**Caring for Creation Team: Collecting old batteries, turning off the lights**

During February (2015), we collected more than a dozen boxes of books for SCARCE, a Wheaton-based organization that distributes books to low income school districts in Illinois and to individuals around the world. Thanks to everyone that donated!

In March, we will be collecting old single-use batteries. These can range in size from small watch-style ‘button’ batteries up to size D. Marked containers will be placed in Fellowship Hall and at church entrances on Sundays in March.

Unfortunately, there is no local source for recycling old batteries, so we will be taking them to the DuPage Hazardous Waste Facility. However, this is a much better option than throwing batteries into the garbage, since they contain heavy metals and chemicals that can leak, damaging soils and causing water pollution.

A better option is to purchase rechargeable batteries (also found in many electronic devices such as cell phones and power tools). While they are initially more expensive than single-use batteries, they can be recharged several times before being disposed of. And, once they no longer hold a charge, you can give them to an call2recycle, an organization that recycles rechargeable batteries. Learn more about this service at its website, call2recycle.org.

Another way you can demonstrate your commitment to the environment in March is by participating in Earth Hour, sponsored by the World Wildlife Federation. On March 28 from 8:30-9:30 p.m., join hundreds of millions of people from around the world by turning off your lights for one hour to show your commitment to climate change action. Find out more about Earth Hour by visiting worldwildlife.org/pages/**earth**-**hour**

Interested in learning more about the Caring for Creation Team? Contact Tom Eisenhart at teisenhart@yahoo.com; 312.925.6949.