

## Outreach

### **First Presbyterian Proudly Brews Fair Trade Coffee**

Coffee is very important in our daily lives and the lives of our congregation. Coffee is also important to those small farmers who harvest this commodity in Latin America, Africa, and Asia because it is their primary source of income. Unfortunately, the profits from the coffee are painfully small. Middlemen such as processors, creditors, exporters, etc., often reap the rewards from the sale of the coffee while paying small farmers the lowest price possible.

Fortunately over 1,800 Presbyterian churches working in conjunction with Equal Exchange are making a difference in the lives of these small farmers. Equal Exchange is an organization that guarantees that coffee and other products meet the fair trade guidelines which includes paying a fair price to farmers and purchasing organically grown coffee while at the same time protecting and preserving wildlife habitat and utilizing sustainable farming methods.

Given its contacts with Guatemala, a large coffee producer, and in furtherance of social justice, First Presbyterian has decided to participate in the Equal Exchange program by offering Fair Trade coffee to the congregation. We have started "replacing the coffee you normally drink" and have begun brewing and serving Fair Trade coffee in the dining room and Sunday school classes.

Look for the Fair Trade signs, logos, and information packets at your favorite coffee stop on Sunday mornings. We are proud to join with other Presbyterian churches who use their consumption power to make a difference by brewing Fair Trade coffee.