

## Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: July 10, 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](mailto:Creation.Care@stpatrickbridge.org)

Previous meeting of the full committee: June 12, 2023

Next meeting: Aug 14, 2023

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Mary Grace DeStefanis

notes: Dick Weber

Prayer: Denise

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.**

**Opening Reflection:** prayer to St Kateri Tekawitha (Denise)

### NEORSD 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 scheduled 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.

-Jared has received one bid (Environmental Design Group)

### Kateri Garden grants

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 (17<sup>th</sup> century, what is now New York State). Here is an example from a local high school:

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

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

-Claire is liaison with Amy from Soil and Water Conservation District

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.

-Claire will write bulletin insert or flyer; Brian can pass it along to Cuquie at the rectory  
-who will ask Fr Gurnick if we can do a blessing of the area of the yard where the garden will be (NE corner of backyard behind the church )

### **Parish Picnic Planning (Aug 27)**

Creation Care commitments for the picnic

-composting:

healthy food served on compostable plates, cutlery, cups. **Brian** will organize everything (including educational materials) but will not be at the picnic, so **Kate and Dick** will run the compost station.

-food waste:

Mary Grace will make a flyer about not wasting food.

-arts n crafts:

**Judy** will make the Green Carbon Footprint. Pledge 3 ways that you and your household will lower your carbon footprint; recycled/upcycled arts n crafts contest .

-Kateri Garden:

bless a space on the grounds for a Kateri Garden. **Brenna** will ask Fr Gurnick. **Brenna and Claire** will make signage

-NEORSD:

Storm water diversion – **Jared** will make educational display

-games:

Creation Care is not organizing games. We are relating ideas to Christy Bartley and she can look for parishioners to run the 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:

**Denise** will find volunteers (possibly the new Jesuit Volunteers?) to run this

-display board about Creation Care:

**Denise** will bring the display board

Tables needed (3)

-face-painting

-Green Carbon Footprint

-composting

### **West Side Creation Care Team (WSCCT)**

a) monthly meetings: meets third Wednesday 7pm. Judy Slivka (St Malachi, (216)701-3476) is convener and facilitator

–location: St Paul’s Community Church, 4427 Franklin Blvd, Cleveland 44113

-reps from St Pat’s for meetings: July (Kate), August (Brian), September (Mary Grace)

b) monthly litter pilgrimage

-July 1 Cuyahoga River Kayaking Litter Pilgrimage. Mary Grace took photos

-Aug 12: Kate will organize the monthly Litter Pilgrimage (Vega and Fulton Rd)

### **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/>.

-various members of Creation Care signed up to attend various sessions

### **Outreach to Young Adults**

-at the June 12 meeting of Creation Care, Brian told us that he 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.

-Stephanie Pritts works with teens; she reported to Brian that their schedule is already full for 2023-24 school year.

-Claudia (parishioner) is one of the young adults listed as a contact for young adult gatherings. Denise and Brian will reach out to her to figure out how to relate to young adults what Creation Care is doing. Would be good if Claire and Brenna could also reach out

-we want to get out of our silos by going to leadership to ask if our rep could attend their meetings and invite one of their members to come to ours

-we could invite them to a showing of The Letter

### **Solar Financing for Congregations**

-RE-volv presented a webinar on Wed June 21 that was Organized by Interfaith Power and Light..Did anyone from Creation Care attend?

Purpose: 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.

RE-volv is 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.

-Claire reported on her meeting (November 2022) with Jonathan Welle of Cleveland Owns about collective buying power for churches in NE Ohio that want to go solar. This echoes what Mike Foley told us at a previous meeting (Dept of Sustainability - Cuyahoga County) "Cleveland Owns is an economic democracy incubator that builds cooperative businesses and leads campaigns for community control of resources. We know that in racial capitalism, ownership matters, so we're organizing multiracial, grassroots cooperatives that enable member owners to build wealth and power. We're working towards a Cleveland owned by its residents."

<https://www.clevelandowns.coop/>

-Brian mentioned an upcoming webinar about credits for solar being presented by Catholic Climate Covenant

## **Building Living Stones**

- The parish process of consultation concerning physical improvements to the workshop space continues with new instructional handouts and an upcoming meeting August 30.
- We don't see any immediate relevance for Creation Care

## **Season of Creation: Sep 1-Oct 4**

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

Resources:

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

[https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/creation\\_care\\_prayer\\_liturgical\\_resources](https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/creation_care_prayer_liturgical_resources)

## **Screening of The Letter**

[www.TheLetterFilm.org](http://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)
- if Pilgrim hosts, we can ask the national United Church of Christ office for environmental issues to help promote it
- we need to talk with Fr Gurnick about to involve the parish in the screening
- we need to talk with West Side Creation Care Team about how to involve other churches
- we need to talk with Jeff Campbell (who works for the Catholic Commission on Community Action) about how to involved other Catholic parishes
- Judy** will design flier and we'll put in bulletin a few weeks before event
- Judy and Mary Grace** will talk with Stephanie Pritts 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>

## **Next meeting on Aug 14:**

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