

Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: May 8, 2023

Location: Faith Formation room – Club Building

See minutes of previous meetings archived at <https://stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care/>

Contact us at Creation.Care@stpatrickbridge.org

Previous meeting of the full committee: Apr 10, 2023

Next meeting: Jun 12, 2023

St Pat's Creation Care - MINUTES – MAY 8, 2023

Notes: Brian Stefan-Szittai

Facilitator: Brenna Davis

Prayer: Mary Grace DeStefanis

Members who committed to doing something before the next meeting are highlighted in yellow under each agenda item.

Attendees: Kate Campbell, Bill Merriman, Dick Weber, Brian Stefan-Szittai, Judy Opalach, Brenna Davis, Mary Grace DeStefanis, Claire Foley, Kevin Johns, Denise Rowland

Opening Reflection: Mary Grace

Think about sitting alone somewhere in nature. We listened to Sittin on the Dock of the Bay (watchin the tide roll away)

-Mary Grace read Mary Oliver's The Summer Day and invited to remember moments when you're alone with nature and it's the only thing that accepts you as you are – and maybe even changes you

Earth Day Hospitality at Fellowship Hour (coffee and donuts on April 22 - review):

-raffle: Mary Grace organized the raffle prizes. We raffled off approximately 20 prizes (free) , 10 after each Sunday Mass

-educational handouts: we didn't notice how many people picked them up, but they were prominently displayed under a big display board and next to the donuts

-mugs: we offered people the option of choosing a disposable coffee cup or a ceramic mug. One parishioner commented that they chose the disposable one because they didn't want to have someone have to wash their mug; we assured them it was no big deal because all the mugs would go into someone's dishwasher at home. We didn't hear lots of positive words about the mugs, but we didn't hear anything negative.

-quiz: we didn't publicize the quiz or do it as a group activity since the group activity we did was the raffle

-petition during Mass: Kate wrote one, Brian submitted it to Fr Hollis, Fr Hollis included a modified creation-focused petition at the weekend Masses

-blessing after Mass: Fr Gurnick invited everyone after the 11am Mass to go to the back yard and do a blessing in the four directions. It was nice that he incorporated a response for the congregation to say after each section to involve people more. Next year: can we bring a traditional Native American blessing?

Funds for Creation Care activities

-should we try to create some operational funds so that we have money on hand when we need it (e.g., to buy raffle prizes)?

-options: 1) ask the parish for a budget, 2) everyone who comes to a meeting contribute \$1 , 3) spend money and ask the parish to reimburse

-decided: we just buy stuff as we need it and ask the parish for reimbursement. If they don't reimburse, then we all chip in

Creation Care meeting space

Some at the parish office were not aware that Creation Care has been meeting in the Faith Formation room in the Club Building instead of the Mission House. We decided as a group several months ago to not meet in the Mission House because we don't like the acoustics in the meeting room and we don't want to heat or cool the meeting space just for us. The Club Building is being heated by boiler 24/7 so it makes sense to meet in the Club Building. **Brian** will communicate this to Fr Gurnick and the parish staff

Parish Picnic Planning (Aug 27)

-Brenna has spoken with Brian Jecker of the Facilities Committee. Said that Creation Care would like to have representation on the planning team. We went through some ideas at the meeting tonight about what Creation Care could contribute to the picnic. We need to find out what the physical lay-out of the picnic will be so that we can determine what we can do. Will it be on the lawn behind the church (like it traditionally was?) or on the lawn behind the Oak Room (where it was in 2022)? We also want to make it clear to the Facilities that we think there should be a games coordinator and that person should not be one of us from Creation Care. Creation Care is willing to work with that person to suggest some games and even coordinate some of them. **Brenna** will take these ideas back to Brian Jecker.

-healthy food served on compostable plates, cutlery, cups. **Brian** offered to be part of the parish picnic planning team to focus on the food and waste.

-educational display about composting and Zero Waste Event Planning Guide

-arts n crafts: Green Carbon Footprint and pledge 3 ways that you and your household will lower your carbon footprint; recycled/upcycled arts n crafts contest

-bless a space on the grounds for a Kateri Garden

-games: recycling relay race; nature scavenger hunt using a bingo card; bounce the big Earth bouncy ball and keep the Earth in the air ;

-face painting

-7 Goals of Laudato Si' – educational stations

-music played during the picnic

-raffle

-bring in things from your house that are hard to recycle; we suggest items for which Cuyahoga Solid Waste has special collections

-clothing swap

We liked most of the ideas but thought we should limit to what we can really handle. Things to put on the back-burner include: bring in things from home to recycle; raffle, music; 7 Goals of Laudato Si'; upcycled crafts; clothing swap

NEORS D Grant

-Brenna met with parish administrator Scott Menningen to remind him that the parish has been awarded \$25,000 by the NEO Regional Sewer District for a design grant.

-bids: **Jared** sent a Request for Proposals (RFPs) to some design architects. He is willing to schedule onsite tours with any interested parties.

-timeline ?

Kateri Garden grant

-Scott Menningen has confirmed that the parish did receive a \$1,000 Victory Knoll grant (which Claire and Brenna applied for) for a pollinator garden with native flowers and plants to be established on the parish grounds, named in honor of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (17th century, what is now New York State). Here is an example from a local high school: <https://paduafranciscan.com/news/paduas-garden-becomes-registered-saint-kateri-habitat/> and more about Kateri Habitats <https://www.kateri.org/saint-kateri-habitat-2/>.

-After some discussion about possible sites on the campus, Claire reminded us that we already have a list of suggested sites. We liked the idea of maybe the lawn on the west side of the Mission House, fronting Whitman Ave. **Claire and Brenna** will revisit the list and take our top 3 choices to the parish office

-Some suggested we not feel pressure to pick the site and plant this spring (since we're already in the second week of May). We could ask the parish office to confirm a site, bless it at the parish picnic on August 27, and plant in the fall.

-Consideration: how many hours of sunlight each day? Which plants we plant will be determined by how much sunlight is on the plot of land

-Consideration: native plants. We could get some from neighbors Rick Werner and Allen Harris on Whitman Ave. We could also watch monthly (1st Thursday) zoom presentations by Mike Reilling who is developing a native plant nursery. His "green hour" show is about climate change, global warming, sustainability, etc. **Judy O** can give us contact info about signing up for the monthly programs.

West Side Creation Care Team (WSCCT)

-meets third Wednesday at different churches. Judy Slivka (St Malachi) is convener and facilitator

-Kate represented St Pat's in April at the meeting held at St Paul's Community Church. Someone from Community of St Peter attended and reported on some of the situation in East Palestine, OH. Besides the trauma and depression that residents are experiencing, many don't have credit cards so that they don't have money to live on. Contamination in their homes goes as deep as their insulation. In separate topic, St Christopher reported that the film The Letter (see notes from previous Creation Care meetings) was shown to confirmation class at their parish and received well by the kids.

-Litter Pilgrimage. Each month a different church that is a member of WSCCT organizes a litter walk (aka Litter Pilgrimage) on a Saturday morning, 10-11:30am. **Kate has offered to work with Bill Merriman** to select a spot for a pilgrimage on Saturday May 20. Who else can help Kate and commit to being there that morning?

Parish Council

-Brenna, a representative on Parish Council (aka Parish Assembly), reported that Creation Care is now a standing agenda item at the monthly meetings

Living Stones

-Some members of Creation Care attended the Living Stones parish-wide discussion on April 26, but we did not have time this evening to get a report-back

Next meeting on June 12:

Brian (facilitate), Dick (prayer), Brenna (notes)

8:05pm adjourned