

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
January 18, 2022 Minutes

OPENING PRAYER:

A Prayer for Migrants read by Carol Even

PRESENT:

Helen Dickey, Carol Even, Barbara Ewalt, Harriet Hanlon, Patti Kaiser, Mary Ricotta, Bebee Stroik

RECYCLING REPORT:

Helen reported that Mom's Organic Market accepts food waste for compost in its recycling center – the wooden bins near the cash registers. If it is too bulky, take it to the back of the store where they process produce. When the store is closed, drop off compost in one of the bins behind the store. Helen just took a bucket of compost there today. Buckets are available free from bakeries, or you can ask Helen if her daughter will bring some from her work at Chick-fil-A. There are small buckets – about 3 gal. size and larger ones, 5-6 gal.

Saint John Neumann also takes compostables at its farm market on Wednesdays (open 2:00pm) throughout the year.

Home Depot accepts rechargeable batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs for recycling – in Reston, just inside the entrance door near the service desk.

FACS: -

Carol attended the yearly Advocacy Day at FACS with special guest speaker, Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, and ecological leader from before the first Earth Day. He noted that in Fairfax, VA today there is snow on the ground, and in Australia it is 123° F. He says that fossil fuels are the biggest obstacle to dealing with climate change. Exxon knew the dangers thirty years ago but did not tell the public. They raised the decks of oil platforms (to deal with rising sea levels). By the end of this century, there may be one billion climate refugees, people who are forced to leave their homes because of drought and heat, leaving behind deserts where there used to be water.

ACTION:

Our new Governor nominated Andrew Wheeler as Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. He was the former EPA Administrator under Trump and a former coal lobbyist.

Sign the petition at VirginiaGrassroots.org to state your opposition to this nomination. Do it even if to just make the Governor aware of the numbers who oppose him.

SPRING AND EARTH DAY PLANNING IDEAS:

With spring and Earth Day coming, we propose celebrating by doing an outside event with handmade items for sale, such as pottery, baked goods, fabric and knitted or crocheted items. We can ask parishioners to participate with items they make by hand. It could have a theme like 'from the earth to your hands'.

Additionally, we could provide a book 'give and take' table for free exchanges.

Carol asked Barb to head up this event, and Helen could help her. Barb agreed as long as Carol gets permission from our Pastor, Fr. Bill.

Let's keep these two ideas rolling.

TREE PLANTING:

Carol got news from plantnovanatives.org with very short notice that Meadows Farms received lots of native saplings and were giving them free to environmental and church groups. She picked up a bucket of saplings, and to protect them over winter, planted them all – about 50 in her veggie garden. Among the saplings are Holly winterberry, Black choke cherry, Shag bark hickory - a wonderful tree! - Arrowwood, and there is also a mystery bundle of saplings with golden-yellow bark. The Audubon Ambassador also notified her about this, although later.

We can possibly get a group involved in planting. Betsy might be of some help as she is very knowledgeable about this sort of thing. Some of the saplings can go around the church grounds. Presently they are about 18 inches tall and sleeping in good soil. Other saplings can be available for anyone who want them.

Harriet has room in her garden for native trees, especially after the expensive removal of an old dying tree.

Patti will take pictures and report on plantings to plantnovatrees.com.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

Today's meeting of the Diocesan Care for Creation Network addressed the Pope's seven-year Laudato Sí global action plan. It will take an effort to inform every part of the world, but it is quite ambitious and is still in the planning stages. Our CCH will naturally be involved with this plan.

Our next several meetings will have a new element, one of sharing thoughts on a chapter of the book, Care for Creation, a Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth by Ilia Delio OSF, Keith Douglas Warner OFM, and Pamela Wood – copyright 2008. It is a blend of good science and good theology 'expressing our Christian faith through a right relationship with God's creation'. We will begin with a fifteen-minute segment each meeting. The book has 12 chapters, so it could take a year. It contains lots of quotes, notes and inspiration for study on your own.

NEXT MEETING: –

Please note:

Future meetings will be held on the **third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm**. Read before the meeting the Foreword and Introduction of Care for Creation. We will limit discussion to fifteen minutes. Please prepare the thoughts you would like to share. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 17th at 7:00pm**.