

Saint Mark's Cathedral Creation Care Minutes

6:30 p.m., October 19, 2021

Zoom



Members Present: CJ Beegle-Krause, Lisa Graumlich, Richard Hartung, Emily Meeks, Kathy Minsch, Ruth Mulligan, Sue Ratner, Marjorie Ringness, Edie Weller, Richard Wesley, Carolyn White, Renee D.

- The group opened with introductions and land acknowledgement. **Ruth** shared an opening prayer from the [intergenerational hike liturgy](#). A special welcome to newer attendees including Richard Hartung and CJ Beegle-Krause.
- **Marjorie** announced that **Kathy** has agreed to serve as co-chair of the Creation Care Ministry. Thank you, Kathy.
- **Debrief on [IPCC forum on September 29 \(IPCC report\)](#) and [Autumnal Poetry Reading](#).** More than 30 people attended *Code Red for Humanity: Reflections on the IPCC Report 6th Assessment Report on Climate Change* including several from outside of Saint Mark's. The conversation included an intergenerational component and actions for next steps (see [slides](#) and [recording](#)). There was positive feedback and interest in continued updates on the report and COP26, including updates from Lisa's experience to comment on the delegation in real-time. The *Autumnal Poetry forum* a few days later balanced the austerity of the IPCC content and several attendees have asked for a similar event in the future to build upon the theme of making connection with poetry and creation.
- **Discussion about possible future forums and projects included:**
 - **Sunday, December 19 forum** - This is a time/date dedicated for Creation Care to host another forum. Discussion included a potential for another poetry forum that explores themes of incarnation, winter solstice and light.
 - Idea to incorporate photography from Saint Mark's members that reflect these themes. (Potential contributor ideas: Sarah Elwood, Kevin Johnson, Russ Campbell).

- *Next steps:* **Marjorie** and **Kathy** to connect with Doug about a potential poetry option. **Emily** to follow up with Sarah, Kevin and Russ on photo participation.

- **Environmental Christmas list:** **CJ** described an idea to help encourage more environmentally-friendly gifts at Christmas by providing a list of go-to gifts. **CJ** to start this list and share back with the group for additional thoughts and ideas. The list could be shared on the Creation Care website or part of a newsletter if the timing synced.

- **Wednesday forums** could be a follow up opportunity for Lisa to share back about COP26. Current available dates are 11/3, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 options.

- Sue suggested focusing a future **Radix series** on Creation Care. Emily shared that there is a Radix planning committee and that she could take this idea back to the group. The theme is selected based on overall feedback submitted from participants. Additionally, Emily shared that there will be several programming events hosted by Canon Jennifer Daugherty that will connect to Creation Care as it relates to her sabbatical study around Celtic Spirituality.

- **An Advent intergenerational event** is planned on 12/5. This event will be led by the new Canon for Intergenerational Ministries, [Wendy Claire Barry](#). Wendy starts on November 1. Could there be a Creation Care tie-in?

- **Lowell Elementary** - **Emily** shared that there is a small group from Saint Mark's working with Lowell Elementary, a school just under a mile from Saint Mark's, for further updates on their garden including projects to build and decorate birdhouses and support a plant sale in the spring.

- **Looking Ahead to 2022**
 - **Carbon Tracker** - **Ruth** recommended revisiting the actions people can take towards reducing their carbon footprint, and suggested creating a spiritual practice. This focus could also correlate with the beginning of the new year and resolutions. **Kathy** will convene a small group to discuss how to proceed.

- **Potential forum to encourage actions related to energy - Richard Wesley** discussed an idea to encourage people who may want to install heat pumps. **Richard Hartung** shared an example of how he is giving a presentation to his neighborhood on installing solar panels. There was a question about ways to consider and invite in those who cannot afford solar panels and other ways to participate or be aware of opportunities that make this more affordable. Several members of the group expressed interest in this idea and this will be an opportunity for ongoing discussion and collaboration.
 - **Wisdom school events** such as Canon Daugherty's *Creation Spirituality: Delight, Wonder and Reverence* and Belden Lane's *Ravished by Nature's Beauty* will include connections to Creation Care. There could be an opportunity to partner more closely. **Marjorie, Kathy and Emily** are meeting with Dean Thomason on November 11 and will ask about potential connections with [Wisdom School](#) programming in 2022.
- **Newsletter update - Doug, Ruth and Emily** have been putting together the first draft of the newsletter and it's close to being ready to send to Greg for formatting and publishing. The newsletter will be published every other month.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Meaningful Movies Project** - Events educate people about important issues and provide opportunities for community conversations with activists and representatives from nonprofits working on those issues. There are upcoming Creation Care related films including *Youth v. Gov* (October 20) and *Kiss the Ground* (October 26). [Learn more.](#)
 - **19th Annual Multifaith Summit** on October 31. Faith leaders from various traditions will share about how faith informs their views on climate change. [Learn more.](#)
 - **Diocesan Convention 2021 virtual workshops** (October 29-30). See an overview of the schedule [here](#) with Creation Care focused sessions below. Zoom links to come.
 - October 29, 10:00-10:45 am –*Episcopal Households vs.. the Climate Crisis*

- October 30, 9:30-10:15 am *Climate Change: An Intergenerational Conversation About What We Need to Do Now*
- **Virtual COP26 public events** (October 28, November 6, November 12) - Opportunities to attend COP26. View [overview and registration](#) information.
- The meeting concluded with a reflection on mutual ministry goals.
- **Ruth** closed the group in prayer and the meeting ended at approximately 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Meeks