

Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: August 14, 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: July 10, 2023

Next meeting: Sep 11, 2023

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Dick Weber

notes: Brian Stefan-Szittai

Prayer: Kate Campbell

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: reflection on trees from our childhood (Kate)

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 (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/>.

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.

c) considerations:

-about 12 by 15 feet

-along NE corner of the yard behind the church (at Whitman and the alley)

-3 ft from the sidewalk on either side

-tall grasses to border the edges along the sidewalks

-filled with native pollinator plants

-bench to face a statue of St Kateri Tekakwitha

-consider a plaque to describe St Kateri Tekakwitha and the garden

d) to do

-**Claire** write insert for bulletin; **Brian** will get it to the parish office

-**Claire** to organize planting day Sat Sep 30 10am

-Jared to rent a sod digger before the Sep 30 date

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. Brian needs to print it

-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:

We decided to postpone any mention of Kateri Garden until the Season of Creation

-NEORSD:

Storm water diversion – Jared will make educational display if we have enough info to do so

-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 .

-Earth trivia/quiz

-Denise sent two versions Brian. Brian will print for the picnic

-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

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

Four Sundays:

Sep 10 forest

Sep 17 land

Sep 24 wilderness
Oct 1 river

Each Sunday: petition, write-up for website, edited version for e-news, edited version for printed bulletin. Hang Season of Creation banner inside the church?

Oct 1 – can we invite folks after the 11am Mass to go outside and bless the space where the Kateri Garden will be, along with a prayer to the four directions (north-south-east-west)

-**Brian** will convey all of our Season of Creation ideas to Fr Gurnick and get his feedback

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)

-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 involve other Catholic parishes

-**Judy** will design flier and we'll put in bulletin a few weeks before event, hopefully in time for the Aug 27 parish picnic

-**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>

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. In May, St Pat's signed a letter of agreement with NEORS D to accept the grant. (This was delayed because of having to go to the Catholic Diocese re ownership of the parcels)

-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.

-bids: two companies submitted bids: Osborne Engineering and Environment Design Group (EDG). Scott Menningen and Jared Bartley prefer EDG, which has done green infrastructure for other churches. **Scott** needs to ask them to present and sign a contract

-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 NEORS D grant at the parish picnic on August 27.

-Jared has received one bid (Environmental Design Group)

To do

- Scott** needs to get the contract with Environmental Design Group
- Jared** needs to decide if there is enough info to share with the parish at the Aug 27 picnic
- Jared** needs to decide whether we should apply for the construction grant in September 2023
- Creation Care and Facilities** need to figure out a maintenance plan. Do we budget money for someone to come in and clean between the permeable pavers? Do we create a volunteer team of parishioners? We need to keep discussing this.

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 19 (Kate – but meeting was canceled), August 16 (Brian), September 20 (Mary Grace)

b) monthly litter pilgrimage

-Aug 12: Kate organized the monthly Litter Pilgrimage (Vega and Fulton Rd). Only she, Jeannette Nappier and Tom Nappier participated

-Aug 16: **Brian** will ask at the next WSCCT meeting if another church is organizing a Litter Pilgrimage for September (St Malachi?)

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 a webinar in July about credits for solar being presented by Catholic Climate Covenant

-**Brian** will communicate to Fr Gurnick and to Jonathan Welle about tax credits for churches installing solar

To do (Creation Care should be paying attention to these)

-Parish Strategic Plan

-Facilities Strategic Plan that comes out of the Parish Strategic Plan

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, but no one reported that they attended any in July.

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.

-at the last meeting we said that we didn't see any immediate relevance for Creation Care

-tonight it was mentioned that we should pay attention to any areas outside of the buildings that will be redesigned as part of Living Stones

Immigration Reform petition

-Judy presented a way to sign a petition that Network (Catholic social justice lobby) is circulating re immigration reform. Network has a goal of 500 signatures from Ohio; at 278 signatures

Closing prayer (Kate)

Isaiah 55:12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Kate played a 1975 version of this song on YouTube: Trees of the Field

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qb7ES_ZDje8&pp=ygUodHJIZXMgb2YgdGhlIGZpZWxklHdpbGwgY2xhcCB0aGVpciBoYW5kcmw%3D%3Di

Next meeting on Sep 11:

Brian (facilitate), Mary Grace (prayer), _____ (notes)