

## Newsletter 91 – Late Summer 2004

### Oil Prices Reached \$50 per Barrel

If you heat your buildings with fuel oil, you may have found out that it is very difficult to get a fixed price for delivered fuel oil, particularly a price like last year's. This month fuel oil is about 20% higher than a year ago. Crude oil prices are at a 15-year high. To blame – hurricanes (particularly Ivan), lowest inventories in 30 years, threatened rebellion in Nigeria, China's oil use increasing 37% from a year ago, and so on. Natural gas prices have come down a bit, but are still higher than years past.

With higher natural gas prices, last year was very busy for the Interfaith Coalition on Energy, and, with higher oil prices, this year could be similar. We help congregations to use less electricity and fuel. We provide advice through workshops, literature, our website ([www.interfaithenergy.com](http://www.interfaithenergy.com)) and through on-site energy surveys. We use state-of-the-art temperature recordings, combustion test equipment, electric meters for appliances and many other techniques to provide accurate information to your congregation on ways to reduce its energy and water costs. Just phone us anytime at 215-635-1122. Or email [andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net). ICE

### Fires in Religious Structures



We received a call from a member of a large, old church in St. Louis. He explained that their insurance costs were increasing dramatically, and that insurance companies had told him the increases were due to the higher risk of losses from fire in older religious buildings. This perked our

**First Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH** -- Photo by Tony Jones/*The Cincinnati Enquirer* – 1/17/04

attention, and we requested more information from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). They sent us their December 2003 publication *Structure Fires in Religious and Funeral Properties – Statistical Analysis*. Here are some of the

highlights of data from 1,990 fires in religious buildings (1,910) or funeral parlors (80) from 1994 through 1998:

Characteristic	Highest %	Details
Day of the week	18.8%	Sundays.
	14.9%	Wednesdays
Time of day	65.7%	Between 9am and 9pm
Fire origin	11.8%	Kitchen
Fire detection systems	39.1%	Buildings had them
Major cause	22.9%	Intentional
	17.0%	Electrical
	11.2%	Heating equipment
	6.7%	Natural causes

The report says that since 1980, religious and funeral property fires fell 43% from 3,500 in 1980 to 2,000 in 1999. The average annual direct property damage from fire from 1980 to 1994 was \$61,800,000. The annual average for 1994 to 1998 was \$57,400,000. ICE

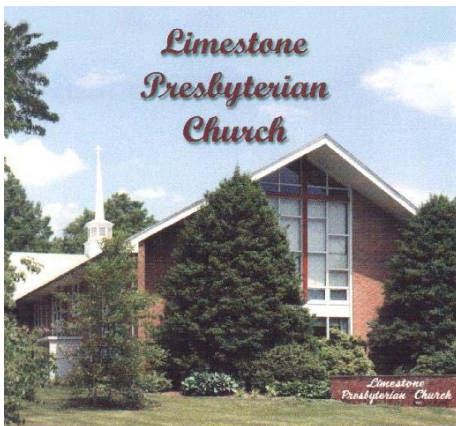
## Low wattage LED Holiday Lights

Brookstone is selling light emitting diode (LED) holiday lights again this year. They back their products with a good guarantee. They say their new LED lights generate much more light than conventional LEDs. They require 90% less electricity than incandescent holiday lights, so they are cooler when on. Their catalog says, each LED has durable, one-piece faceted weatherproof construction with a virtually indestructible lens, and there are no fragile filaments to damage. Available in Multicolor or Frosted White strands. Each 12-ft. strand has 70 LED lights and is UL-listed for indoor or outdoor use. LED bulbs last for up to 200,000 hours. The strands cost \$15 to \$20 depending on type and color. Call 1-866-576-7337 or visit [www.brookstone.com](http://www.brookstone.com). ICE



## How to Save Money for Your Congregation & Care for God's Creation

### A Free Workshop on Practical Ways for Congregations to Save on Fuel Bills & More



Saturday, November 13, 2004, 9:00 AM to Noon

#### Limestone Presbyterian Church

Plenty of parking available!

3201 Limestone Road (Route 7),  
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

[www.limestonepresbyterian.org](http://www.limestonepresbyterian.org) or  
(302) 994-5646 for more information.

You are invited to this free workshop. The workshop's topics will include prices of natural gas and fuel oil, lighting, ventilation, temperature controls, future of oil and natural gas, purchasing new appliances and developing congregation participation. This interactive presentation will encourage your questions. Property/building &

grounds committee members of local congregations, church custodians, pastors, religious school teachers, youth workers, environmentally concerned people, mission & stewardship committee members have attended previous ICE workshops. Refreshments will be served. ICE

## National Security Think Tanks Call for Ending Dependence on Oil

On Monday September 27, 2004, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. a coalition of national security/policy think tanks released an Open Letter to Americans and an accompanying blueprint for energy security called "Set America Free." You can see the letter at [www.iags.org/safn.pdf](http://www.iags.org/safn.pdf). If the blueprint is carried out in full, U.S. oil imports would drop by as much as 50 percent.

What is so unusual about such a blueprint? These organizations are the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, the Center for Security Policy, the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, the Heritage Foundation, the Hudson Institute, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the Committee on the Present Danger, National Defense Council Foundation – very, very conservative think tanks, not left-leaning environmentalists. It seems like everyone, well, almost everyone, thinks that America should change its ways, something that ICE has been saying for years. ICE

# Helpful websites:

Here are some websites that we find very helpful. If you have others you would like to recommend, please submit them to us.

## Weather:

Weather forecasting [weatherchannel.com](http://weatherchannel.com)  
Historic weather [nws.noaa.gov/er/phi/clidat.htm](http://nws.noaa.gov/er/phi/clidat.htm)

## Data Loggers:

Inexpensive data loggers [onsetcomputer.com](http://onsetcomputer.com)  
Very inexpensive data loggers [ibutton.com](http://ibutton.com)

## Submeters:

Electric [hialeahmeter.com](http://hialeahmeter.com)  
Water [plumbingworld.com/wameters.html](http://plumbingworld.com/wameters.html)  
“ [measureanything.com/products](http://measureanything.com/products)

## Equipment:

Office equipment ratings [aceee.org](http://aceee.org)  
Heating systems (Holohan) [heatinghelp.com](http://heatinghelp.com)  
Lighting specifications [newbuildings.org](http://newbuildings.org)  
Lighting research [lrc.rpi.edu](http://lrc.rpi.edu)  
Green buildings (LEED) [usgbc.org/programs/leed.htm](http://usgbc.org/programs/leed.htm)

## Energy:

Electric and fuel prices [www.bloomberg.com/energy/](http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/)  
Forecasting end of fossil fuels [www.dieoff.com/](http://www.dieoff.com/)

## Electric Utilities:

Electric restructuring [eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/chg\\_str/tab5rev](http://eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/chg_str/tab5rev)

## Religious environmental:

EPA Energy Star Congregations [epa.gov/congregations](http://epa.gov/congregations)  
Catholic Environmental Justice Program [www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/ejp/index.htm](http://www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/ejp/index.htm)  
Environment and Jewish Life [coejl.org/home.shtml](http://coejl.org/home.shtml)  
NCCC Economic/Environmental Justice [www.webofcreation.org/estew/index.html](http://www.webofcreation.org/estew/index.html)

## Global climate change:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin. [cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/](http://cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/)  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [ipcc.ch/](http://ipcc.ch/)  
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [unfccc.de/](http://unfccc.de/)  
NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies [giss.nasa.gov/research/impacts/altscenario/](http://giss.nasa.gov/research/impacts/altscenario/)

## Major clock thermostat manufacturers:

White Rodgers [white-rodgers.com/techelp\\_lead.htm](http://white-rodgers.com/techelp_lead.htm)  
Honeywell [www.honeywell-thermostat.com/](http://www.honeywell-thermostat.com/)  
Lux [www.luxproducts.com/thermostats/tx500.htm](http://www.luxproducts.com/thermostats/tx500.htm)

## INTERFAITH COALITION ON ENERGY



**There are a number of reasons to give money to us:**

- You may have extra money lying around, and you don't know what to do with it.
- Perhaps you want to support an energy conservation organization that solely represents the interests of people of faith.
- Maybe you like ICE; maybe one of our articles or a phone conversation saved your congregation money.
- Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Whatever your reasons, please send ICE a check so that we may continue to serve.

ICE, 7217 Oak Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027

Thanks. ICE