

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
June 22, 2021 Minutes
Potluck Brunch meeting

OPENING PRAYER: from Season of Creation 2020 Prayer

PRESENT:

Lori Brady-Newman, Helen Dickey, Liz Eckl, Carol Even, Barbara Ewalt, Patti Kaiser, Mary Ricotta, Lauren Smith, Betty Sullivan

SEASON OF CREATION PLANNING:

Recipe Book – Planning is on-going for a cookbook with the theme of sustainability for the people and the earth. Our contact on the Parish Council is Lisa Ehrhardt. We might want to put an announcement in the parish bulletin asking for recipes. Task force members, Lori, Helen, Barb, Harriet, and Mary have tentatively scheduled a meeting at church on Monday, June 28th, 1:00pm.

Road Clean-up – The road clean-up crew will do our second official clean-up between Sept. 1st and Oct. 4th. Patti will arrange with VDOT and obtain the required signs.

Carol received a request for announcements of tree actions to be sent to www.plantnovatrees.org for their list of events.

Tree things we might do for the Season of Creation:

- plant a tree to commemorate the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si, and/or the Parish's 50th anniversary,
- involve parish youth in the removal of invasive plants that threaten trees on church grounds,
- label trees and do a tree walk,
- do a story hour under the trees on Sunday, Oct. 3rd, the eve of St. Francis' feast-day,
- the Library Committee can share a display of wonderful environmental books, including Overstory,
- ask St. John Neumann if we can join their Blessing of the Animals,
- tree art projects, tree poetry,
- ask for a minister to give a sermon,

Plan a bird walk or a Nature Center walk. Patti will contact SJN parishioner who knows the birds and trails near STB, and offered to do a walk with us.

We need to sponsor some family-friendly environmental events, perhaps making programs that start with children.

Sponsor a clothing drive, note that The Closet in Herndon and Women Giving Back, at 20 Export Drive in Sterling, accept clothes all year-round. Womengivingback.org has a lot of information online.

BULLETIN AND FACEBOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church only prints approved items, so if we find good sayings, as from environmental organizations, they need to have spiritual relevance before Elaine will approve.

Betty asked for sayings from the Saints relating to the environment.

NEWS TO USE:

We need to be aware of the crises in our Church. Media sources are pointing up the Bishops' failures, the increasing numbers of disaffected young people, the silence of members, the actions of Catholics in our legislatures, etc. Our call is to make the Church relevant to all.

A shredding event is taking place at South Lakes High School on July 10th from 7:00 to 11:00am.

Clothes can be donated to Women Giving Back at 20 Export Drive, Sterling. Their website has a calendar.

Liz welcomes books and articles that the Parish Library can use. She noted that donations over the past year have been overwhelming.

CLOSING POEM – "Hedgehog" by Paul Muldoon

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 4th, 10:00am