

## Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: MAR 10, 2025

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: Feb 10 2025

Next meetings of the full committee: Apr 14 (facilitate Jared), May 12 (facilitate Judy), June 9 (facilitate Kate)

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Kate Campbell

notes: Brian Stefan-Szittai

prayer: Judy Opalach

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

### The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,

may the *faith* you have given us

in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,

and the flame of *charity* enkindled

in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,

reawaken in us the blessed *hope*

for the coming of your Kin-dom.

May your grace transform us

into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation

of a new heaven and a new earth,

when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,

your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee

reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,

a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread

the joy and peace of our Redeemer

throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,

be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

### Creation Care Meeting Minutes

**March 10, 2025**

Present: Bill Merriman, Brian Stefan Szittai, Judy Opalach, Mary Grace DeStefanis, Denise Rowland, Paul Kapzcuk, Jared Bartley, Kate Campbell

[from Nov 2024 meeting]: What do we want to accomplish in 2025? A. reduce waste at parish events (or other events held at the parish) with a goal of zero-waste through compostable plates, cups, cutlery. B.

storm water diversion project for the west side parking lot next to the Club Building (i.e., NEORSD grant).  
C. Jubilee of Hope (aka Pilgrims of Hope) 2025 from Pope Francis (a Jubilee Year occurs every 25 years in the Catholic Church)

-During 2025, we will structure our monthly meetings around prayer, education, advocacy, action for those three items/goals.

### **1. Prayer: Judy**

Land acknowledgment and responsorial refrain: *We have forgotten who we are*

Song (written by Holly Near, performed by artist Wiyalla of the Woyaya people)

*We are going...heaven knows where we are going...but we know we will get there. We will get there...heaven knows how we will get there...but we know we will. It will be hard, we know. And the road will be mighty and long, but we will get there.*

### **2. Purpose/Vision/Goals of St Patrick's Creation Care**

See website: <https://stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care/>

We reviewed these and agreed they are good.

### **3. Implementing our four pillars: Prayer, Education, Assessment, Action**

(aka Prayer, Education, Advocacy, Action) – brainstorming session

Action: we have advocacy steps rolled into Action on the website. Should we keep it this way or separate them out?

-Beyond Plastics campaign (education, advocacy)

-Kateri Garden (prayer, education)

-assessment of parish facilities for energy-efficiency and general earth-friendliness (e.g. trash, toxic cleaners, lawn maintenance) once the Facilities Committee starts its master planning (summer 2025?)

-Challenge: how do we institutionalize Creation Care at St Pat's/St Malachi's (facilities, liturgy, faith formation); does the county or city have sustainability goals or incentives we can follow?

-Challenge: how do we publicize what we are doing (steel reusable water bottle branded with St Pat's; publicize Zero-Waste at parish picnic and St Patrick Day dance; bulletin inserts and announcements; more organized visits to Kateri Garden)

### **4. Kateri Garden: Jared**

The signage that Jared ordered has been misplaced and parish staff were not able to track it down. Jared has been instructed to order a new one (Judy will order, the parish will pay) and Jared will keep it in his possession until he plants it in the garden.

### **5. Facilities Committee**

The St Pat's Facilities Committee is still in existence; Jared is a member. Now there is also a joint St Pat's/St Malachi's Facilities Commission (?) that Jared is also on; it meets monthly, convened by Bob Knopf. Other parishioners involved include Joe Cleary, Jim Clark. Why is this significant? If we want to institutionalize more creation care/greening initiatives, much of it will have to go through Facilities Committee.

### **6. Storm Water Diversion**

NEORSD grant proposal design for the parking lot is done . Applying for construction for water diversion in parking lot this summer, to be funded (hopefully) in September. Jared needs to sit down and draft the construction application with Bob Knopf.

### **7. Catholic Pilgrims of Hope for Creation**

Catholic Pilgrims of Hope for Creation <https://catholicpilgrimsofhope.org/> is a consortium of 20 Catholic organizations (including Catholic Climate Covenant and the Cleveland-based Ignatian Solidarity Network) collaborating during this Jubilee Year to bring Pope Francis' call for us to be Pilgrims of Hope into our homes, parishes and communities. Resources: [slides](#), [YouTube recording](#) of the launch party, occasional [email updates](#), and [webinar series](#).

The consortium is inviting Catholic parishes to hold a Pilgrimage of Hope and pray for ecological conversion. When? Either during Laudato Si' week (May 24-31) or during Season of Creation (Sep 1-Oct 4). Our initial ideas: a walk along the shore of Lake Erie, a walk in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Will there be any diocesan-wide efforts? Jeff Campbell (staff of Diocesan Social Action Office) will be announcing an online meeting to talk about this very soon (maybe as early as March 19).

See more resources here:

Laudato Si' tenth anniversary (May 24) <https://laudatosimovement.org/event/laudato-si-week-2025/>

Canticle of the Creatures (St Francis) – 800th anniversary

Pilgrims of Hope for Creation Website: <https://catholicpilgrimsofhope.org/>

Jubilee Year Resources from the Vatican: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

Papal Bull on Jubilee: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/lettera-di-papa-francesco.html>

What is the Jubilee: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/segni-del-giubileo.html>

Diocese of Cleveland Jubilee Resources: <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/pilgrims-of-hope/jubilee-resources>

Pope Francis issued a Papal Bull of Indiction re the Jubilee Year (May 9 2024)

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/pope-francis-proclaims-2025-jubilee-papal-bull-hope-does-not-disappoint>

The papal bull, [titled "Spes Non Confudit,"](#) meaning "Hope Does Not Disappoint," declares that the Jubilee Year will officially begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024. A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church. It typically takes place once every 25 years.

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509\\_spes-non-confudit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confudit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)

## **8. West Side Creation Care Team**

- "Lament for Creation" is being planned. Date?

- usually meets third Wednesday; have been rescheduled for March 26 (brian will try to go)

- Judy Slivka, a parishioner of St Malachi, is a co-convener of the ecumenical Team. Mary Grace will ask her and other St Malachi people involved in Creation Care to connect with St Pat's Creation Care. Brian is currently sending bulletin announcements and Lenten reflections to Judy Slivka.

## **9. Celebrate Mother's Day with coffee and donuts**

Creation Care at St Pat's has made a semi-annual commitment to hosting fellowship hour after Mass.

April/May – in honor of Earth Day

September – in honor of Season of Creation

May 11: Mother's Day. We can make our gift to mothers (and all women) a reception in the lower hall. Pass out something (like flower seeds from Cleveland Seed Bank) to remind people of the generative power of women, of Mother Mary, of Earth herself.

Host coffee and donuts (Sunday only). 8:30 Bill and Brian. 11am Mary Grace and Paul. Others will help. Food/refreshments: muffins (Denise), donuts (Bill or Brian to arrange for delivery), cheese and crackers (Mary Grace), pecan nuts (Kate). To be determined: beverages, fruit

## 10. Lenten reflections

are on the parish website: <https://stpatrickbridge.org/lenten-reflections/> . Thank you to these Creation Care Ministry members for writing them: Brian, Dick, Mary Grace, Judy, Kate. Brian is sending a shortened version and link to that page each week in the e-news (that Christy Bartley sends out on Thursdays).

## 11. Closing Prayer: Judy

The Blessings of the Galaxies (from the Chinook Psalter)

<https://idealisticrebel.com/2012/09/01/the-blessings-of-the-galaxies/>

“Blessing of galaxies, blessing of stars:  
Great stars, small stars, red stars, blue ones.  
Blessing of nebula, blessing of supernova,  
Planets, satellites, asteroids, comets.

Blessing of our sun and moon, blessing of our earth,  
Oceans, rivers, continents, mountain ranges  
Blessing of wind and cloud, blessing of rain,  
Fog bank, snowdrift, lightning and thunder.

Bless the wisdom of the holy one above us.  
Bless the truth of the holy one beneath us.  
Bless the love of the holy one within us.

Blessing of green plants, blessing of forests:  
Cedar, douglas fir, swordfern, salal bush  
Blessing of fish and birds, blessing of mammals.  
Salmon, eagle, cougar, and mountain goat.

May all humankind likewise offer blessing:  
Old women, young women, wise men and foolish  
Blessing of youthfulness, blessing of children  
Big boys. little boys, big girls and little ones.

Bless the wisdom of the holy one above us;  
Bless the truth of the holy one beneath us,  
Bless the love of the holy one within us.”

## **NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 14**

Jared (facilitate), Mary Grace (prayer), Paul (notes)