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The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science to work to solve our planet's most pressing problems. Joining with people across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future.

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ON THE COVER:
A woman crosses railroad tracks in Phoenix, Arizona, where a heat wave drove temperatures above 110°F. Climate change will bring more dangerously hot days to cities across the country; learn more on p. 8.

Faith and Science: Powerful Partners for Change



By Ken Kimmell



This spring, I embarked on a “faith and science” tour, in conjunction with a group I greatly admire: Interfaith Power & Light (IPL). IPL’s president, Susan Hendershot, and I visited churches in the South to talk about how science and faith, two of the greatest forces for progress, can join together to tackle the urgent problem of climate change—with science demonstrating the urgency of the problem and identifying solutions, and faith providing a moral propeller for action. So far, we have held events in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, with more envisioned for the fall.

We chose the events’ locations to tap into a reservoir of activism in the faith community that can hopefully move the South to a leadership role on climate. And I enthusiastically signed on for this tour because I believe that, even in this age of computer screens and electronic conversations, showing up and talking with people in person is still the best way to reach them.

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My experience so far has been encouraging: hundreds of people have attended these events, eagerly soaking up information, asking challenging questions, meeting with other concerned people from their communities, and heeding the call to take action. UCS is pushing hard for Congress to enact durable, bipartisan federal climate legislation as soon as possible. But we know it will likely be several years before we can realize that goal. In the meantime, this faith and science tour seeks to lay the groundwork for it by finding new partners in new locations—essential work for building a movement.