

# ***YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL News Release***

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## **YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL PUBLICATION EXPLORES ISSUES OF FAITH, ENVIRONMENT**

NEW HAVEN, CT—The Spring 2007 issue of *Reflections*, Yale Divinity School's magazine of religious inquiry and opinion, focuses on the relationship between religious belief and care of the environment. The issue, entitled *GOD'S GREEN EARTH: Creation, Faith, Crisis*, features the views of some of the world's leading thinkers on the subject, including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew; writer Bill McKibben; James Gustave Speth, dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; and Green Belt Movement founder and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai.

In the lead article, Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, founders of the Forum on Religion and Ecology and members of the Yale Divinity School faculty, set the tone for the 76-page issue when they write, "A many-faceted alliance of religion and ecology along with a new global ethics is awakening around the planet . . . This is a new moment for the world's religions, and they have a vital role to play in the emergence of a more comprehensive environmental ethics. The urgency cannot be underestimated. Indeed, the flourishing of the Earth community may depend on it."

The Spring 2007 *Reflections* also marks the first issue published under the guidance of a new editor, Ray Waddle, longtime religion editor of *The Tennessean* in Nashville, TN, who joined the magazine staff early this year. In his column, Waddle writes, "Directly or indirectly, the words and images in this *Reflections* issue point to something strange and urgent about the new century. Despite our civilization's dazzling tonnage of data, we labor with a deficit. We claim a paucity of convincing metaphors that can explain this world, its damage and pain, its yearnings and interconnectedness, in ways that mobilize consensus and healing." Readers may discover some valuable models for consensus and healing in the pages of *GOD'S GREEN EARTH*.

Additional resources, including a companion study guide to *GOD'S GREEN EARTH*, will be available in mid-July on the Yale Divinity School web site at: <http://www.yale.edu/divinity/> Subscriptions to *Reflections* are free and can be requested on the web site, where multiple copies can also be ordered.

A major symposium on religion and the environment, "Renewing Hope: Pathways of Religious Environmentalism," organized by Tucker and Grim, will be held at Yale Feb. 29-March 2, 2008. It is jointly sponsored by Yale Divinity School, the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Yale Center for Bioethics, and the Forum on Religion and Ecology.

Yale Divinity School is an interdenominational, nonsectarian school of theological training – one of 11 graduate and professional schools at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Each year, some 140 students graduate with one of three degrees offered by the school: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religion, and Master of Sacred Theology.

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