Transforming the World

WITH REV. CINDY

Dear St. James family and friends,

As I pondered what subject to discuss this Lent, (a penitential time of the church calendar year) climate change and sustainability kept bubbling up in my heart. Knowing it is not everyone's favorite subject (or belief), I kept avoiding a decision until one day I watched a documentary called "The Plastic Ocean." It was then that I had an epiphany, a conversion experience if you will, and became an evangelist and activist for climate change and sustainability. And it was time to ask you to take a brave dive into the deep controversial subject, with you, as leaders in our community.

We believe in the virgin birth, the resurrection, and the Holy Spirit but have no proof. Yet, the science for climate change is right before us, but we choose to either not believe or do much about it other than "recycle." Or is it that scientists are not the best evangelists, and that's where the church needs to step in, since that's our wheelhouse?

This Lent, I am asking you to take 40 days to personally investigate climate change and sustainability as your Lenten discipline (instead of giving up chocolate or alcohol or whatever). On Wednesday nights in Lent, we will be hosting four scientists from UC Irvine and one climate change advocate to come to St. James and share their expert knowledge about the subject. We will also be reading the book Cradle to Cradle by William McDonough & Michael Braungart, and I am asking you to watch at least two documentaries. For extra credit (yes, there will be a prize!) you can watch three more documentaries as well.

I hope that at the end of Lent, we will be moved to a deeper understanding of the effects of climate change, its effects on our world, and what we can do about it.

Please join me this Lent for **"Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home."**

Cindy +

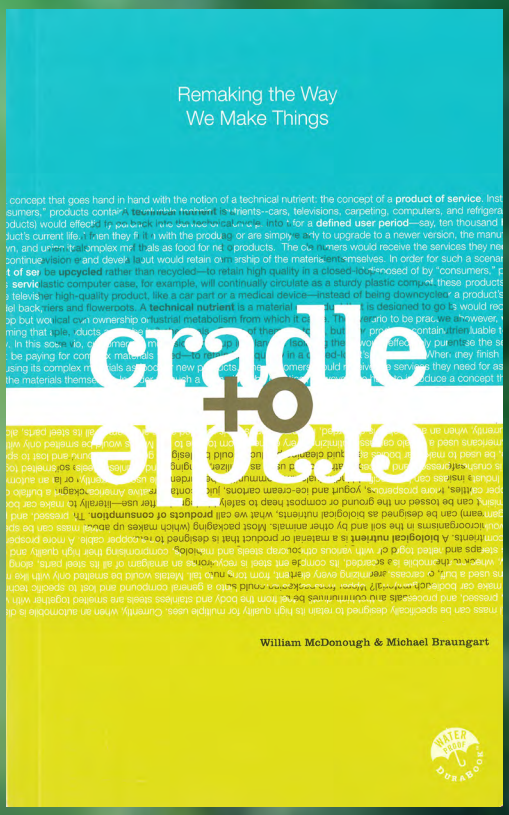
SUSTAINING EARTH OUR ISLAND HOME

THE BOOK WE'LL BE READING

Cradle to Cradle

by William McDonough and Michael Braungart

A manifesto for a radically different philosophy and practice of manufacture and environmentalism



"Reduce, reuse, recycle" urge environmentalists; in other words, do more with less in order to minimize damage. But as this provocative, visionary book argues, this approach perpetuates a one-way, "cradle to grave" manufacturing model that dates to the Industrial Revolution and casts off as much as 90 percent of the materials it uses as waste, much of it toxic. Why not challenge the notion that human industry must inevitably damage the natural world?

In fact, why not take nature itself as our model? A tree produces thousands of blossoms in order to create another tree, yet we do not consider its abundance wasteful but safe, beautiful, and highly effective; hence, "waste equals food" is the first principle the book sets forth. Products might be designed so that, after their useful life, they provide nourishment for something new-either as "biological nutrients" that safely re-enter the environment or as "technical nutrients" that circulate within closed-loop industrial cycles, without being "downcycled" into low-grade uses (as most "recyclables" now are).

Elaborating their principles from experience (re)designing everything from carpeting to corporate campuses, William McDonough and Michael Braungart make an exciting and viable case for change.

We'll have copies available at the ushers' table, or you can download *Cradle to Cradle* from Amazon at https://amzn.to/2HHZrqU

Every Wednesday evening in Lent, join us for

SUSTAINING EARTH OUR ISLAND HOME

5:30 p.m.
CHURCH

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross, a service traditionally done during Lent and Holy Week, refers to a series of 14 images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. We have them inside the church and throughout the campus.

6 p.m.
GREAT HALL

Soup Supper

Join us for a meal of soup (your choice of either one with meat or vegetarian), salad, bread, and dessert in the Great Hall.

7 p.m.
CHURCH

Guest Speaker

Our amazing lineup of scientists and guest speakers will educate us on what is going on with climate change, and what can be done about it.

Our amazing panel of scientists and guests

MAR. 4

■ **TRAVIS HUXMAN:** Is California losing its cool?

Travis will speak on the impacts of a changing climate on the unique biological diversity of California and the western U.S. This includes the contemporary changes ecosystems are already experiencing, projected future changes anticipated of our shared natural resources, and areas of uncertainty that challenge future planning. He will discuss schemes in place to adapt to our new climate reality, the need for new approaches to consider how society interacts with the natural world, and the way that California is especially well-positioned to tackle these challenges.

MAR. 11

■ **MICHAEL MÉNDEZ:** Climate Change, Fire and Social Justice in California

Dr. Méndez's talk will focus on how the impacts of severe events in California such as fire and drought are distributed across different communities in ways that challenge our understanding of what is fair. Poor communities experience greater impacts than wealthy ones, recover far more slowly if at all, and have far less access to the types of information and support that could assist them in risk reduction, damage control and recovery. There are many things that could be done to make the poorer and most vulnerable parts of California far more resilient than they are today, and given the alarming trajectories of fire and other disasters, we ought to do we can to ensure all of California is as prepared as possible to meet imminent challenges.

MAR. 18

■ **RICHARD MATTHEW:** Environmental Change, Forced Displacement & Conflict

In the U.S. and in many other parts of the world, mounting environmental stress is combining with other factors to force people to move. People who are compelled to move to survive often lose a great deal—land, livelihoods, communities—and face considerable challenges when they enter an unfamiliar and often hostile new environment. What are the risks to both sides when people move because they have no other choice? How should we respond to this? What can be done to mitigate conflict and reduce misunderstanding?

MAR. 25

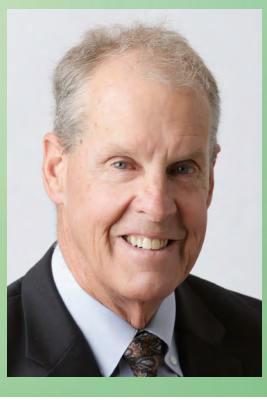
■ **BRETT SANDERS:** Why floods are worsening, and ways we can manage it.

Flooding is the most damaging natural hazard on the planet, and the severity and scale of floods has been escalating at an alarming rate. This presentation will provide an overview of flooding trends and insights as to why this is happening, including natural and human influences. The good news is that there is a new approach to manage flooding that will be presented, one which relies on technology-assisted collaboration with community stakeholders. The aim of this approach is to make flood visualizations synthesize with the best-available climate science useful for diverse decision-making needs that can reduce flood consequences, from individual preparedness to city planning.

APR. 1

■ **MARK TABBERT:** Moving Forward with Solutions

Mark Tabbert is a member of a volunteer-driven, action-oriented nonprofit, Citizens Climate Education. He's been with CCE for eight years and has been part of its rapid growth. CCL volunteers are focused, optimistic, nonpartisan relationship builders, working to create the political will for a livable planet and working to empower individuals to have breakthroughs in exercising their personal and political power. His talk will ask "What can we do as individuals?" "What can we do as consumers?" and "What can we do as citizens?" He will share what scientists, economist, faith groups, businesses, and politicians from both parties are suggesting we do—and looking forward, he has good news to share.



At Wednesday's program, meet Travis Huxman, who will ask:

Is CALIFORNIA *losing its* COOL?

Travis Huxman is a professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California–Irvine (UCI), and involved in guiding the Center for Environmental Biology, the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center, and UCI's Sustainability Initiative. These programs focus on coordinating and connecting the research capacities of UCI to local, regional, and national communities to collectively solve the environmental, sustainability, and education challenges that face society. Travis is a broadly trained biologist who is interested in the evolution of plant traits and the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. He embraces the interdisciplinary nature of our current grand challenges and works in a team-science setting with hydrologists, geologists, engineers, social scientists, and educators.

Travis is a product of the California higher education experiment, a first-generation college student who attended Chaffey Community College before receiving a B.S. and M.S. in Biology from California State University, San Bernardino. He holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Colorado before taking a professorship at the University of Arizona in Tucson in 2001. He became the founding director of UA's Biosphere 2 & B2 Earthscience, which re-designed the Biosphere 2 facility as a tool for integrated earth-systems science as a formal unit in the University of Arizona. He also was Director of UA Science: Flandrau, UA's science museum and public outreach portal administered through the College of Science, and co-Director of the Arizona Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Teachers, a program focused on K-12 teacher training and retention.

Travis serves or has served in a number of steering and leadership roles, including as a member and chair of the National Ecological Observatory Network's Science, Technology, and Education Committee (STEAC), a Director on the Board for the Natural Communities Coalition (NCC), Chair for NCC's Technical Advisory Committee, member of the Bioscience Leadership Council of Southern Arizona, a member of the Advisory Board for The Edge Book Series published by University of Arizona Press, and as a member of the Ecological Society of America's Rapid Response Team for Grasslands/Deserts/Plain Ecosystems.

Travis is a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America and has worked in deserts, grasslands, and forests throughout North and South America, studying the physiological underpinnings of plant and ecosystem processes. His current research focuses on understanding how water shapes landscapes and influences ecosystem structure, how ecosystems use water to acquire and process carbon from the atmosphere, and how each of these feeds back on global change and affects goods and services availability for society.

MOVIES TO WATCH DURING LENT

A Plastic Ocean

STREAMING: Netflix

When he discovers the world's oceans brimming with plastic waste, a documentary filmmaker investigates the pollution's environmental impacts.

https://www.netflix.com/ag/title/80164032

Before the Flood

STREAMING: Amazon Prime; iTunes; Google Play

If you could know the truth about the threat of climate change–would you want to know? Before the Flood, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey traveling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change firsthand.

https://www.beforetheflood.com

AND FOR EXTRA CREDIT . . .

Decoding the Weather Machine

STREAMING: Netflix

When he discovers the world's oceans brimming with plastic waste, a documentary filmmaker investigates the pollution's environmental impacts.

https://www.netflix.com/ag/title/81121177

Chasing Ice

STREAMING: Amazon Prime; iTunes

When he discovers the world's oceans brimming with plastic waste, a documentary filmmaker investigates the pollution's environmental impacts.

https://chasingice.com

Chasing Coral

STREAMING: Netflix

Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. Divers, photographers and scientists set out on an ocean adventure to discover why the reefs are disappearing and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world.

https://www.netflix.com/ag/title/80168188