



RENEWAL, the first feature-length documentary to capture the breadth and vitality of America's religious environmental movement, opens the series of award-winning films offered free at All Saints Episcopal Church this winter. It will be shown at 7:30 pm on Friday, January 23, at the church, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline.

Environmentalist Bill McKibben says: "The religious environmental movement is potentially key to dealing with the greatest problem humans have ever faced, and it has never been captured with more breadth and force than in RENEWAL."

Offering a profound message of hope, RENEWAL tells the inspiring stories of eight groups across America – Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, interfaith – driven by their religious convictions to make a difference in a time of grave ecological threats. A discussion will follow, led by Tom Nutt-Powell, President and Co-Founder, Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light, an affiliate of the national coalition (portrayed in the film) which brings different faiths together in a religious response to global warming.

The film moves from the mountains of Kentucky and West Virginia, where Evangelical Christians have begun organizing against the strip mining practices that are destroying the land, to a Muslim community in Chicago which supports sustainable farming and organic meat supplies. It includes Jewish environmental education programs for youth in Connecticut and Buddhist activism for the use of recycled paper in San Francisco. Religious groups take on government inaction and indifference in coastal Mississippi and in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a farming community of Hispanics, Native Americans, and Anglos led by Franciscan Sister Joan Brown which is fighting encroachment by commercial and residential development.

Globe movie critic Ty Burr says "Renewal documents that religious zeal can be yoked to change as well as conservatism, that differing faiths can speak to each other, and that, really, good works are faith these days. Above all, the film spreads the good news that we're just getting started."

Renewal is part of Building the Blessed Community, a series of four award-winning documentaries related to the Millennium Development Goals to be presented at All Saints Episcopal Church. Coming in the series:

Today the Hawk Takes One Chick (Feb 20)
Beyond Belief (March 6)
Silent Killer (March 20).

For more information call All Saints Brookline, 617-738-1810 or email office@allsaintsbrookline.org

Building the Blessed Community

A series of award-winning films relevant to
The Millennium Development Goals
with discussion following each film.

Renewal

January 23, 2009

From the religious environmental movement come eight inspiring stories of groups across America – Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, interfaith – striving to make a difference in a time of grave ecological threats. Discussion with Tom Nutt-Powell, President and Co-Founder, Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light.

Today the Hawk Takes One Chick

February 20, 2009

In Swaziland, which has the highest HIV prevalence and lowest life expectancy, three grandmothers try to hold their community together. Through their poignant perspective, the film creates a portrait of a rural community at the threshold of simultaneous collapse and reinvention. Discussion with Jane Gillooly, director, and Tracey Kaplan, producer of the film.

Beyond Belief

March 6, 2009

Susan Retik and Patti Quigley, widowed in the 9/11 tragedy, dedicate themselves to empowering Afghan widows whose lives have been ravaged by decades of war, poverty and oppression. From the ruins of the World Trade Center to those of Kabul and back, theirs is a journey of personal strength and international reconciliation, Discussion with Susan Retik.

Silent Killer

March 20, 2009

There are still a billion hungry people in the world. 15,000 children die each day of hunger. Yet it doesn't have to be this way. We can end hunger if we make a commitment to doing so. Moving from the Kalahari Desert to a new program in Brazil, this film shows how it can be done. Discussion TBA.

All Saints Episcopal Church

1773 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA

Free admission.

All films start promptly at 7:30.

For more information call All Saints at 617-738-1810 or visit www.allsaintsbrookline.org.