

Creation Care April Notes

Note: There was no April 2022 Meeting, but a number of Creation Care Activities were conducted in April/May

Discussion of Earth Day 2022 events

Earth Day is April 22 this year. Sunday, April 24 the liturgy was focused on climate and Father Bob preached and combined the gospel message of doubting Thomas about not believing what one can't see with your "3 simple truths" about climate.

- Global temperatures are rising at unprecedented levels (1.8 degrees)
- Extreme weather is more frequent and severe
- Human activity is the main cause of climate change

This helped to elevate the climate concerns across the parish.

At Midweek on April 27, we conducted a Kids Recycling project.

The content for the Kids discussion is based on asking these questions:

Show landfill picture. Does anyone know what this is?

Where does all this trash come from?

Why is a landfill bad?

It takes a long time to turn back to earth.

Think about how old your grandma and grandpa can be – 3-5 times as old as them

Water that runs out of landfills can be "toxic" and can pollute rivers and waterways

It creates greenhouse gasses (methane) that warms up the earth



Show seal picture

Another bad thing is that some of the things we throw away like plastic can harm animals

What kind of animal is this?

What's that around its neck?

The problem with plastic is that it takes thousands of years to "decompose". Does anyone know what that word means? To turn back into soil.

And plastic that's not decomposed can hurt animals



So what's the best way to reduce landfills and protect animals?

1. Use less things that we throw away in the trash
2. Use things over again and don't throw them away
3. Recycle

People call this "Zero waste"

Show hands picture



What's the best things to recycle? Hands to vote (tin can? Glass bottle? Paper? Plastic bottle?)
When we say recycle, we mean turning an old thing into a new thing (an old bottle becomes a new one)

Glass and metal can be completely recycled. Paper too

But plastic can't. For every 10 plastic bottles that are thrown away, only 1 is recycled. The rest goes into those landfills. And sits there for 450 years (that's 6 grandmas)

So what can you do? Get your parents to buy less things with plastic. Use glass and metal containers where you can. And recycle all of that.

Whose got questions?

Mass IPL Stewardship Assessment

The Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MassIPL) Environmental Stewardship Assessment was Conducted in April. Here's a summary of the Assessment and the findings. The full report is posted on the 3 Crowns Sustainability page <https://3crowns.org/sustainability>

About Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light

- 248 religious organizations in Mass
- Founded by the Episcopal church in California
- Work with faith communities to be better environmental stewards of their buildings
- by providing technical expertise and assessing ways to lower emissions and save money

About The Environmental Stewardship Assessment

- Conducted April 2022
- Extensive on-site environmental review (62 pages)
 - Behavior
 - Building Envelope
 - Electricity
 - Heating, cooling, hot water
- 24 Questions scoring assessment
- Recommendations (immediate and long term)

Goals of the Assessment

- Conduct a thorough Environmental/Energy Assessment for the property
 - Sanctuary
 - Parish Hall and offices
 - Rectory
- Develop a roadmap to a zero-emissions property
- Short-term and long-term modifications

Summary of recommendations

Short-term

- Convert Sanctuary and classroom lighting to LED
- Caulk windows, especially in the offices and buy additional window inserts for the offices
- Build window inserts to fit the arched windows along the corridor and in the Upper Parish Hall
- Remove and recycle the Kenmore standing freezer; don't replace it unless absolutely necessary
- Replace doors: Upper Parish Hall, Garret, Rector's office back door, Music director back door, Woodland Garden doors
- Insulate hot water heat pipes
- Upgrade existing heat pumps to cold-climate models (both heating and cooling); extend this to the second floor offices

Longer-term

- Hadley Hall: interior roof insulation and conversion to heat pump heating/cooling
- Basement classrooms: investigate and remediate (if high humidity levels. Replace windows
- Replace the air handler and install a heat pump (with a dehumidification system)
- Replace the Sanctuary heating system: explore alternatives to forced air through the undercroft tunnels, ideally generated by heat pumps.
- Renovation of Upper Parish Hall: insulate ceiling, replace windows and exterior doors
- Hadley Hall and/or Sanctuary roof solar panels

Summary of Recommendations for the Rectory

- Have a plan to replace the boiler and hot water heater by around 2030, in line with the state goal to reduce carbon emissions 50% by then. Energy reductions in church is higher priority than rectory.
 - If /where A/C is needed install mini-split heat pumps
 - Insulation needed in enclosed porch and between basement and first floor. Have MassSave assessment to recommend best insulation solutions.
 - Set programmable thermostat 7-10 degrees cooler at night.
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The Creation Care communications plan for April

Creation Care is planning to create a set of regular communications with a paragraph in 3Crowns every other week, and Facebook and Instagram posts.

For April We'll write:

- Susie wrote a paragraph on composting for the April 7 3Crowns
- Josh wrote a paragraph for Earth Day for the April 21 3Crowns