

ST. THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH  
Care for Our Common Home Ministry  
August 1, 2023 Minutes

Present: Carol Even, Helen Dickey, Bebee Stroik, Barbara Ewalt, Harriet Hanlon, Patti Kaiser

Carol read the Opening Prayer

#### THIS MONTH - TAILGATE GIVE-AWAY

Fr. Dyer is reading the bulletin announcements from the pulpit, so we may have a good turnout for our Tailgate-Giveaway on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August. Although our group is aging, our activities can target younger people, as this event is mainly for parents of school-age children. Helen will make a poster to place in a conspicuous place in the Vestibule. Also might have a sign-up sheet for those who are thinking of participating.

#### NEXT MONTH - SEASON OF CREATION

Catholicclimatecovenant.org has many useful ideas for individuals and parishes to use during the Season of Creation.

Recalling our program from October 2019, “In the Beginning”, we would like to make this an annual tradition. The program would include scriptural and related readings interspersed with singing by the choir.

Additionally, we will schedule a Wiehle Avenue clean-up as part of the Adopt-a-Highway VDOT program.

Rick Kenney and Carol could reprise their little play about St. Francis and St. Clare for the children in Religious Education classes.

Lastly, we might also be able to team up with the Hebrew Congregation Creation Care Team for some activity.

#### NEWS TO USE

Helen will make a T-shirt with our logo for Fr. Dyer.

The Diocesan Creation Care Network had a designer do a possible logo for the Diocese. Along with St. Mark’s and St. John Neumann’s, we are using a design borrowed from the Catholic Climate Covenant. New groups are advised not to use their logo due to copyright infringement, but we are allowed to keep it. See 350.org for their global action plans; they have a broad international presence as well as local groups, such as 350Fairfax.org, that offers monthly zoom meetings. See Globalpowerup.org for a description of the Power Up initiative led by 350.org and partners.

FACS is suing the Youngkin administration in Fairfax County Circuit Court to stop the Governor from pulling Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. If the suit fails, Virginia will have to leave RGGI by the end of December.

Harriet attended a three-hour update for the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. Their campaign efforts are focusing on four global objectives: reducing emissions, calling out greenwashing, financing a just transition, and strengthening international cooperation on climate.

Watch for global actions

#### NEWS IN THE WORLD

November will bring some world-wide protests in anticipation of fossil fuel companies announcing their profit statements. People around the world will take action “to show that a global renewable energy revolution is within our reach”.

Later in November the UN’s COP28 climate conference will be held in the United Arab Emirates.

Policymakers must realize that a just transition to renewable energy systems is possible and the climate crisis can be stopped.

## FUTURE MINISTRY ACTIONS

Future actions of our ministry will be aimed toward collaboration with Saint John Neumann's Team and the Hebrew Congregation's Team among others, reaching out toward younger parishioners to take leadership roles, including speakers in events and activities. Possible speakers may be a representative from FACS or other organizations, and our supervisor Walter Alcorn. We might plan an information night.

Carol closed the meeting with a poem from the book, Mary Oliver Devotions, "The Leaf and the Cloud #12" –text included below.

## **“The Leaf And The Cloud” (excerpt) by Mary Oliver**

When loneliness comes stalking, go into the fields, consider  
the orderliness of the world. Notice  
something you have never noticed before,

like the tambourine sound of the snow-cricket  
whose pale green body is no longer than your thumb.

Stare hard at the hummingbird, in the summer rain,  
shaking the water-sparks from its wings.

Let grief be your sister, she will wither or not.  
Rise up from the stump of sorrow, and be green also,  
like the diligent leaves.

A lifetime isn't long enough for the beauty of this world  
and the responsibilities of your life.

Scatter your flowers over the graves, and walk away.  
Be good-natured and untidy in your exuberance.

In the glare of your mind, be modest.  
And beholden to what is tactile, and thrilling.

Live with the beetle, and the wind.

–[Mary Oliver](#), from [The Leaf And The Cloud: A Poem](#)

<https://wordsoftheyear.com/2016/11/03/the-leaf-and-the-cloud-excerpt-by-mary-oliver/>