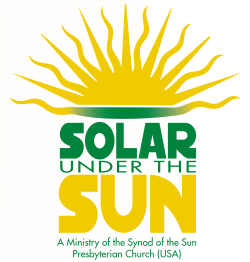


Light of LIFE

ISSUE 4, MARCH 2012



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

Presbytery of the Pines Installs Their 4th Solar Powered System

The Presbytery of the Pines Solar Under The Sun (SUTS) and Living Waters for the World (LWW) Mission Team installed a solar powered standard clean water system for Santillus, an orphanage and school in Gonaives, Haiti. The system will provide clean water for the community also. Under the direction of Pastor Benoit, the orphanage is one of several projects sponsored by the Global Orphan Project.

The Pines Team consisted of John Guice, Edith Hill, Shelby Guilbert, and Karen and Danny Logan, along with Steve Edens and Silas Rogers from outside the Presbytery. The four solar panels were installed and purchased from Green Energy and were in place when we



▲ John Guice makes friends wherever he goes.

See PINES, continued on page 2

Ferncliff to Become the Most Solarized Camp in the Country



▲ Ferncliff's Solar Sign greets visitors upon their arrival!

Ferncliff has recently finished two solar power projects, but these are just a harbinger of much more to come thanks to a grant to Solar Under the Sun from Presbyterian



Women. A solar panel atop Ferncliff's new entrance sign is one of the first sites to greet visitors. The 175-watt panel provides about five hours of light for those who arrive after dark.

Guests and campers are transported around the camp in a 14-passenger electric cart whose power is supplemented with a solar panel donated by SUTS. The "solar vehicle" has been on site for 18 months and a mission-

networking grant from Synod of the Sun was one of the three grants that made the purchase possible.

The most recent solar addition is a solar powered irrigation system for Ferncliff's rapidly expanding mini-farm. The panel pumps water to a drip irrigation system for 28 recently planted blueberry bushes and can fill the garden's 250 gallon rain barrel when needed. Ferncliff also has two solar ovens, solar showers, and conducts a Solar Camp each summer.

But these projects are first small steps toward much bigger projects that will start this year. The PW

See FERNCLIFF, continued on page 2

SUTS Blurbs

Solar School Sessions and Registration

May 17-20, 2012 &

September 13-16, 2012

Held at Ferncliff Camp &

Conference Center,

Near Little Rock, AR

Register online at

www.solarunderthesun.org

Earth Day Resources – April 22, 2012

Is your church looking for materials to use to celebrate God's Creation? Visit our website to download prayers, Scripture and liturgy for Earth Day.

2012 Newsletter Dates & Deadlines

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

SUTS Grants

Grant applications for Haiti Solar Projects will be available on our website on March 15.

Spread The Word

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www.solarunderthesun.org

PINES, continued from page 1

arrived in Santillus. As is with every project, there were challenges and successes. The challenge of this installation was a well that was pumping a lot of sand; however following the solution suggested by Valdes Innocent, our Haitian technician, the water cleared up and the team celebrated. On Sunday a dedication of the system was held at the orphanage, and the team left to visit other sites requesting SUTS/LWW systems.

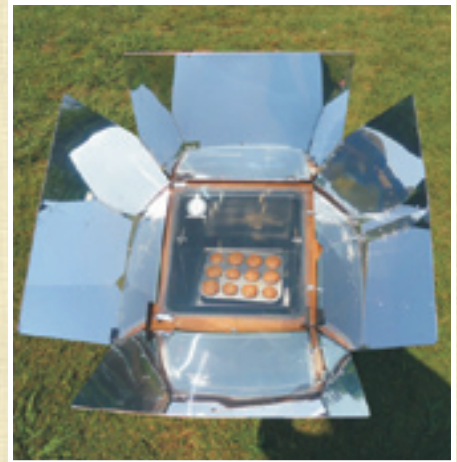
*Karen Logan, Team Leader
Presbytery of the Pines*

FERNCLIFF, continued from page 1

Birthday Offering awarded to SUTS will bring \$100,000 for solar projects at Ferncliff in addition to \$100,000 in matching grants for SUTS installations in Haiti.

While the planning is still in process, one of the Birthday Offering projects will include a solar power installation on the CAB building Solar School uses for its classroom. The project will be done in a manner to give Solar School faculty more teaching opportunities and significantly reduce the utility costs of the building. Another project will pay for a portion of an off-the-grid Eco-Youth Center that can accommodate low-impact retreats with specially designed curriculum. Remaining funds may be used for small-scale projects that show campers and guests the value of solar power for mission and stewardship.

As the home to Solar School for Solar Under the Sun, Ferncliff wants



▲ *The Solar Oven is one of the many teaching tools at Summer Solar Camp.*

to be a leader in the practice and advocacy of solar power for camps and churches. In 2013 Ferncliff will host the biennial national gathering of Presbyterians for Earth Care. Thanks to the PW Birthday Offering and making solar power a priority, it looks like Ferncliff may just get there.

David Gill

*Ferncliff Camp & Conference
Center Executive Director*

1st Pres Richmond Lights Up Mirebalais

Last September 2011, a mission team from First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Virginia traveled to Mirebalais, Haiti to install our first solar-powered clean water system.

Under the direction of our capable solar school and clean water grads, Corell Moore, Cindy Mabry, and Steve Sigel, we completed a standard ozone system powered by four solar panels. Thanks to the help of our dear Haitian friends, Valdes Innocent, Salien Wilner and Ancy Fils-Aime the installation went without a hitch! The other members of our team were our 102's Martha Morrill and Hilary Long. They did an amazing job teaching children and adults health and hygiene.



▲ *Members of 1st Pres with new partner*

The highlight of the week was the stirring dedication service. Our partner organization Haiti Micah Project/St. Pierre's Episcopal Church planned an amazing dedication program on our last Sunday. We went to church (6:00am-8:00am!) and then

See DEDICATION, continued page 3

DEDICATION, continued from page 2

processed out of the church and down the street singing hymns until we reached the water building. On the front steps the priests blessed the solar powered clean water and prayed for good health for the community. It was such an inspirational service and one that our entire team will never ever forget.

To the Solar 1 graduates out there, our church brought a Solar Pathfinder with us to Haiti and donated it to the SUTS/LWW warehouse.



▲ *Priests blessed the water and prayed for good health at the dedication.*

◀ *The water building at Mirebalais, Haiti.*

Please ask Valdes for it when you need one in country.

We are fired-up to return to Haiti in 2012 to install another system. Praise God for Solar Under the Sun and Living Waters For The World!

Laura Wright,
Team Leader
First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA

Herndon UMC Installs A Second System



▲ *It takes a village to move the solar panels at L'Ecole De Choix.*

Herndon United Methodist Church purchased a water system October 4, 2011 and ordered the installation of the solar panels on December 2, 2011 for their January 17-23, 2012 trip to Mirebalais, Haiti. We departed Dulles International Airport at 6:30am and arrived in Port Au Prince at 4:30am. Our Haitian partners greeted us warmly at the airport, and we trekked up the mountain. Though there was miscommunication upon arriving at the hotel, the manager found rooms for everyone that night

and moved us to our proper accommodations the next day.

Wednesday morning we arrived at L'Ecole De Choix around 8:30am, only to find the solar panels were installed too far from the water building. After much discussion it was decided that the solar panels needed to be moved. The pole-mounted solar



◀ *Solar Grad, Sean Devolites, is very proud of his work!*

panels were dug up and moved to their new location. It was no small feat, but with cooperation of thirteen strong members, it was completed in one day's time.

By Friday evening the wiring was complete, the system was finished, and we were ready to process water. To our surprise the pump kept tripping the breaker. Never fear, the tech team in the US was on speed dial. The response was to use a slow blow snap action fused switch. Luckily we were right up the road from the local hardware store in Mirebalais, who had fuse blocks in stock. (They were fresh out of slow blow fuse switches.) With the 30-amp regular household fuses installed between the pump and the disconnect box the pump worked. By the grace of God and our Haitian friends, in just four short days we were in the SOLAR POWERED water business.

A daily summary and pictures can be found at: <http://gbillman.com/blog>.

George Billman,
Solar School Instructor
Herndon United Methodist Church, Herndon, VA



**SOLAR
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SUN**

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

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