

## Pastor's Blog

*Putting our faith where our panels are*

So if you have driven by the church this week then you've probably seen a lot of activity; and no, I'm not talking about the staff, the Tolland Green Learning Center kids, the scouts, the support groups, and the many other groups who keep our buildings busy and our parking lot bustling. All you had to do was look up to see it.

That's right, after a long, long, long process, we finally began with the installation of our solar panels! Panels will be added to the newer sections of the church building (the 2005 addition and the 1970s Miller Room addition) and the Barbara Phelps Building, in order to provide all of the electrical needs of *both* buildings. Once the panels are in place, they need to be wired, and put into service by Eversource, and then we look forward to seeing how much money we save each month!

But honestly, the monetary savings are secondary to me. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm excited that we will free up some funding to support other ministry opportunities; but really the exciting thing for me is that we'll be living out one of the tenets that is blowing in the breeze on the flag flying off the Board of Education side of the building, by *Protecting the Environment*.

The book of Genesis says that when God made the world God granted humanity dominion over the fish of the sea and all the creatures that move along the ground. Now historically many have interpreted the word dominion to mean "subdue," "rule over," or even "exploit"—suggesting that we, as humans, can do whatever we want to the earth, as it is at our disposal.

However, a closer look at the Hebrew reveals that the word better carries with it the notion of "care-giving," of "nurturing," of treating our non-human friends in the same way that God treats us: lovingly and caringly.

In other words, from the very first chapter of the Bible we learn that God wants us to take care of this earth we call home.

And that's exactly what we're doing. By tapping into the sun's power, we will be significantly reducing our carbon footprint, thereby helping to slow down global warming. It may not seem like much, but as we often say, if each one of us does our part, we will make a difference.

So the next time you come to the church, I hope you'll look up. And when you do, I hope you'll be proud of the fact that we're installing a visible sign of living out God's call—and maybe, just maybe, as those around town see what we're doing, they might also want to check out a church that puts its faith where its panels are.