

Creation Care Ministry Meeting  
March 8, 2021 via Zoom

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

The meeting opened at 6:30pm with our Creation Care Lenten prayer for this week in Lent. These are posted each week of Lent on St. Mark's Instagram page. We did a general check-in around the zoom screen. 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**. We will discuss this in more detail at our April meeting.

Marjorie reported on the Creation Care **survey** that closed on February 14. We had 157 respondents, which we felt was a very strong response, representing about 1/3 of pledging households at St. Mark's. Although we were reminded that it was likely that most people who took the survey already have a concern about climate change, we were still encouraged by the interest in St. Mark's taking action as a campus and as a community. We also appreciated the honesty of a few responses that felt this should not be a priority for St. Mark's at this time. A couple main takeaways from the survey were that 1.) people would like training on how to use the carbon tracker at [www.sustainislandhome.org](http://www.sustainislandhome.org) and 2.) we need to offer a balance of practical solutions and inspiration. It was also suggested that we remind people of the individual benefits and cost savings of taking carbon reducing steps. Complete survey results are available in a separate document and will be shared with the Vestry and wider community.

Many agreed with Carolyn's suggestion that we **form small groups around specific projects**, similar to what was done last spring. We should probably form a group that is interested in helping people with the carbon tracker, perhaps with some 1:1 coaching. Another group to provide many practical steps to reduce one's carbon footprint. And perhaps we should consider another session with Scott Henson of Project Drawdown Seattle, as a way to offer practical solutions and hope. We will follow up on these ideas via emails to the Creation Care Ministry members.

Edie provided details about a **forum planned for Wednesday, April 21 from 7-8:30pm**. The focus will be on "Cultivating Food Connections That Restore Justice," and will be co-hosted with the Faith Formation Ministry. Although not quite in line with what is being planned for this forum, the "Sacred Ground" materials provided by Interfaith Power and Light include the opportunity to view the film "Kiss the Ground," which people may watch beginning April 10. The forum will include a discussion with panelists around the subject of food and justice. So far, representatives from [Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center | Carnation, WA](#) and [Nurturing Roots](#) have agreed to participate in the panel. And Lisa Graumlich will serve as moderator. More details will be forthcoming.

Ruth shared a Lenten reflection and reading. The meeting ended at 8:10pm.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom.**