

ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
June 21, 2019 – Minutes

Luncheon meeting held at the home of Bob and Lauren Smith

Present: Carol Even, Barb Ewalt, Carla Gibson, Patti Kaiser, Linn Mitchell, Lauren Smith, John and Bebee Stroik. Helen Dickey and Bob Ruedesili arrived for lunch and post-meeting discussion.

10:30am OPENING PRAYER - from Sisters of Charity.

OPEN FORUM:

- Discussion of declining attendance, especially of young people, in our church.
- Finding Our Voice (FOV) meeting on June 22 will start at 7:00, and end in time to watch the Democratic candidates' Debate at 9:00pm.
- The Sexual Abuse Group will be inviting someone from the Diocese to address the Fr. Findley issue.
- The next meeting of FOV group – Parish Council steering committee ought to discuss concerns about our Parish website being out of date.
- Liz (absent) sent in a Library note: Conversation in the Library for CCH will be in September – date TBA. On August 6th, at our next meeting, volunteers will need to sign up for library duty after the Saturday and Sunday Masses on that September weekend.
- Carla and Betty (absent) sent in a list of green tips to Elaine for the Bulletin, but so far none have been inserted in the Bulletin. The tips need to be sent to bulletin@stbchurch.com.

SEASON OF CREATION:

- September 1st, World Day of Prayer, to October 4th, the Feast day of St. Francis.
- Carol presented the plan for a Celebration of Creation through Word and Song, to be presented in the Parish on October 4th, as an evening program starting around 7:30pm. This will include a reading of the seven days of creation in Genesis. John has agreed that the 10:30 choir will do the music. Carol has a long list of potential songs. This event will be geared to families and children.
- On the Celebration evening, as well as on the evening we show the film "The Human Element", we can display the Carbon Footprint Game, for all attendees to play. The Catholic Climate Covenant website has the Game and links to the EPA carbon footprint calculator. Helen has said she can make the black foot cutout, and we can obtain the stickers, or make our own.
- We can also provide information and resources to help attendees understand what the carbon footprint means. There are also links at the EPA.gov site to 90-minute educational videos (downloadable programs) free. Last year's theme was "Who is my neighbor in a climate-threatened world?"
- Perhaps we can offer an interactive program at the September meeting to interest more people.
- Lori mentioned that young people are more sensitive to the reality of climate change. Barb suggested working with Betsy to reach parish teens.
- Barb also shared some information about the variations in recent years air quality measurements.

MORE:

- Bebee asked what it would cost to hire someone to do the Parish website. The Parish Council will need to act on this. We are reminded that that Saint John Neumann uses its website regularly and keeps it up to date. In fact, one use is to display children's art about nature. There are many other reasons to get the website going.

Additional resources:

- A 50-year anniversary PDF of Ian McHarg's book, [Design with Nature](#) (1969) is available online, about ecological planning for architectural landscapes on an international scale.

NEXT MEETING:

August 6 at 10:00am

Each one bring someone new to the next meeting.

CLOSING POEM:

By Joy Harjo, new US Poet Laureate in the Post, "Singing Everything".