

## Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: APR 14, 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: Mar 10 2025

Next meetings of the full committee: May 12 (facilitate Judy), June 9 (facilitate Kate), July (skip this month)

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Jared Bartley

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.

Attendance today:

Kate Campbell, Judy Opalach, Denise Rowland, Mary Grace DeStefanis, Brian Stefan-Szittai, Jared Bartley, Paul Kapczuk, Bill Merriman

### Creation Care Meeting Minutes

**April 14, 2025**

Present: Brian Stefan Szittai, Judy Opalach, Mary Grace DeStefanis, Denise Rowland, 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. Jared has made a grid to organize meeting agenda items marking Prayer, Education, Assessment, Action.

### **1. Opening Prayer (Mary Grace)**

The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor

-we named particular people or groups of people impacted by things going on in our country and around the world today

### **2. Lenten Reflections – recap**

-we liked doing them; thanks to Brian, Judy, Kate, Dick, Mary Grace

-online: Christy Bartley (parish staff) posted them on the website <https://stppatrickbridge.org/lenten-reflections/> and included small version with link in the weekly e-news

-printed bulletin: small versions were included each week for five weeks

-petitions: we did not ask for petitions to be included at Mass, but some of us noticed some creation-themed petitions during Lent

**TO DO:** ask next year to print the reflections and include as bulletin insert

### **3. Kateri Garden**

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 and Jared will keep it in his possession until he plants it in the garden.

**TO DO:** Judy will order a new sign, the parish will pay

**TO DO:** Brian will ask Claire to set up a work session on a Saturday or weeknight

**TO DO:** Brian will ask Claire to revisit ordering a statue; we are not in favor of placing a bench there

**TO DO:** Judy will ask Father Gurnick when we can do a blessing (see agenda item #6 below)

### **4. Storm Water Diversion – west side parking lot**

NEORSD grant proposal design for the parking lot is done .

**TO DO:** Jared will update Bob Knopf (parish administrator) and work on the construction grant application this summer, hopefully to be funded in September.

### **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. If we want to institutionalize more creation care/greening initiatives, much of it will have to go through Facilities Committee.

-paper/cardboard recycling: Bob Knopf notified the Facilities Committee that the River Valley paper/cardboard dumpsters (located at the Whitman Ave entrance to the west parking lot) will be removed because they often overflow and there have been complaints about the mess

**TO DO:** Kate will ask Bill Merriman to talk to the Food Center and meals program re what they will do with cardboard recycling

**TO DO: Brian** will contact Cleveland Office of Sustainability <https://www.clevelandohio.gov/city-hall/office-mayor/sustainability> <https://www.sustainablecleveland.org/> to communicate the need for public recycling dumpsters

**TO DO: Brian** will ask Charlene McElwee (director of liturgy and music) how recycling was done at St Malachi and if they have tips for what we can do on the St Pat's campus

**TO DO: Jared** will talk to other St Malachi people, including Frank Budziak (campus facilities coordinator)

**TO DO: Jared** will talk to County Solid Waste District

## **6. Catholic Pilgrims of Hope for Creation/Laudato Si' Pilgrimages**

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).

Kate Campbell attended the webinar overview organized by Jeff Campbell (staff of Diocesan Social Action Office) on April 1. She notes that a pilgrimage could be 10 minutes or 10 months in duration. In this Year of Hope, how might we incorporate the "have nots" who are disproportionately being impacted by climate change? How might we "seek spiritual and relational depth" as we walk by people on a pilgrimage and engage with them? Shall we walk around the neighborhood? Walk to Lake Erie?

Denise: proposes that during the Season of Creation (SEP 2025) we do a walk of the parish grounds immediately after Mass. We can make this a holy adoration of God's creation, do another blessing of the Kateri Garden, and possibly have hospitality hour (indoors or outdoors) immediately following as a way of building community.

**TO DO: Kate and Judy** will outline a pilgrimage walk to be discussed at our next meeting

**TO DO: Brian** will communicate to St Malachi our intention to do this, and perhaps they will want to do to it after their 10am liturgy on the same Sunday (date to be determined)

**TO DO: Mary Grace** will continue to reach out to Creation Care folks at St Malachi (e.g., Judy Slivka, Kay Vine) to invite them to join/collaborate with Creation Care at St Pat's

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

- Judy Slivka, a parishioner of St Malachi, is a co-convenor of the ecumenical Team.

-Kate, Mary Grace, and Brian take turns attending the monthly meetings to represent St Pat's

- usually meets third Wednesday; in March was rescheduled for March 26 and Brian was not able to attend

-April meeting is canceled (due to Holy Week)

-next meeting: May 21; we can confirm at our May 12 meeting who can represent St Pat's

-Apr 7: WSCCT held its annual Lament for Creation at Calvary Reformed Church on W 65th. Denise and Kate attended. Water themes resonated with Denise, having attended the baptism/initiation into the Catholic Church of Howard Weiss at St Pat's that morning; connecting women's tears (daughters of Jerusalem) to the cry of the earth and floods in Kentucky and the water of baptism and the hope we have through baptism

-Trinity Episcopal Cathedral: Denise noticed they have a Creation Care Team

**TO DO: Brian** will reach out to Trinity to invite them to WSCCT

## **8. 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, Kate, Dick . Others will help.

Food/refreshments: muffins (Denise), donuts (Bill or Brian to arrange for delivery), cheese and crackers (Mary Grace) , walnut cups (Kate). To be determined: beverages, fruit

Raffle: Judy will bring Lngerberger baskets and we can fill them with potted flowers, etc

**TO DO: Brian** will submit weekly announcements for e-news and printed bulletin Apr 27, May 4, May 11

**TO DO: Brian** will ask Fr Gurnick to include this in the end-of-Mass announcements for the lector to read from theambo/lectern: Apr 27, May 4, May 11

## **9. Other Updates**

None

## **10. Upcoming meeting schedule**

May 12: Judy (facilitate), Denise (prayer), Dick (notes)

June 9: Kate (facilitate), Bill (prayer), Mary Grace (notes)

July 14: cancel this meeting as summer break

Aug 11: need to schedule roles

## **11. Closing Prayer (Mary Grace)**

"Be One in Unity" from the Xavier Prayers for Unity.

May we listen to one another, to plants and animals, to our own hearts, to God...

--END 8pm--