



**THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL THINGS**



**Peacemaking: Restoring and Restored**

During a beautiful weekend of May, folks from our congregation got together on a Saturday morning and helped *restore* part of the Laurel Fork Stream as part of the annual Carter County Stream Clean-up. In return for a little bit of labor picking up trash, we got to enjoy the beauty of a mountain stream in the company of some really



nice friends!

After the worship service on the following day, about a dozen people took advantage of a spring hike on the Hack Line Road Trail on Roan Mountain. The weather was beautiful and the wildflowers were very cooperative, sitting



right beside the trail for our viewing pleasure. Our souls were *restored*!

***The Peace of Wild Things***

*When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's  
lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the  
great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still  
water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

— Wendell Berry

Wendell Berry is an avid ecologist, a farmer, a woodlot manager, and a poet. He writes about the fragile ecosystems in which we live and about the ways in which these ecosystems are threatened by our modern consumer-oriented society. Using his knowledge of the natural world and his love of the written word, Wendell Berry challenges those policies and practices which show little regard for the delicate balance inherent in the natural rhythm of things.

## **Caring for Creation**



There are many effective, inexpensive, and environmentally friendly pest control options for the home gardener. The easiest and most straightforward is to prevent pests from getting into your garden in the first place. Choose plants (such as catnip and marigolds) that repel certain pests, or others (such as sweet alyssum and dill) that attract pest-eating insects. Ask your neighborhood garden shop which plants work best against the local pest population.