

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
May 4, 2021 Minutes

OPENING PRAYER:

from National Catholic Reporter, read by Carol Even.

Note: this is our first in-person meeting in over a year. We met outside in the lovely spring weather at the Mary garden.

PRESENT:

Lori Brady-Newman, Helen Dickey, Carol Even, Harriet Hanlon, Patti Kaiser, Mary Ricotta, and Bebee Stroik

Carol will send emails asking whether people who have not attended lately, some because of time conflicts, might find a different meeting time better.

REPORT ON HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP FOR EARTH DAY:

On April 22nd, Earth Day, a group from CCH gathered to clean up the two miles of roadside along Wiehle Avenue, one mile down and back from Baron Cameron to North Shore near Lake Anne Nursery Kindergarten and the Tall Oaks pool. The team included John Janega, Betty Sullivan, Bebee Stroik, Carol Even, Harriet Hanlon, Mary Ricotta, Lauren Smith, and Patti Kaiser.

Our next clean-up will be held during the Season of Creation in the fall. Members were asked to take note and report if the roadway needs any cleaning up before then. We can send out a few people if it is just a small part of the designated road. Carol has agreed to keep the vests, bags, and sticks in her garage.

RECYCLING ELECTRONICS:

The Fairfax County Household Hazardous Waste Program accepts electronic waste at both the I-66 transfer station and the I-95 Landfill complex. Specifically, regarding magnetic tape media such as VHS and cassette tapes, the County will accept tapes separated from their plastic housing, and will safely dispose of them, assuring that the toxic elements in the tapes are not permitted to seep into the landfill. A certified e-recycling company, Securis, handles the tapes, while the plastic housing simply adds to the trash for landfill or incineration.

FAITH ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS (FACS):

Patti attended webinars with FACS on two of their 2021 targeted issues, Green Banks, and Net-Zero Waste.

Here is a recording of the FACS Green Banks webinar: <https://youtu.be/QCaHQsMAe38>. It looks like a win for Fairfax to pursue this with a focus on equity for low and middle-income earners.

With the Sustainable Energy, Equity, and Knowledge-Sharing Project (SEEK) of Arizona State University, FACS presented a webinar on the benefits and impacts of benchmarking a congregation's energy use, to assist in finding means to reduce energy waste. This fits with FACS 'Tree of Life' Program for faith communities. A link to the recording is available in the e-mail Patti forwarded with the subject: May Updates from FACS.

Once again, in case you missed it, here is where you can find FACS 2021 e-book on Advocacy Priorities: <https://faithforclimate.org/fairfax-to-zero/>

RECIPE BOOK:

Lori has made an initial contact with Lisa Ehrhardt about compiling a parish cookbook. We shared Ideas about including anti-inflammatory, gluten-free, and heart-healthy recipes, as well as recipes that are good for the earth.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Harriet is doing a project following her study with Al Gore and becoming a Climate Ambassador. She is coordinating with Reston Association cluster leaders to apply stickers onto storm-water drains. These stickers call attention to the connection between our local water runoff and the life of Chesapeake Bay.

CERTIFIED GARDENS:

Harriet showed the map of her yard as envisioned by a landscape artist from Merrifield Garden Center. She will be installing a native and pollinator garden which will be approved by Audubon, similar to what is planned for the Church and the Kateri Garden.

NEXT MONTH:

Carol will report on the CCH work in the Parish gardens and on plans for further action toward certifying a Kateri Garden.

NEXT MEETING:

tbd

CLOSING POEM: by Wendell Berry, from his book, Given.