

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
March 3, 2020

OPENING PRAYER: from National Catholic Reporter

PRESENT: Lori Brady-Newman, Mary Beth Collins, Helen Dickey, Carol Even, Barbara Ewalt, Patti Kaiser, Mary Ricotta, Bebee Stroik, Gary Voegelé

EDUCATION: Margaret Fisher from Audubon at Home gave a presentation and slide show telling how they help folks create wildlife habitats “one yard at a time’. She told us what is needed to change our outdoor spaces to welcome wildlife. Two useful websites are www.inaturalist.org and www.plantnovanatives.org.

RECYCLING: The recycling committee has a list of ten tidbits for upcoming bulletin announcements.

Ken Gubin leader of the Green Team at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation and Carol are planning a joint event featuring a speaker from Fairfax County Recycling. Charlie Forbes, Chief of Recycling, Compliance and Planning for the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program, is an excellent presenter, but very much in demand. He has offered to send a speaker to address the interfaith gathering. We will learn the details of our county’s solid waste management and be able to ask questions. This event will be scheduled on a Wednesday or Thursday, around Earth Day, April 22nd.

The new eatery, the Wicket Door Pub in Ashburn is practicing good stewardship with compostable take out containers and other green practices. It is owned by Harriet’s family. The food is very good, and they are now extending their breakfast hours on Sunday until 2pm for brunch!

So far, we have not been able to arrange a tour of American Recycling, although they advertise Tuesday tours. The details and scheduling will need to be addressed at a later date.

Mary Beth reports that Chick-fil-A recycles its in-house plastic waste – to be made into benches.

Bebee knows a teacher who uses the unrecyclable plastic bottle caps for children’s art projects.

Carol will research an organization she heard about that makes bottle caps into benches for churches.

They may provide a poster or bin that we can use during our recycling event(s) for the Church.

Our church secretary, Dottie, is choosing sustainably when she purchases products for the kitchen.

Barb has found a place to donate used clothing for women – Women Giving Back, at 20 Export Drive in Sterling – www.womengivingback.org.

The County now has two Donation Station thanks to a partnership with TVI/Savers. These large donation boxes are for useable items that can be sold and textiles that can be recycled into other goods. They are located at the Lorton Landfill complex and the I-66 Transfer Station in Fairfax.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER – MARCH 6th: members who worked at the Welcome Committee soup supper last Friday, Bebee and Patti, reported on observations and details that need to be considered for our event this coming Friday night. Updated set-up and clean-up lists will be emailed to CCH members before Friday. Greeters will be Barb and Helen. A variety of soups will be provided, as follows:

Helen- cream of mushroom

Carol - lentil

Mary Beth – potato cheese

Lori – cauliflower & carrot

NEXT MEETING: April 7th, 2020

CLOSING POEM: The Acadian Flycatcher by Wendell Berry