

Creation Care Team at St Patrick’s Church

Meeting: date: June 12, 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: May 8, 2023

Next meeting: Jul 10, 2023 (note: this is possibly the same night at the Parish Assembly meeting)

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Brian Stefan-Szittai

notes: Mary Grace DeStefanis

Prayer: Dick Weber

2023	FACILITATE	PRAYER	NOTES
JAN 9	Denise	Bill, Mary Grace	Brian
FEB 13	Mary Grace	Denise	Claire
MAR 13	Judy	Bill	Dick
APR 10	Dick	Kate	Brenna
MAY 8	Brenna	Mary Grace	Brian
JUN 12	Brian	Dick	Brenna
JUL 10	Mary Grace	Denise	Dick
AUG 14			
SEP 11			
OCT 9			
NOV 13			
DEC 11			

Creation Care: striving to be a parish where the culture is love and care for God’s creation

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

Attendance:

Creation Care: striving to be a parish where the culture is love and care for God’s creation

Attendance today	Affiliation	Name
absent	parishioner	Kate Campbell
present	parishioner	Dick Weber
absent	parishioner	Judy Opalach
absent	parishioner	Brenna Davis
present	parishioner	Denise Rowland
present	parishioner	Mary Grace DeStefanis
present	parishioner	Brian Stefan-Szittai
present	parishioner	Jared Bartley
present	parishioner	Claire Foley
present	parishioner	Paul Kapczuk
absent	Parishioner	Kevin Johns
present	deacon/parishioner	Bill Merriman

Opening Reflection: Dick (Hymn of All Creation to the Creator)

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 has approached 4-5 engineers and is scheduling onsite tours with companies June 15-20.
- grounds tour: with respect to the NEORSD grant, Jared will ask Facilities Committee to be part of any walking tours
- visuals: Jared will ask for visual for our grant and what will be included in it (maintenance or design manual?). Jared will secure a table for visual display of the NEORSD grant at the parish picnic on August 27.
- communication with parish: At the July 10 meeting will discuss how to communicate this project with the parish

Kateri Garden grants

- first option to plant will be in October: Possibly bulbs
- Bill warned about type of plants. Too large of plants will obscure vision for cars and/or children. A safety concern.
- 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.
- Urban Forestry – City of Cleveland: Bill is talking with them about planting trees along the 180 ft frontage along Whitman Ave.

a) Victory Knoll grant: \$1,000

- 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://pduafranciscan.com/news/pduas-garden-becomes-registered-saint-kateri-habitat/> and more about Kateri Habitats <https://www.kateri.org/saint-kateri-habitat-2/>.

b) Soil and Water Conservation District grant: \$1,500

- Claire is liaison
- Sacred Ground Grant secured: \$1500.00 – Provides financial and planning support (Note: Sacred Grounds is a National Wildlife Federation program that recognizes congregations, houses of worship and faith communities who both create wildlife habitat and actively link faith practices and caring for the environment. Administered locally by the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Laudato Si' and the US Catholic Church

- is a free online conference that covers several components of Pope Francis' encyclical to care for our common home: ecological economics, sustainable lifestyles, cry of the poor, education, spirituality, and more. Attend any of the 1-2 sessions each week, now through July. Register at <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>.
- can any of us register for these sessions?

-Dick will coordinate volunteers to view each of these Laudato Si themed conferences so that all are covered. There are 2 sessions a week.

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 on May 8
-we had a brief report tonight from those who attended. Talked about pews, heating system. Nothing concrete right now for Creation Care. Tabled for the future whenever the next Living Stones assembly is scheduled.

Season of Creation: Sep 1-Oct 4

-planning committee: Dick, Judy, Kate, Denise. Others are welcome to join.

Pope Francis condemned “consumerist greed” and “selfish hearts” as responsible for the climate crisis in his yearly message for World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, [the Vatican announced on May 25](#). Inspired by the words of the Prophet Amos, the pope chose “let justice and peace flow” as the theme for the Season of Creation, which runs from September 1-October 4. Francis said his message was inspired by an Indigenous and Catholic pilgrimage site in Canada, which he visited last summer.

Resources:

<https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/>

https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/creation_care_prayer_liturgical_resources

-screening of The Letter

www.TheLetterFilm.org

-**Judy and Mary Grace** will reach out to Pilgrim Church 2592 W 14th St (Tremont) because they have a theater. Possibly a Thursday evening. Can use the website Event Took Kit as a guide or the Environmental Movie Showing Activity Kit (below)

-**Judy** will design flier and we'll put in bulletin a few weeks before event

-**Judy and Mary Grace** will talk with Stephanie Pritss regarding young people attending.

Environmental Movie Showing – Activity Kit

Learning about environmental issues is an important part of being a good environmental steward. That is why hosting a movie night at your congregation is an easy and effective way to educate congregants about an environmental topic of your choosing. Want to focus on plastics? Green energy? Water issues? Environmental justice? There is probably a movie for whichever topic you're interested in. Coupling a movie viewing with a movie discussion makes for an engaging, affordable, and simple event that you can do multiple times throughout the year.

Resources: <https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/resources>

Solar Financing for Congregations

Webinar at 2pm on Wed., June 21. Learn more about the different ways congregations can finance solar; look at options to install solar with no up-front costs, such as power purchase agreements. Because recent climate legislation offers nonprofits a discount on renewable energy investments, many more congregations are considering solar. Presented by RE-volv, a climate justice nonprofit that helps underserved communities go solar, while raising awareness about equitable climate solutions and training the next generation of clean energy leaders. Organized by Interfaith Power and Light. Register [here](#).

-can anyone register and encourage Brian Jecker and others from Facilities/Grounds to attend?

-Dick and Mary Grace offered to attend this webinar

West Side Creation Care Team (WSCCT)

a) monthly meetings: meets third Wednesday at different churches. Judy Slivka (St Malachi, (216)701-3476) is convener and facilitator
-need reps from St Pat's for meetings June 14 and July 19 at St Paul's Community Church, 7pm

b) monthly litter pilgrimage

-need RSVPs by June 14 to JBSlivka550@gmail.com for July 1. See below

Event: Cuyahoga River Kayaking Litter Pilgrimage (yes, we will be ON the Cuyahoga River in kayaks collecting trash!)

Date/Time: Saturday, July 1st starting at 10 AM. Event will last about 2 hours.

Facilitator: Eddie Olschansky who operates TrashFish. He provides the kayaks, paddles and life vests and is eager to be our guide.

RSVP: Registrations are required via email to Judy Slivka, at JBSlivka550@gmail.com Only 14 people are permitted because Eddie has a limited number of kayaks. Children are permitted with parent/guardian in tandem kayaks that Eddie provides.

Parish Assembly

-Brenna not here tonight, so there was no report. Only a note from Bill that the July meeting of Parish Assembly might be rescheduled and might conflict with the July 10 Creation Care meeting.

Youth Involvement

-Brian shared with Fr Gurnick and Stephanie Pritts info about Wholemakers, a 10-session curriculum on integral ecology for use in young adult ministry. Created by and for young adults, it weaves together climate science with insights from Catholic tradition, and can be used in high schools, college campuses, and small groups. It was created and vetted by a consortium of young adults, theologians, and experts from Catholic Climate Covenant, Maryknoll, the USCCB, and others. It was piloted and refined in 13 communities including the University of Notre Dame, the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese Care for Creation Team, and the Academy of Our Lady High School in Los Angeles. The new ecology curriculum for young adults is now available for free download and use from <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>.

-Brian emailed this to Stephanie Pritts and cc'd Fr Gurnick. Stephanie said she will share it the young adult ministry leaders at St Pat's (who are they?). Brian responded and said that this curriculum is also appropriate for high school students

-can anyone follow up with Stephanie Pritts and Fr Gurnick?

-we suggested inviting some younger people to our meetings. Brief discussion but no final consensus. Will continue to seek ways to do this

Next meeting on July 10:

Mary Grace (facilitate), Denise (prayer), Dick (notes)