

Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: May 13, 2024

Location: Faith Formation room – Club Building

Present: Kate Campbell, Dick Weber, Denise Rowland, Jared Bartley, Mary Grace DeStefanis, Brian Stefan-Szittai

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 15, 2024

Next meeting of the full committee: July 8, 2024 (we are canceling the June meeting)

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Jared Bartley

notes: Brian Stefan-Szittai

prayer: Dick Weber

NEXT MEETING

facilitate: Denise Rowland

notes: Mary Grace DeStefanis

prayer: Brian Stefan-Szittai

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

Creation Care Meeting

May 13, 2024

Opening prayer: Dick – Psalm 80, Mary Grace

Finalize Earth Day Coffee and Fellowship: recap of April 20-21

-good turn-out, especially at 11am Mass

-folks loved the free raffle; we raffled off at least 20 prizes

-ran out of donuts

-mugs: no one complained about not having an option for a disposable cup, and some complimented us on using real mugs; washing was no big deal

-extra seed packets (about 90 were distributed at fellowship hour and by PSR families at Mass) will be made available on back table in the church

NEORS grant: Jared

No updates on parking lot engineering plan for storm water diversion. Jared will check in with Scott to see if Environmental Design Group (EDG) has submitted final plans. Jared will ask to be copied on emails from EDG to Scott so that Jared can be the main point person going forward.

Kateri Garden: Jared (Brenna point person for Claire)

- in Brenna and Claire's absence, Jared has taken on more responsibility for the garden.

-Apr 27 was work day. Jared, Mary Grace, and Dick weeded and edged.

-edging: Jared consulted with his father-in-law who has a landscaping business. Suggested laying bricks as perimeter, just an inch or so above ground level so that a mower can go over them so we don't have to do extra weed trimming; if we want, we can always add a decorative fence on the inside of the brick perimeter. Circumference is 56 feet. Mary Grace and Paul will check the supply of bricks in Mary Grace's back yard and figure out when we can lay them.

- plants: Jared will get more native plants from a native plant nursery (such as the one in North Collinwood). He will consult with Claire and let us know when the next planting is
- signage: Jared brought a sample sign that everyone liked. We suggested mounting it on a green metal pole (which the parish already has); we can double side it and have one side facing the sidewalk so that passersby can identify the garden. Other sign: Jared will ask Claire if she ordered the official signage from Saint Kateri Habitats organization.
- bench and statue: Claire had suggestions and was going to check with Fr Gurnick (see last meeting minutes)
- bird feeder: Brian asked if we should add a bird feeder. Some suggested it might draw rodents or other birds we don't want to attract (e.g. pigeons). All agreed that a liquid hummingbird feeder would be nice. Jared has a metal shepherd's hook that could be used to hand a feeder. This could be a means to involved other parishioners outside our core Creation Care Team.

West Side Creation Care Team (WSCCT)

- organizes monthly litter pilgrimages; participating churches on rotation to organize each month
- meets third Wednesday of the month 7pm at St Paul's; Kate, Mary Grace, and Brian are on a rotation to represent St Pat's at these meetings. Next meetings are May 15 (Kate), June 19 (Brian). There will be no meeting in July. August 21 (Mary Grace) .
- Litter Pilgrimage April 27. Kate organized it on behalf of St Pat's. No one showed up. She pulled some plastic bags out of trees at W 48th and Herman Ave. Brian said that there is a person in Tremont (Reinaldo) who knows Pastor Dean VanFarowe (WSCCT) and has been talking about organizing Tremont churches to do a litter pilgrimage in Tremont in June.

Congregation of St Joseph grant money: approx. \$2500

- in Judy's absence, we skipped this topic

Parish Facilities

- we talked about a wish list of things to make the campus more sustainable. Top ideas were industrial dishwasher for the kitchen in the Club Building, reducing single-use disposables at the evening meal, and solar panels (rooftop of Club Building).
- solar: Brian will give solar resources to Mary Grace who will compile a list of programs to help churches install solar.
- hot meals program: We talked about the temporary suspension of the hot meals program. Denise, Brian, Bill, and Tony Vento attended a meeting May 8 with reps of 4 of the churches who are on rotation to cook the hot meal. Also in attendance were Gary (CEO of St Vincent de Paul, who retired May 10), and Ed (president of the board of St Vincent de Paul). They are seeking an employee or employees to cover the food pantry (1st, 3rd, 5th Wed of the month, 9-12) and the hot meals (Tue and Thu, 5-6pm). We would like the parish to express its interest in reducing single-use disposables and ask the search committee to consider this when they interview candidates. Brian and Jared will talk to Fr Gurnick about this.

Parish Picnic

Sunday Aug 25. We are on board again to run the zero-waste station with compostable plateware, cutlery, cups, etc. Since we are not meeting in June, we will make plans for the picnic a priority for the July 8 meeting.

Baby Noah Update

- Claire Foley is absent today because she's home with Baby Noah. Denise shared a story and some photos. We look forward to having Baby Noah at future meetings!

Laudato Si' Week

May 19-26 promoted by LaudatoSiMovement.org to mark the 9th anniversary of the encyclical letter Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. We don't feel like we have time to do any promotion except 1) share social media posts, 2) frame a sign on back table in church with summary of Laudate Deum, 3) put extra seed packets on back table, 4) put blurb in parish e-news.

<https://laudatosimovement.org/>

Laudato Si' – diocesan event

May 22 – Diocesan Social Action Office (DSAO) invites St Pat's Creation Care Team to participate in a diocesan-wide event via Zoom, featuring Dan Misleh, exec director of Catholic Climate Covenant. See email forwarded from Jeff Campbell of DSAO

Parish Assembly - monthly

Next meeting: Monday, June 17

These are things we would like Brenna and Bill to present to Parish Assembly

-Kateri Garden. We are maintaining the garden, adding more native plants as pollinators, edging it, adding signage, statue, bench

-solar energy. Since there is a lot of government money currently available to fund the installation of solar panels at churches and nonprofit organizations, we are putting together a list of resources to submit to Scott Menningen (to share with Parish Facilities) and Fr Gurnick. We understand that there is a short window to access these funds, so we would like to at least make all the information available and ask that the parish move forward in pursuing solar panels.

Addendum (May 14)

-trees with disease in lot behind Mission House. Brian alerted Scott that there is something that looks like a fungus on the white pine tree and suggested that he contact Bartlett Tree Service. Today, Robert from Bartlett treated two spruce trees, the white pine, and juniper bushes in the rectory courtyard. Diagnosis: white pine bark adelgid, apple scab, needle cast. The white pine needs to be treated once a year. The two spruce trees 2-3 times per year (apple scab, needle cast). The dead tree branches do not need to be removed but it could be a good idea because dead wood attracts other insects that might infect the trees. The fungus on the juniper bushes will spread if the dead branches are not removed.

Next meeting: July 8 (we are canceling the June meeting)

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Closing Prayer