



The Church of the Nativity  
and St. Stephen  
*A Parish in the*  
*Episcopal Diocese*  
*of Central Pennsylvania*  
159 S. Second St.  
Newport, PA 17074  
717-567-6514



[www.nativityandststephen.diocpa.org](http://www.nativityandststephen.diocpa.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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NEWPORT, PA, February 23, 2018—Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) has awarded Newport’s Episcopal Church of the Nativity and St. Stephen the “Energy Saver” award, one of five awards nationwide in its ***Cool Congregations Challenge***. This challenge awards \$1,000 to faith communities for their efforts to address climate change by reducing their carbon footprint, becoming inspirations for their local communities.

“These five congregations are casting a vision for the kind of world in which they want to live, and then carrying out that vision with practical actions that make a real difference in creating lasting solutions to climate change,” said the Reverend Susan Hendershot Guy, president of Interfaith Power & Light.

“Whether a small or large congregation, rural or urban, these projects demonstrate that when we work together, we can create positive change, save energy and money, and live out our calling to care for Creation.”

The Cool Congregations Challenge is an annual contest held by IPL that is open to congregations from every faith tradition all over the country. The faith communities represent many different religious backgrounds, but all share a common mission – to be good stewards of Creation by addressing global warming as a moral imperative.

The Church of the Nativity had an energy audit, conducted by Envinity Co. of State College. Among the actions it took, based on the audit, were switching all the indoor and outdoor bulbs to LED, using plastic sheeting for the windows until they can be replaced, and installing boiler reset controls. The historical facilities use heating oil, and in the Newport church, their outdated air conditioning system needed to be replaced. They put in a new efficient electric system with programmable thermostats that

can heat, as well as cool. This allowed them to switch from oil to using electricity. In addition they switched all of their facilities to renewable wind energy electricity.

As Rector Rebecca Myers noted, “We have an active and respected Environmental Stewardship Committee, which focuses on the goal of lowering the church’s carbon footprint. Keeping our congregation engaged in the process is important.” Besides the building improvements above, the weekly church bulletins contain “eco-tips” to help members decrease their carbon footprints. Guest preachers and presenters at their adult forums were invited to increase exposure and education.

IPL states that the ***Cool Congregations Challenge*** shows that people of faith are united by concerns about climate change and are taking action – with or without support of government policies. The winners provide strong moral role models for their communities, and their activities have a ripple effect with people in their own homes.

##

### **Listed below are the five \$1,000 prize-winners**

#### **Community Inspiration**

Sun andFun

Second Coongregational Church, UCC

115 Hillside, Bennington, VT 05201

Contact: Barbara True-Weber, [trueweber@gmail.com](mailto:trueweber@gmail.com), 802-681-7236

#### **Energy Saver**

Nativity Goes Green

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity and St. Stephen's

159 S 2nd St., Newport, PA 17074

Kay Cramer, [falconrider1@ymail.com](mailto:falconrider1@ymail.com), 570-541-1175

<http://nativityandststephen.diocpa.org/environmental-stewardship.html>

## **Renewable Role Model**

Investor Model of Financing Solar for Non-Profits

Bethany Christian Reformed Church

1110 South Strong Dr., Gallup, NM 87301

Rick Kruis, [rickkruis@gmail.com](mailto:rickkruis@gmail.com), 505-870-5292

<https://www.bethanycrcgallup.org/>

## **Sacred Grounds**

Jewish Outdoor, Food and Environmental Education at the JCC

Jewish Community Center of Louisville

3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40205

Michael Fraade, [mfraade@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mfraade@jewishlouisville.org), 502-238-2769

## **Cool Congregations Planner**

Stewards For Sustainability

New Life Community Church

1919 State Street, East Saint Louis, IL 62205

Brandon Walker, p2innovates@gmail.com, 618-558-5604 <http://newlifeestl.org>

Interfaith Power & Light is mobilizing a religious response to global warming in congregations through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

[www.interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org) Twitter: #CoolCongregations @interfaithpower

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