

Creation Care Ministry Meeting
April 12, 2021 via Zoom

Present: Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness, Sue Ratner, Kathy Minsch, Carolyn White, Edie Weller, Emily Meeks, Warren Wilder, Norman LeMoine, Judy Andrews, Peter McClung.

The meeting opened at 6:30pm with a prayer offered by Ruth.

Emily reported that she had been in touch with Elizabeth Hawkins, who would be happy to share with our community **about how climate change is affecting people in El Salvador**. Emily and Elizabeth are discussing whether this is something written, perhaps for inclusion on our Creation Care webpage, or if Elizabeth might speak to our Creation Care ministry or to the larger St. Mark's community at some point.

Emily and Edie gave an update about plans for the **forum planned for Wednesday, April 21 from 7-8:30pm**. "Cultivating Food Connections That Restore Justice" will include a discussion with four panelists from local farms. We are all asked to invite at least one person to attend, especially from outside St. Mark's. Personal invitations are best.

We are still waiting to hear more details about a program to be offered through Good News Gardens on **Pentecost Sunday, May 23**, with St. Mark's acting as one of 4 national hosts for this virtual event.

Ruth reported that the Measurement team met twice since our last monthly Creation Care meeting. They are planning to host a **training on the carbon tracker** and would like to find a date when they could test this out on a small group comprised of our Creation Care ministry members. A Doodle poll will be sent out to all of the 50 people on the Creation Care email list, with the hope that we can gather a group of 10-20 people for a trial run sometime in May. The Measurement team will meet on May 6 to work out more details and all are welcome to participate in the planning. This group is also developing a **list of actions** for people to take to reduce their carbon footprint. Training and actions were 2 of the biggest requests from our Creation Care survey conducted in February.

Marjorie shared an **update from Dean Thomason**. 1.) Solarc continues its work on facility improvements. 2.) The EV charging station is scheduled for completion by April 30. Members of the Creation Care ministry are encouraged to consider a gift in memory of Jim Mulligan, who was a Creation Care pioneer at St. Mark's. The station was given in Jim's memory. 3.) The Dean, Cherie Bradshaw, and Adam Conley have submitted at Beloved Community grant proposal. The proposal includes a garden at Lowell Elementary School, Solid Ground offering cooking classes for families with farm-to-table principles, a children's art exhibit at SMC, and a field trip to engage our urban garden and bee ministry, tended by our family in Sanctuary. The Habitat crew will build the garden beds at Lowell. This is intersectional work among several ministries and covers all three mutual ministry goals in innovative ways. 4.) Work continues on the St. Nicholas redevelopment exploration, which includes strategic planning for carbon footprint reduction.

Ruth asked that we consider creating a team to participate in **Earth Ministry's annual Trivia fundraiser** on May 11. Marjorie will send out more information about that, along with the Doodle poll for the carbon tracker trial.

A **2021 Mutual Ministry goal relating to Creation Care** was written for submission to the Vestry's Executive Committee: *"In solidarity with future generations, grounded in our Christian duty to preserve and protect God's creation and promote justice, in partnership with Saint Mark's ministries, we will educate, empower and support the Cathedral and its members to become carbon neutral by 2030."*

At Ruth's request, Warren shared some about his lifetime of work in the energy world, which was very interesting.

The meeting ended at 8:10pm with a prayer offered by Carolyn.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Notes submitted by Marjorie Ringness