

Creation Care Meeting

September 10, 2023

Attendees: Spencer Mullins, Earl & Martha Weissert, Mary & Dylan Martin, Doreen Flash, Joe Haase, Joe McLaughlin

Status of the Creation Care Ministry. We noted that Matthew Groves, who led the Creation Care Ministry, moved to Virginia this summer. We have not met since our March 12, 2023, meeting. Today's meeting was focused on regrouping and continuing creation care projects.

Pollinator garden. The pollinator garden planted in November 2022 at the corner of Primrose Avenue and Oakland Avenue has thrived. No watering and almost no care has been required and multiple native flowers have flourished in the 100 square foot space. We decided to plant another garden this fall, likely in November. A space at St Mary's Villa is a potential space for the garden. Joe M will inquire for permission to plant in that location.

CTK Arboretum. The arboretum at CTK, described at our March 2023 meeting by its developer and sustainer Tony Emmanuel, was discussed. At the March meeting we discussed getting a Cloister article on the arboretum and having a tour of the arboretum for the parish. Today's discussion focused on planning a tour of the arboretum, perhaps in October.

Haiti. Earl and Martha gave an update on the sale of Haitian coffee and the status of the three-year-long project to support growing coffee plants in our sister parishes in Haiti. There will be discussions among those involved in the Haiti work (Earl, Martha, Tony, and others) to consider the best ways for the Creation Care Ministry to support this work.

Composting. Enthusiasm was expressed for looking at ways to involve the parish and school in composting by working with Compost Nashville. Spencer mentioned that Jeanne Marchetti played a lead role in using Compost Nashville at the Juneteenth celebration. Spencer will talk to Jeanne Marchetti about whether she would like to work with the school and parish to use Compost Nashville more broadly at CTK.

Volunteering in the community. Mary, who works at Hands On Nashville, noted that many environmentally related volunteer opportunities are available. She will send the group information on volunteer opportunities and we will choose some community tasks that we can get involved in as a group.

Nashville Tree Foundation tree planting. We have participated in fall tree planting volunteer work for several years and plan to do so again this November.

Pope Francis's new document. Spencer noted that a second document addressing the themes of the 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* is expected October 4. We will talk with Jon Stotts about the possibility of studying this document in adult ed or possibly studying it within our group.

Activities at other parishes. Joe Haase will check with several parishes in the area (St Henry, Holy Family, Our Lady of the Lake, St Philip) to see what creation care activities are underway at parishes in the area.

Next meeting. Our next meeting was set for Sunday, October 8, after the 11:00 Mass.