back of Hope House by painting tiles. Visit our [website](#) for a few more pictures from the day.

VEJ Goes to Lansing



Naim and VEJ IT & Administrative Support Professional Rich Samartino traveled with a delegation from the [People's Water Board Coalition](#) to Lansing

on December 10th to advocate for a package of bills that would ensure clean, affordable water for Michigan residents. The group met with a few representatives, distributed literature to others, and attended a session of the House. Visit the following blog post on the People's Water Board website for more pictures and information about the trip: <http://www.peopleswaterboard.org/2015/12/pwb-goes-to-lansing.html>, and visit that group's website and Facebook page to stay up-to-date on water-related issues.

Upcoming Event: Three session course on "Laudato Si"



Voices for Earth Justice is offering a three part series on Laudato Si. Sr. Pat Benson, O.P. will do an in-depth study of the Pope Francis' encyclical letter that calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the environmental challenges that are before us. Each session will include a presentation and discussion of two chapters. It is recommended that you read the first two chapters before coming. This series is being offered at St. Basil Parish, Eastpointe.

Dates: Saturday, January 9, 16, 23, 2016

Time: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

All are welcome; invite friends, co-workers, and family to attend.

No charge; donations accepted.

For further information and to register, contact Pat Benson (pbenson@adriandominicans.org). View the Facebook event for this series [here](#).



*Voices for Earth Justice is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donate online through our website at www.voices4earth.org, using Pay Pal or mail your donation to 21695 Rougewood Drive, Southfield, MI 48033. **THANK YOU!!!***



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