

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Creation Care Ministry Meeting
June 14, 2021 via Zoom

Present: Ruth Mulligan, Marjorie Ringness, Sue Ratner, Kathy Minsch, Edie Weller, Richard Wesley, Norman LeMoine, Judy Andrews, Wayne Duncan, Lisa Graumlich, Carolyn White, Doug Thorpe.

The meeting opened at 6:30pm with the land acknowledgement and a prayer offered by Sue. (See below for copies of opening and closing prayers.) Each person present shared a bit about anything related to Creation Care that has touched their lives recently.

We briefly reviewed the 2021 Vestry Mutual Ministry Goals. 1.) Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, 2.) Restorative Justice and Systemic Change, 3.) Innovative and Intergenerational Community.

Ruth, Kathy, Judy, Carolyn, and Marjorie reported on the **carbon tracker training** that took place on June 3. It was attended by about 15 people besides the 10 people involved in the presentation and organizing of the event. We now have about 83 households signed up in the St. Mark's Community Group on www.sustainislandhome.org. We discussed the need for continued messaging to bring people of St. Mark's together to work on actions in the carbon tracker and to get more households signed on. We will also continue to reach out individually to people who have expressed an interest in the carbon tracker but were not able to attend the training. The recording should be available to share very soon.

We discussed the idea of an occasional **Creation Care newsletter**. Doug Thorpe has generously agreed to be the editor and compile material we provide for him. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide *inspiration*, as well as information about Creation Care at St. Mark's. Doug specifically asked for help with layout. We would also like to use St. Mark's Instagram account to highlight newsletter items. Doug will arrange a meeting with Greg Bloch, St. Mark's communication director, to get his input. It was also suggested that we contact Josh Hornbeck of the Diocese for his input. Perhaps the newsletter could be distributed throughout the Diocese. The goal is to produce the first newsletter by September 1.

We briefly discussed the possibility of St. Mark's Cathedral including in their annual budget contributions to carbon offset programs for the **carbon footprint of employee travel**. Several expressed support for this as a way for St. Mark's to set a good example. Marjorie will write up a proposal to the Vestry, to be reviewed at our next Creation Care meeting.

A selection of about 95 books relating to Creation Care is in the **library** at St. Mark's. We will discuss possible next steps for this resource at a future meeting.

There is interest in hosting a forum about **fashion and clothing** and its relationship to Creation Care. Another future topic for discussion.

There is also interest in reviewing the many films related to climate change and possibly offering a future **film series**. To be continued...

Wayne told us about a project just developing within the Visual Arts Ministry that would involve **a display of Northwest indigenous art** in the Cathedral. We briefly talked about the connection this might have with Creation Care and other ministries at St. Mark's. We are open to collaborating in any way with this project.

Upcoming events related to Creation Care:

- Sunday, June 20, 10:15am - Dedication of EV charging station
- Saturday, September 11 - Intergenerational hike
- Confirmation youth want their project this fall to be Creation Care related

We will skip the July meeting. Instead, Carolyn will send us some links to many of the excellent films available relating to climate change. And we will keep in touch via email with items needing attention. **Our next meeting will be Monday, August 9, 2021 at 6:30pm.** We will determine between now and then whether this meeting will be in person or via Zoom.

We considered how our discussions during the meeting touched on the 3 Mutual Ministry Goals.

The meeting closed at 8:05 with a prayer offered by Sue.

Notes respectfully submitted by Marjorie Ringness

Opening and closing prayers from https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/liturgies_honoring_god_in_creation_sclm.pdf

Opening prayer - Holy God, your mercy is over all your works, and in the web of life each creature has its role and place. We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh. Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together. Amen

Closing prayer - Gracious God, you reveal your goodness in the beauty and diversity of creation; in the circle dance of earth and air and water; in a universe rich in processes that support growth and coherence, distinctiveness and community; and above all in the gift of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself to serve your world. And so we offer thanks and praise to you, one God in three persons: the Author and Source of all, Christ the Incarnate Word, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.