

Taking Stock of Parish Engagement on Creation Care

A Report to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington
By the Creation Care Task Force

Note from the Co-Chairs: We invite and implore the engagement of all interested parishioners in this work for the benefit of the whole Diocese of Washington. The information in this report will be updated at regular intervals and can be accessed on diocesan website. We are certain that it has unintended errors of both omission and commission. Please help us fill in any gaps to help us learn more about what you are doing, and please tell us of new initiatives so that we can share best practices and create a network of helping hands for those who want to do more. If you would like to be part of the Task Force and help us build that network, please let us know. **To provide corrections and/or additions to information for your parish, or to suggest how we might make the information we have gathered more useful to all, please email us at creationcare@edow.org.**

I. A new call

On Nov. 4, 2021, Bishop Mariann Budde offered a new call to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington: “[Care for the Earth, Our Island Home](#).”

This new initiative for 2022, an item in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW) 2020 - 2025 strategic plan, calls upon a newly established Creation Care Task Force to engage with congregations and regional leaders to identify current practices and offer concrete ways we can collectively strengthen our commitment to the care of God’s creation.

Bishop Mariann wrote: “Our first task will be to gather our most passionate leaders to help us form a diocesan-wide Creation Care network. Guided by these leaders, we will establish yearly goals for both our congregations and households along with implementation strategies to accomplish them. **I have great confidence in our capacity to reach this goal in 2022 given the number of congregations actively committed to reducing their global footprint and other creation care practices.**

“Creation Care initiatives are an integral part of our primary commitment to racial justice, given how people of color bear the disproportionate impact of climate change and other environmental disasters. Moreover, it is a way for us to work in solidarity with the indigenous people of our lands, for whom care of the creation is a primary value.

“It is also part of our legacy to our children and grandchildren, those for whom we are dedicating our efforts for church revitalization and the establishment of new worshipping communities. For what value will our churches be to rising generations if we do not care for the Earth, our island home?”

II. Task Force Formation

Bishop Mariann, noting that “Many in our diocese are already engaged in the work of Creation Care,” asked for leaders who “feel called to help us expand and amplify your efforts” to step forward – and at Diocesan Convention in January 2022 she commissioned a new Creation Care Task Force to lead this effort.

She said at Convention: “The compounding reality of climate change and other environmental concerns are cause for great alarm, and yet for many, and I include myself here, the problems can seem distant. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit has been at work – is at work – across the globe and in our congregations, already inspiring many to action for the care of God’s creation in concrete ways. And this year, we will create the means for:

- Amplifying and expanding the efforts of our Creation care leaders;
- Sharing best practices among us; and
- Establishing regional and diocesan goals for reducing waste, preserving natural resources, and lowering our carbon footprint.”

The Bishop’s first “90-day action plan” for the Task Force was to take stock of all of the congregational efforts to date in the Diocese – in the District and in four Maryland counties (Montgomery, Prince George’s, Charles and St. Mary’s). This report is the product of that call.

Task Force Members

The co-chairs of the Creation Care Task Force are Doug Holy (St. James’, Potomac) and Deacon candidate Melissa Sites (currently serving at Ascension, Sligo Parish).

The other Task Force members are:

Susannah Cernojevich	St. Paul’s, Rock Creek
Diane Coon	St. Paul’s, Waldorf
Reid Detchon	St. Columba’s, DC
The Rev. Catharine Gibson	Christ Church, Durham Parish
Teresa Hobgood	Epiphany, DC
Jane Houlihan	St. John’s, Norwood
Joanne Hutton	St. John’s, Lafayette Square

Tom Kerr	St. John's, Norwood
Mary McCarthy	Washington National Cathedral
Abbott McCartney	St. John's, Lafayette Square
John More	St. John's, Lafayette Square
The Rev. Beth O'Callaghan	St. Nicholas', Darnestown
Deacon Mary Sebold	St. Dunstan's, Bethesda
Cal Trepagnier	St. John's, Lafayette Square
Thelma Triche	St. Columba's, DC
Lois Wye	St. Alban's, DC

III. Summary of Findings

The Task Force identified 90 faith communities in the Diocese, divided by region, and began systematic outreach to each of them, often beginning with the Regional Deans. Task Force members called and emailed each parish to identify the best point of contact on these issues and in many cases visited in person. Our thanks go out to all the many people who responded, often thoroughly and thoughtfully, but our findings are certainly incomplete. What we learned about individual parishes is presented by region in the following section of this report.

There is a wide variety of engagement on Creation Care in the Diocese. Of the 78 parishes that responded to our inquiry, 31 have official Green Teams. Even without official Green Teams, many EDOW parishes have been engaging in, or are planning creation care-focused activities. The following summary was generated directly from parish responses and gives a sense of the breadth of parish engagement on these issues, while providing examples for others to copy. There was broad interest in parish-to-parish collaboration on Creation Care.

Activities

The most commonly reported parish activity is **recycling**. This is accompanied in many cases by other waste reduction efforts – avoiding the use of Styrofoam, using only reusable drink containers, using compostable and biodegradable packaging as much as possible. Other examples include zero-waste policies, bottle-fill water fountains, using recyclable copy paper, refraining from written bulletins, reusing worship service leaflets (or using QR codes instead).

Energy management is frequently cited – conducting an energy audit, installing energy-efficient windows, lighting, and heating/cooling systems, and purchasing electricity

from renewable resources. In at least three cases, this includes generating solar power on site, and 10 other parishes report that they are interested in doing the same.

Many parishes show their concern for the environment in **caring for their grounds**. In several cases this involves Earth-friendly landscaping to reduce erosion, installing rain barrels, purchasing native plants, and maintaining a pollinator garden – or even a bee apiary! A number of parishes maintain community vegetable gardens or are considering planting such gardens on site. Other examples include: creating a cutting garden for the altar, conserving land for wildlife habitat, planting trees and following forestry management plans, using environmentally friendly products in landscaping and janitorial services (no pesticides/herbicides or gasoline-powered equipment), using a green septic system, and installing permeable surface parking or a rainwater catchment area for parking lot runoff.

Education about Creation Care is a frequent theme – learning about environmental impacts of our lifestyle choices and about being good Earth stewards – through educational series, book discussions, special Earth Day programming on Creation Care, and, in a few cases, to dedicated pages on the parish website or a monthly newsletter. Home-based creation care practices are also encouraged, including the use of cloth rather than disposable diapers. One parish collected outdoor gear for a community environmental education center.

Outdoor activities, such as hikes, community prayer walks, and nature walks, are another popular offering. In addition to regular trash clean-ups on site, several parishes engage youth through community creek clean-ups. One parish has a part-time youth director to focus on Creation Care. One parish participates in water quality testing of a local creek.

Spirituality and worship

Several churches emphasized that active engagement with Creation Care gets their young people excited and involved. Many parishes use prayers or liturgies paying attention to Creation Care, reflected in music, sermons, and prayers of the people. Many offer a Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day; some also observe Earth Day, Rogation Day and blessing parishioners' home gardens, and the annual Season of Creation in September.¹ Several parishes have developed a contemplation garden, labyrinth, or outdoor worship spaces, ideal for gathering to worship together in person during the pandemic. Some congregations understand using parish land to host community gardens as part of Creation Care, and as an act of service as well as a spiritual good. Some specific practices include: building a Tomb dish garden or "Garden of Gethsemane" during Lent or Holy Week; having the Altar Guild use only local plants; focusing on the Biblical tradition of trees as guides to spiritual growth. St. Francis's parish described their observance of Rogation Sunday with a Blessing of Gardens, integrating Creation Care deeply into their spirituality: "At the close of the service there is a procession out to the gardens, and parish gardens are blessed. People bring plants

¹ The Diocesan Convention in January 2019 adopted a resolution encouraging parishes to celebrate annually a Season of Creation. Pursuant to that resolution Bishop Mariann approved [Season of Creation liturgies](https://edow.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/11/EDOW_Season_of_Creation_Materials_final_2020.pdf) for four Sundays. See https://edow.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/11/EDOW_Season_of_Creation_Materials_final_2020.pdf.

and seeds and shovels from home to be blessed. Parishioners sign up for clergy to visit their homes and bless gardens there. In this practice, parishioners engage with the natural world in their backyards, to appreciate the majesty of Creation and build an ever-greater desire to protect it.”

Respondents were asked how they understand Creation Care as part of “God’s Dream” and the Diocesan **mission of justice**. Many parishes understand how efficiency and good stewardship are part of God’s Dream of abundance. Creation care issues, especially in terms of climate change, are understood to impact other social justice issues, including food and housing insecurity, support of local farmers, including farmers of color, establishing farmers’ markets, and providing education toward nutrition and cooking. One respondent said, “A great deal is owed to prior occupants and workers of the land (indigenous and enslaved).” In God’s Dream, “all people have access not only to clean water and a clean environment, [and we see] on a deeper level the complexity and inter-relationships of God’s Creation across ecosystems and among all of us. We can’t be human-centric.” Another said, “The hope is that all people may share equally in the gifts that God has given us in the Created Order, and that together we could offer back a united expression of joy and thanksgiving for his goodness. This can only come as we address environmental inequities and take steps to change our consumptive and destructive ways of living. It’s a conversion of life that is demanded of all of us.” One parish stated that in God’s Dream, “gardening would flourish in more communities and healthy living would abound across the District.” Another said, “God’s dream includes each congregation raising its voice in support of God’s creation and taking important, urgent, and decisive actions in support of various environmental causes. Unlike many other social justice causes, God’s creation cannot speak for itself. It needs others to do so. And part of our responsibility as humans is to care for God’s creation. To sum up in the words of Job 12: 7-10, “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”

We asked, “**How can the EDOW Creation Care Task Force be most helpful to your parish’s Creation Care efforts?**” The following summarizes what we heard back:

1. Filter and make available the most pertinent information presently available from many sources for a variety of creation care efforts within parishes – e.g., landscaping considerations, parish energy audits, parish energy efficiency, procuring renewable energy, recycling, energizing parishioners.
2. Provide guidance, recommendations, potential funding sources, and assistance for the following:
 - solar panels for both parish facilities and residences and recommended contractors
 - renewable energy choices best for specific parish campuses
 - installing and maintaining community gardens on parish grounds

- initiating and/or reinvigorating parish green teams
 - building new partnerships, collaboration, and sharing of success stories among parishes and in implementing best practices that we identify through this “Taking stock” task
 - potential “bulk purchasing” for EDOW environmentally responsible supplies and energy sources
3. Assist the EDOW in better collaboration with like-minded groups regarding Creation Care (e.g., Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Interfaith Power & Light, Washington Interfaith Network) and with groups working to address food deserts in DC.
 4. Assist in identifying and making available liturgical resources to put the spirituality of Creation Care at the forefront (e.g., Creation Care-focused content for Prayers of the People, racial justice aspects of Creation Care) and provide guest speakers and preachers.
 5. Keep parishes informed of the EDOW Creation Care Task Force activities so parishes may work with us when they are ready.
 6. Encourage continued communication from the Bishop to keep Creation Care obvious as an EDOW priority.

IV. Going Forward: How we will use the results of what we learned

We are inspired by what we have learned through this outreach. We are committed to following up and to continuing sharing with the parishes of the Diocese. The results of this study will help the Task Force identify objectives for prioritized implementation in the coming months. For example, several parishes are eager to install solar panels; others hope to begin planting community gardens. With approval and guidance from the Bishop, the Task Force will assign members to working groups to help parishes address the needs and priorities they’ve identified.

V. *Individual Parish Outreach*

District of Columbia – Central

The Rev. Linda Kaufman serves as an assisting priest at Church of the Epiphany in DC and as a co-dean of the Central DC region. The Rev. Richard Wall serves as rector of St. Paul's, K Street, in DC and as a co-dean of the Central DC region.

CONGREGATIONS

- American University Chaplaincy

Associate Director: Jennifer Baron

Activities: There is not an active Episcopal Ministry on campus.

- [Ascension and St. Agnes](#)

Rector: The Rev. Dominique Peridans

Green team contact: The Rev. Mary McCue

Activities: No response received.

- [Christ Church, Georgetown](#)

Rector: The Rev. Timothy A.R. Cole

Green Team contact: Stephanie Greene

Activities: On hold through pandemic but exploring several projects.

Spirituality and worship: St. Francis Day, Blessing of the Animals

- [Epiphany, DC](#)

Rector: The Rev. Glenna J. Huber

Green Team contact: Teresa Hobgood

Activities: Epiphany is very active in advocacy and justice work. Nationally, Rev. Glenna has worked with Rev. Barber and the Poor People's Campaign to highlight the urgent need to address poverty on a much broader scale in this country and has supported efforts, with a dynamic seminarian leading the charge, to stem the flow of methane gas in light of its adverse health and climate impacts. Epiphany also arranged weekly lunch "Power Hour" sessions to provide information and a forum for action on economic and social justice. Epiphany anticipates having an electric stove installed along with LED lights in the church sanctuary with the aim of installing LED lights throughout the church. Efforts are also underway to assess the feasibility of installing solar panels. We have grown vegetables on our rooftop. Epiphany is currently working with Partners for Sacred Places to help determine how best to use its church building.

Partnerships: Epiphany is an active member of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), particularly focused on leadership, green affordable housing, and public safety.

Spirituality and worship: In honor of Earth Day, we had a guest preacher address Earth as an eternal dwelling place for healing, reconciliation and justice. In the past we have also had

several Sunday evening sessions of outdoor worship. At the Claggett Center, we participated in a Barn Blessing and Rogation for farmers and workers.

Vision: We would envision a broader understanding of creation care that would encompass actions to address food and housing insecurity.

- [Grace Church, Georgetown](#)

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Richard Miles (interim) until Aug. 1, 2022. Then the Rev. David Wacaster.

Green team contact: None.

Activities: No response received.

- Howard University Chaplaincy

Chaplain: The Rev. Dr. Yolanda Rolle

Green team contact: None.

Activities: No response received.

- [Our Saviour, Brookland](#)

Rector: (vacant)

Green team contact: None. Senior Warden Sherone Ivey

Activities: There is presently no creation care committee.

- [St. George's, DC](#)

Rector: The Rev. Marilyn Jenkins (Priest-in-Charge)

Green team contact: None at present

Activities: The Priest-in-Charge describes herself as a "band of one." This is an aging congregation with a big mortgage debt and also big hearts. There is a weekly homeless feeding program, for which biodegradable containers are used. There would likely be interest in measures to improve electric bills using heat pumps or solar power; the present Junior Warden is an architect. There is a nice churchyard, "a neighborhood attraction" used regularly by the community; a parishioner is interested in installing bees there, and the parish does a clean up where some sustainable landscaping principles could be implemented. A new vestry member is trained as a Master Gardener. The parish supports LeDroit Park's Community Garden nonprofit, Common Good City Farm, for the food-insecure by offering them free meeting and staff space.

Partnerships: Common Good City Farm

- [St. John's, Georgetown](#)

Rector: The Rev. Gini Gerbasi

Green team contact: The Rev. Sarah Duggin

Activities: No response received.

- [St. John's, Lafayette Square](#)

Rector: The Rev. Rob Fisher

Green team contact: Joanne Hutton

Activities: St. John's has devoted several Sunday morning Forum programming to creation care themes. St. John's also co-sponsored the 2019 January EDOW Convention resolution

encouraging EDOW parishes to celebrate a season of creation annually in October. St. John's has taken several steps to invest in sustainability, including purchasing electricity through a renewable-energy cooperative, converting its parish house HVAC system to a heat pump, and installing LED fixtures. St. John's Sunday Forum has offered several programs on creation care topics. Additionally, the Creation Care committee has inserted short weekly green thoughts in our Sunday bulletins that encourage the parish to be more sensitive to recycling and reducing our parish and individual carbon footprints. St. John's also now uses reusable or recyclable service dishes and utensils for coffees and parish lunches.

Partnerships: St. John's has partnered with WIN for environmental justice advocacy. The parish has had limited engagement with Interfaith Power and Light.

Spirituality and worship: St. John's engages annually in the Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis' Feast Day.

Vision: Many at St. John's embrace a parish dream to incorporate sustainability practices in the management of our parish grounds and any redesign of our front parish plaza.

- [St. Luke's, DC](#)

Rector: The Rev. Kim Turner Baker

Green team contact: None

Activities: No response received.

- [St. Margaret's](#)

Rector: The Rev. Richard Weinberg

Green team contact: Patty Nicoson

Activities: Recycling, reducing single-use plastic, energy efficiency, wind RECs, Creation Care committee.

Partnerships: Ripe for collaboration on diocesan level. Forum speaker from Sierra Club, Zero Waste campaign, supports DC government efforts. Checking for methane gas leaks across DC. Single-use plastics on request only at restaurants. Park clean-up in Rock Creek Park.

Spirituality and worship: Six-week Lenten Creation Care Series included book group, testimonies, petitions for Care of Creation in prayers. They used the cherry tree symbol with blossoms that represent prayers. They celebrate St. Francis Day. The current rector has not preached explicitly about climate justice, but has included it in sermons.

Vision: Leave this place better than we found it.

- [St. Mary's](#)

Parish Priest: (vacant)

Green team contact: None. Senior Warden Brandon Todd.

Activities: No response received.

- [St. Paul's, K Street](#)

Rector: The Rev. Richard Wall

Green team contact: None. Parish Administrator Dylan Thayer.

Activities: St. Paul's has previously organized nature walks to engage God's creation. As to sustainability, the parish follows environmentally sound recycling practices (paper, plastics, cans). Potential interest in solar panels.

Spirituality and worship: The parish celebrates St. Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals.

- [St. Stephen & the Incarnation](#)

Rector: The Rev. Rondesia (Ronnie) Jarrett-Schell (interim)

Green team contact: None, but there is interest among parishioners. The Rev. Linda Kaufman.

Activities: The parish supports sustainability by using only reusable cups and utensils for parish dining and now uses only paper bags and boxes for distributing food to the 70 to 80 recipients in its feeding program. Potential interest in energy audit, energy efficiency, solar panels.

Spirituality and worship: The parish has celebrated a Season of Creation liturgy and undertakes a Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day.

- [St. Thomas', DC](#)

Rector: The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja

Green team contact: Jason Foreman. Deacon: The Rev. Linda Mahler

Activities: St. Thomas' has had an active creation care educational program. Prior to Covid, St. Thomas' held a climate change retreat. Recently, St. Thomas' addressed climate change and environmental justice in a four-part discussion series about what Episcopalians believe about the Apocalypse. St. Thomas' also has an active racial justice ministry, including environmental justice advocacy. St. Thomas' further seeks to follow environmentally sound practices in its church life. When rebuilding its church, St. Thomas' incorporated architectural features to achieve a Silver or Gold LEED green building certification. In the interest of food sustainability and avoiding food waste, St. Thomas' also actively seeks to avoid preparation of excess food for parish events and individual usage.

Spirituality and worship: St. Thomas' current and former rectors have preached on creation care themes in sermons. St. Thomas' also celebrates annually the Blessing of the Animals. St. Thomas' is currently considering a four-Sunday Season of Creation celebration this August.

District of Columbia – North

The Rev. Canon Dana Corsello serves as the Canon Vicar of Washington National Cathedral and as the dean for the North DC region.

CONGREGATIONS

- [All Souls'](#)

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting (interim)

Green team contact: None at present

Activities: None currently, but one or two individuals are interested in raising awareness in the parish. The church recycles as much as DC allows, but the Interim Rector believes there is "room here for much more education and increasing enthusiasm for creation care."

- [Holy Comforter](#)

Rector: The Rev. Charles Wynder, Jr. (Priest-in-Charge)

Green team contact: None. Secretary: Monalie Bledsoe

Activities: Very interested in learning more about Creation Care and how they can be involved. Difficult time at the moment as most parishioners are still remote.

- [St. Alban's](#)

Rector: The Rev. Geoffrey Hoare

Green team contact: None at this time. Associate Rector: the Rev. Jim Quigley. The church formerly had an active environmental committee, but it has not functioned for some time. Previously, Deborah Potter or Alex Stavitsky headed those efforts.

Activities: The church has solar panels and state-of-the-art heating and cooling systems to maximize energy efficiency. There is interest by the associate rector in reinvigorating environmental efforts, but that is something the Vestry will need to take the lead on. The Vestry is currently engaged in a search for a new rector, so this is not likely to be taken up this year.

- [St. Columba's](#)

Rector: The Rev. Ledlie Laughlin

Green team contact: Kris Moore

Activities: Recycling, composting, energy-efficient windows / lighting / HVAC, renewable energy, solar panels, rain barrels, pollinator-friendly landscaping, stream and roadside clean-ups, nature walks, environmental films, monthly newsletter, adult forums and classes, letters to encourage environmentally oriented voters to vote, annual plant sale, garden with/for Housing Up, support for Sustainable Villages Honduras, and now a partnership with WIN. Vestry adopted a policy statement endorsing Zero Waste, which includes the composting of food waste, about eight collection stations with color-coded bins and signage for the disposal of compostables, recyclables, and landfill waste, and using only compostable (or washable) dinnerware and cups for hospitality. We are seeking to become an anti-racist church, so environmental justice efforts may be of particular interest.

Partnerships: We are supporting WIN's efforts to increase "green, healthy, affordable buildings" in Ward 3. We have partnered with the Ward 8 Woods Conservancy on roadside cleanups in the spirit of environmental justice. Also: Interfaith Power & Light, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Sustainable Villages Honduras, Housing Up.

Spirituality and worship: Earth Day, Season of Creation, St. Francis Day. Caring for Creation is always part of the weekly prayers of the people, occasionally a topic of sermons (including guest preachers), and seasonally reflected in hymns, as well as in video reflections by clergy and lay leaders.

Vision: God calls us to be good and faithful stewards of His gifts for the generations to come and to care for (and not harm) each other – even inadvertently – through the acquisition and disposal of products and services (like energy and plastics).

- [St. David's](#)

Rector: The Rev. Kristen Hawley

Green team contact: None. Seminarian: Marybeth Sanders-Wilson

Activities: No response received.

- [St. Patrick's](#)

Rector: (vacant)

Green team contact: None.

Activities: No response received.

- [St. Paul's, Rock Creek](#)

Rector: (vacant)

Priest Associate: The Rev. Douglas Greenaway

Green team contact: Susannah Cernojevich

Activities: Although the church does not have an official Green Team, we have had successful natural landscaping projects to improve drainage and contribute to the beauty and tranquility of the glebe. The Vestry manages an 86-acre cemetery, one of the largest green spaces in Washington, DC, and is charged about \$15-19,000 a month for calculated run-off to the DC sewage system.

- [Trinity, DC](#)

Rector: The Rev. Canon John Harmon

Green team contact: None. Senior Warden Jo Anne Nelson.

Activities: No response received.

- [Washington National Cathedral](#)

Dean: The Very Rev. Randy Hollerith

Green team contact: The Rev. Canon Dana Corsello, Canon Vicar. Also: John Nadolenco

Activities: The Cathedral is particularly mindful of environmental concerns and takes them into consideration whenever and however it can (e.g., recycling; community gardens). Past initiatives have included installing LED lighting, focusing on other steps to avoid wasting electricity, having compostable cups at events, and having water-dispensing machines in the nave and other obvious places. Clergy also hosted a symposium on plastic in 2018 that was well attended. Our Creation Care ministry is meeting to explore potential initiatives, and we look forward to partnering and collaborating with other parishes.

Partnerships: Ripe for collaboration on diocesan level. Forum speaker from Sierra Club, Zero Waste campaign, support DC government efforts. Checking for methane gas leaks across DC. Single-use plastics on request only at restaurants. Park clean-up in Rock Creek Park.

Spirituality and worship: Earth Day, Season of Creation, St. Francis Day. Portions of the weekly service – and often sermons – touch directly upon environmental issues to keep them at the forefront of the congregation's attention. The Cathedral has special Earth Day programming that focuses on Creation Care.

Vision: "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:7-10) Unlike many other social justice causes, God's creation cannot speak for itself. It needs others to do so. And part of our responsibility as humans is to care for God's creation. "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds,

clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the chosen animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.” (Ezekiel 34:2-4) Indeed, we only temporarily possess our Earth and we must take good care of it: “Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.” (Leviticus 25:23-24) Yet we have not done nearly enough to redeem the land and otherwise care for God’s creation. We have, indeed, ruled it “harshly and brutally.” We can do better. We must do better. In our view, God’s dream includes each congregation raising its voice in support of God’s creation and taking important, urgent, and decisive actions in support of various environmental causes.

District of Columbia – South

The Rev. William Stafford-Whittaker serves as the rector of St. Monica’s and St. James’ Episcopal Church in Washington, DC, and as the dean of the South DC region.

CONGREGATIONS

- [Atonement](#)
Rector: The Rev. Ricardo Sheppard
Green team contact: None
Activities: No response received.
- [Calvary Church](#)
Rector: The Rev. Peter Jarrett-Schell
Green team contact: None
Activities: No response received.
- [Christ Church, Washington](#)
Rector: The Rev. Canon John Kellogg
Green team contact: Beth Mullin
Activities: They’ve started discussing ways to make the property more ecologically friendly (drainage, landscape redesign, etc...). They installed solar panels five or so years ago. They’ve hosted an adult forum on Creation Care. They recycle and have worked on upgrading energy efficiency.
Spirituality and worship: They celebrate Earth Day and St. Francis Day.
Vision: God breathed life into this beautiful creation and has entrusted us to help care for it. Faith communities have a huge role to play in helping remind our broader communities that we are stewards of creation.
- [Holy Communion](#)
Rector: (vacant)
Green team contact: None
Activities: No response received.

- [St. Augustine's](#)
Rector: The Rev. Scott Lipscomb (Priest-in-Charge)
Green team contact: None
Activities: No response received.
- [St. Mark's, DC](#)
Rector: The Rev. Michele Morgan
Green team contact: Betsy Agle, Mary Nezek.
Activities: Their green group ("the Green Lions") is inactive. However, they might get it back together.
- [St. Monica's and St. James'](#)
Rector: The Rev. William Stafford-Whittaker
Green team contact: None
Activities: No response received.
- [St. Philip the Evangelist](#)
Rector: (vacant)
Green team contact: None
Activities: No response received.
- [St. Timothy's](#)
Rector: The Rev. Todd Thomas
Green team contact: None at present
Activities: Past: Discussions around the feasibility of installing solar panels. Future: We plan to relocate the prayer garden to the street for greater accessibility by the community, possibly revisit the idea of solar panels, and we will be conducting community prayer walks which will also pick up litter. We already are picking up litter and finding ways to meet our neighbors on the curbs. Possibly curating resources for enacting creation care at multiple levels, from solar equipment to lawn care and what plants to encourage?
Partnerships: Local community in Southeast Washington, DC.
Spirituality and worship: They hope to grow that emphasis, especially as climate and creation care has an impact on other social justice issues. Discussions around food scarcity, city gardening and equal access to healthy food options. They celebrate Earth Day and St. Francis Day.
Vision: We have a mutuality with creation, our connection and vital sharing with creation, which we often forget or neglect. We need to hold our mutuality with God's beloved creation in sanctified and ready hands.

Montgomery County – Central

The Rev. David Wacaster serves as the rector of Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver Spring, Maryland, and as the dean for the Central Montgomery County region.

CONGREGATIONS

- [Christ Church, Kensington](#)

Rector: The Rev. Emily Guthrie

Green team contact: None. Senior Warden: Kurt Ellison.

Activities: Energy efficiency has been a major focus. Around 2012 Christ Church converted to 100% LED lighting under a Pepco program that provided bulbs and fixtures valued at \$40K. In 2010 the boiler was proactively replaced with a high-efficiency model, saving \$1K per month and paying itself off in 5 years. Christ Church buys electric power from a wind farm in Beltsville, an increase in cost but a commitment to protecting Creation. They also have extensive gardens – "Christ Church Garden Parish" is their nickname. Explored possibility of solar panels with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light, summer 2022.

Partnerships: Arcola Elementary School in Wheaton.

Spirituality and worship: The parish celebrates St. Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals.

Vision: Christ Church's new strategic plan lays out 3 major initiatives that touch on God's Dream for Justice in Creation. The first is to Reach Our Neighbors, to be intentional about welcoming visible and invisible minorities. Virtual services, new hymnals and other resources have been added as a start. The second initiative is a Racial and Social Justice Ministry, a new active ministry with education and liturgical components. The third initiative is to deepen in faith as Christians, learning more about the faith. Each of these initiatives could help bring about God's Dream for Justice in Creation.

- [Christ Church, Rockville](#)

Rector: The Rev. Carol Cole Flanagan and the Rev. Meg Ingalls (Co-Interim Rectors)

Green team contact: Mark Wright

Activities: Two energy audits raised awareness, successful in showing the importance of saving energy, suggested potential ways to fund the work. But neither time was the Vestry able to approve any major changes, due to lack of funding. Only low-hanging actions like LED bulbs were completed, and some other low-cost energy saving alternatives. Active recycling. Green team has also written the annual Energy Benchmarking Report required by Montgomery County (all buildings over 50,000 sf must complete). Education/outreach – Trash cleanup events in partnership with Potomac River cleanup organized by Alice Ferguson Foundation. Annually attended national Trash Summit with thought leaders, green team represented. Also did trash cleanups with Montgomery County Parks. Adult Forums: Numerous programs and environmental movies. Worked with Fellowship Committee and Christ Church school to educate on recycling and demonstrate what works, to improve their practices. New: Weekly parish email will include Creation Care Corner to raise awareness and to re-envision the parish's Creation Care efforts going forward, including identifying and nurturing new leadership for the committee. Grounds: Two certified Master Gardeners lead the landscaping work. One focuses on landscape design, maintenance, removing invasive species. Two pollinator gardens were installed in 2021. The second master gardener focuses on irrigation – underground soaker hoses with timers to manage the gardens and help

conserve water. Possibility of solar panels with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light, summer 2022.

Partnerships: Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake – four parishioners went through their Green Team Training. Montgomery County Parks (trash cleanups). Alice Ferguson Foundation – Potomac River trash cleanups.

Spirituality and worship: Before clergy transition, Creation Care-focused sermons and Prayers of the People referencing Creation themes. Rogation Sunday – Clergy would create Creation-focused liturgy, sometimes some of the service was outdoors. Blessing of the Animals and for a few years a very successful pet memorial service (led by the animal rights group).

Vision: All people have access not only to clean water and a clean environment that we all need, but that we understand on a deeper level the complexity and inter-relationships of God's Creation across ecosystems and among all of us. We can't be human-centric and be part of God's dream for justice in Creation. We are in partnership with all of God's Creation. Awareness and gratitude for Creation's complexity is part of the dream.

- [Good Shepherd, Silver Spring](#)

Rector: The Rev. David Wacaster, until July 31, 2022.

Green team contact: None

Activities: No green team, but related work has included: Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light. Occasional trash cleanups – Sweep the Creek, led by Friends of Sligo Creek – generally with youth group. Stormwater management - Good Shepherd manages a rainwater catchment area to collect runoff from their large parking lot (required by Montgomery County). Frequent maintenance required (vegetation clean-out). Energy efficiency – 5 years ago, many lights and fixtures were converted to LED. General landscaping – recent focus on planting native species, including 2 native elms, Dutch elm resistant. Ideas they have discussed for the future – Rector has a dream to put solar panels on the roof, they are well situated for this. Also, the parish has a lot of lawn and no gardens – would be ideal if there were volunteers interested in installing gardens, and a vegetable garden would be a great fit since the parish has a focus on food and feeding in their outreach.

Partnerships: None.

Spirituality and worship: Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day. Annual Thanksgiving service focuses on fruits of the Earth.

Vision: God's dream for justice in Creation has a lot to do with equity, a lot to do with ensuring that the resources of Creation are accessible and cared for in ways that empower people rather than disempower people, and ensuring that certain populations do not bear heavier burdens than other populations as a result of actions that harm the environment. There is a tension we must recognize in this work, from competing theological ideas. The traditional view (incarnational) focuses on creating the Kingdom in this life. Evangelical approaches focus on God's Kingdom in the next life, with less attention to the care for the Earth. These differences require multi-faceted approaches as we reach for God's Dream for Justice in Creation.

- [Our Saviour, Hillandale](#)

Rector: The Rev. Francisco Valle

Green team contact: Fernando Hermoza (Rector's Warden)

Activities: The parish has installed energy-efficient heating and lighting, but is constrained by its budget. The Rector's Warden said he would welcome recommendations for Vestry policies on creation care. He expressed interest in starting a vegetable garden to grow and distribute produce to neighbors in need and identified an area of up to 90x20 feet for that purpose, and the parish has applied for grant support to get started. The Rector's Warden also found a great potential to compost scraps from the church's Outreach program that each Thursday prepares and delivers food to underserved communities.

Partnerships: The parish has had limited engagement with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

Spirituality and worship: The parish has celebrated St. Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals.

- [St. Francis, Potomac](#)

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Mark Michael

Green team contact: None

Activities: Although there is no official Green Team, Creation Care activities include: summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light; recycling for school and church; energy audit with comprehensive, campus-wide phase-in of LED lighting about 2 years ago; two educational series on Creation Care, one focused on Old Testament teachings and one focused on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*; regular trash cleanups, including annually with Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern and a cleanup with other youth groups in the region; hikes every other week along the C&O Canal. A cutting garden, created in memory of a parishioner, is a practical way to reduce consumption and fossil fuel associated with purchasing plants every Sunday, and a way for the parish to be a better environmental steward in a small way.

Partnerships: Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern.

Spirituality and worship: Annual Blessing of the Animals; annual Blessing of St. Francis and parishioners' gardens on Rogation Sunday: At the close of the service there is a procession out, and parish gardens are blessed. People bring plants and seeds and shovels from home to be blessed. Parishioners sign up for clergy to visit their homes and bless gardens there. In this practice, parishioners engage with the natural world in their backyards, to appreciate the majesty of Creation and build an ever-greater desire to protect it.

Vision: The hope is that all people may share equally in the gifts that God has given us in the Created Order, and that together we could offer back a united expression of joy and thanksgiving for his goodness. This can only come as we address environmental inequities and take steps to change our consumptive and destructive ways of living. It's a conversion of life that is demanded of all of us.

- [St. James', Potomac](#)

Rector: The Rev. Meredith Heffner

Green team contact: Doug Holy

Activities: We have made creation care part of our everyday mission of our parish, not just during certain seasons. The Care for Creation Commission has a dedicated page on the church website (<https://stjamespotomac.org/parish-ministries/care-for-creation/>), supportive Rector, weekly virtual Faith Talks this spring. Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light; recycling program, energy efficiency (light bulbs, considering solar panels), creation care education through our Green Team identifying helpful resources for good Earth care: landscaping, gardening, food purchasing, reducing carbon footprint, regenerative agriculture. Also: Climate Change video reviews, parish invasive species removal, parish native plant plantings, field trip to recycling center, tour of Beltsville Area Research Center of Agricultural Research Service. Dedicated ministry to promote home-based Creation Care practices (per Bishop's call).

Partnerships: Interfaith Power & Light, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Episcopal Network for Animal Welfare, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Spirituality and worship: Earth Day, St. Francis Day. Very often the weekly Thursday's Rector's Reflections will include information and reflection upon our creation care responsibilities.

Vision: God's dream for justice in creation is that we see ourselves as responsible for nurturing and caring for, not only our fellow humans, but also all of the living and nonliving components of our Earth with whom/which we are sharing our time on Earth.

- [St. Luke's, Bethesda](#)

Rector: The Rev. Jessica Hitchcock

Green team contact: Deacon Lesley Krauland

Activities: St. Luke's is "all in" for environmental initiatives and green practices, supported by the Garden Guild and Community Engagement committees, but does not have a dedicated green team. The parish installed a Pollinator Garden, has geothermal heating and cooling, and gets its electricity from wind power. Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light. "We choose to pay a little more for paper so we can use recycled copy paper for our bulletin."

Partnerships: Interfaith Power & Light, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. The clergy would welcome additional guest speakers and partners in this work.

Spirituality and worship: The parish celebrates Creation Season and St. Francis Day and notes Earth Day.

Vision: "I would like for people to associate Creation Care more with God, and see it as a spiritual practice instead of just the right/good thing to do. The people of St. Luke's are on board for caring for the planet – I just want them to know how much they honor and bring glory to God when they do it."

- [St. Mark's, Fairland](#)

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Christopher Wilkins

Green team contact: Janis Smith (Parish Administrator)

Activities: “We are focused on Creation Care.” The parish administrator is chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and is charged with environmentally conscious management: recycling of paper and plastic, use of environmentally friendly products in landscaping and janitorial services, converting over to LED lighting, no more styrofoam – use washable coffee mugs. Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light. The parish is planning to begin a community vegetable garden this spring with their tenant Vietnamese American Services and has applied for grant support to get started. Installing rain barrels to irrigate the garden. Composting may follow.

Partnerships: None.

Spirituality and worship: The parish celebrates St. Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals and notes Earth Day.

Vision: We would honor the commandment to love each other – our neighbors as ourselves – and the resources that we have been given.

- [St. Mary Magdalene](#)

Rector: The Rev. Anne Weatherholt (interim)

Green team contact: None active

Activities: The parish is between rectors and has limited ability to engage on green activities. They have worked with Girl Scouts in the past on plantings, and may be interested in a community garden and solar panels in the future (possibly in conjunction with other parishes). Explored possibility of solar panels with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light, summer 2022.

Partnerships: Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

Spirituality and worship: The parish offers a special liturgy on Rogation Sunday.

- [Transfiguration, Silver Spring](#)

Rector: The Rev. Kent Marcoux

Green team contact: None currently.

Activities: Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light.

Partnerships: The parish previously had green team training with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

Montgomery County – North

The Rev. Beth O’Callaghan serves as the rector of St. Nicholas’ Episcopal Church in Darnestown, Maryland, and as the dean for the North Montgomery County region.

CONGREGATIONS

- [Ascension, Gaithersburg](#)

Rector: Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo

Green Team contact: Gail Unterberger

Activities: The Equity and Justice team meets every other week where there is the potential for discussing Creation Care activities.

- [St. Anne's, Damascus](#)

Rector: The Rev. Jon Musser

Green Team contact: None provided.

Activities: Recycling; Labyrinth for inspiring contemplation; "Garden of Gethsemane" on Maundy Thursday for an all-night prayer watch until sunrise on Good Friday. Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light.

- [St. Barnabas' Church of the Deaf](#)

Rector: Contact provided as Rev. Ocampo with Ascension, Gaithersburg.
No response received.

- [St. Bartholomew's](#)

Rector: Rev. Joann Murphy

Green Team contact: No Green Team at this point, but contact is Victoria Cross.

Activities: Have a memorial garden and a labyrinth with many trees for contemplation. Sometimes hold worship services outside around labyrinth.

- [St. John's, Olney](#)

Rector: Father Henry McQueen

Green Team contact: No green team at present, but contact is Glen Drew.

Activities: Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light. Caring for companion animals is an important part of the parish focus. Installed LED lighting in church and school. Use disposable cups, no Styrofoam, no plastic water bottles, have bottle-fill water fountains, looking at potential for solar panels for church and school. Want to look at permaculture applicability. Would like to be kept informed about the activities of the EDOW Creation Care Task Force.

Spirituality and worship: Celebrate Blessing of the Animals.

- [St. Luke's, Brighton](#)

Rector: The Rev. Vikki Clayton

Green Team contact: No green team

Activities: Have a beautiful memorial garden where outdoor services are held. Completed the "Sacred Ground" series.

Partnerships: Would like to stay in touch regarding the activities of the EDOW Creation Care Task Force.

Spirituality and worship: Do annual Blessing of the Animals.

Vision: A major part of God's dream for justice in creation is understanding each other, as is found in honest conversations such as we've had through the School of Faith and Leadership's LGBTQIA + Humility and Competency sessions and Sacred Ground discussions.

- [St. Nicholas'](#)

Rector: The Rev. Beth O'Callaghan

Green Team contact: No green team at present

Activities: Recycle paper, glass, plastic; have energy-efficient lighting; countertops in restroom made of recycled material; use mugs; no Styrofoam. Conduct road clean-ups 2 times/year. Have a green septic system. Recycle and reuse worship service leaflets. Encourage use of QR codes for service bulletin. Explored possibility of solar panels with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light, summer 2022. Have a commitment for an on-campus apiary.

Partnerships: None provided.

Spirituality and worship: Used the Creation Care liturgy a few years ago. Parish is deeply committed to creation care.

Vision: From Ephesians 2: "We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us." Our response is to care for all of God's creation and to walk in the Way of Jesus and the Way of Love.

- [St. Peter's](#)

Rector: The Rev. Emily Lloyd

Green Team contact: None. Parish Administrator: Jenna Duranko

Activities: Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light.

Montgomery County – South

The Rev. C. B. "Cricket" Park serves as the rector of Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland, and as the dean for the South Montgomery County region.

CONGREGATIONS

- [All Saints', Chevy Chase](#)

Rector: The Rev. BJ Buracker (interim)

Green Team contact: No green team at present

Activities: Recycling in the offices of the church. Someone spoke about mission trips that cleaned up neighborhoods elsewhere.

Spirituality and worship: St. Francis Day

Vision: Take care of His creation and be wise and careful stewards of the resources He has given us.

- [Ascension. Sligo Parish](#)

Rector: The Rev. Joan Beilstein

Green Team contact: Leticia Read.

Activities: Past: Green Clean team for coffee hour, not using anything we would throw out; no paper cups, plates or napkins; buying native plants for landscaping; rain barrel; addressed erosion issues with regrade, rocks, labyrinth; no pesticides or herbicides; no gasoline-powered equipment (all electric or battery); energy efficiency: all lights are LED or CFL; recycling for paper, plastic, glass. Future: looking into possibility of going solar; carbon offsets for electric and gas, Clean Choice and WGL; Outdoor worship space for ten years.

Partnerships: Sligo Creek cleanup

Spirituality and worship: Season of Creation, St. Francis Day. The Iona prayers. Outdoor worship. Labyrinth.

Vision: We should learn to respect our Earth, the animals and plants and be good stewards of what God has created for us.
- [Grace Church. Silver Spring](#)

Rector: The Rev. Sarah Odderstol

Green Team contact: No green team at present, but there is energy to pick up where we left off and move forward.

Activities: Recycling, active community garden, few disposables used. Adult forums in past on environmental justice.

Partnerships: Looking for partnerships, for example on compostables.

Spirituality and worship: Earth Day, St. Francis Day. Use Prayers of People from *Sundays and Seasons* (Lutheran) which includes creation care. Eucharistic Prayer C. Need an Earth Day liturgy. Churches don't have time!

Vision: That humans would realize they are part of Creation, not crown of Creation: Personal redemption is tied up with snails and daffodils in front yard. The damage we do to the environment we inflict upon ourselves, so advocating for environment is advocating for ourselves.
- [Redeemer](#)

Rector: The Rev. C. B. "Cricket" Park

Green Team contact: None. The church focuses on food ministry.

Activities: We recycle. Our lights have all been changed to LED. Explored possibility of solar panels with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light, summer 2022.

Partnerships: Past engagement with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.
- [St. Dunstan's](#)

Rector: The Rev. Patricia (Patty) Phaneuf Alexander

Green Team contact: Deacon Mary Sebold

Activities: Current: Recycling; no disposables at coffee hour. Planning: Summer 2022 solar panel exploration with Montgomery County Green Bank and Interfaith Power and Light; pollinator-meditation garden; environmental education; LED lighting; overall greening of landscaping

and building practices. Next to the Capital Crescent Trail with a lot of land, the church has a lot of potential for gardening and nature-focused activities.

Partnerships: Looking for local nonprofit partnerships. The parish could use mentorship from churches with active Creation Care/environmental committees.

Spirituality and worship: Current: Prayers of the People. Rogationtide. Transfiguration/First Fruits. St. Francis Day. Past: Season of Creation under previous rector.

Vision: God wants precisely that: justice for all Creation, not only humans. God declared everything God created good! God wants us to respect and protect all living things (including human beings) and the Earth itself.

- [St. John's, Norwood Parish](#)

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Sari Ateek

Green Team contact: Jane Houlihan, Tom Kerr

Activities: After an Energy Audit in 2011, we have grown our Creation Care efforts to encompass not only energy conservation but also liturgical offerings, environmental justice projects, restoration of our grounds, and education efforts. Recent and current projects include: Making significant investments to advance energy efficiency at the church (window replacements, LED lighting, AC window-unit upgrades to efficient mini-splits, insulation and more). Purchasing 100% green power. Recycling. Building a new Native Urban Garden (in progress). Sponsoring zero-waste parish-wide events to raise awareness. Giving and organizing educational Adult Forums on Sundays. Organizing occasional hikes to explore nature and share spiritual reflections. Participating in trash cleanups with Ward 8 Woods Conservancy. Making charitable donations to local environmental non-profits serving disadvantaged communities. Organizing an annual Lenten Eco-Pledge (3 years running) with liturgical, educational and outreach components.

Partnerships: Interfaith Power & Light, Ward 8 Woods Conservancy, Audubon Naturalist Society, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. We'd like to know about environmental service projects other parishes are participating in, particularly those focused on environmental justice, for potential partnering.

Spirituality and worship: Celebrating St. Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals. Devoting at least one Sunday each year to an environmentally themed sermon, with a guest preacher or our own clergy. An environmental petition every Sunday included in our Prayers of the People. Poetry/scripture reading and hiking combination a few times with a small but engaged group.

Vision: We hope for a world at peace, where all of humanity treasures Creation, where all have learned to live sustainably in harmony with Creation, where consumerism has been replaced with an understanding of the grace of enough, and where all people can share in the beauty and abundance of God's Creation.

Prince George's County – North

The Rev. Melana Nelson-Amaker serves as the rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in New Carrollton, Maryland, and as the dean of the North Prince George's County region.

CONGREGATIONS

- [Epiphany, Forestville](#)

Rector: The Rev. Prince Decker

Green Team contact: None

Activities: No response received.

- [St. Andrew's, College Park](#)

Rector: The Rev. Timothy Johnson

Green Team contact: Senior Warden Mary Marshall Levy

Activities: Recycling; educational forums on nutrient runoff and Chesapeake Bay watershed, climate change science and steps to take; Anacostia watershed cleanups; planted trees; book discussions; Labyrinth installed by Kathleen Litchfield and Petro Design Build; relandscaped; contribute financially to the Anacostia Watershed project. Future: Better water management for the whole campus. A rain barrel system for collecting water, and water gardens and trees to use up standing water.

Partnerships: Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake; Anacostia Watershed Society; Save Guilford Woods; PLAN: Prince George's Planning and Action Network, an interfaith organization working on homelessness, affordable housing, mental health issues, more.

Spirituality and worship: Earth Day, St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals; using Eucharistic Prayer C; beautiful mosaic of Noah's ark created by the Sunday School.

- [St. Christopher's](#)

Rector: The Rev. Melana Nelson-Amaker

Green Team contact: None

Activities: No response received.

- [St. George's, Glenn Dale](#)

Rector: The Rev. Karen Horrocks

Green Team contact: No formal green team at present, but active in the recent past

Activities: Sustainability, recycling, vegetarian parish meals

Partnerships: Episcopal Network for Animal Welfare; Polar Bear Plunge for Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) at National Harbor; Interfaith Power & Light

Spirituality and worship: Prayer services around Creation Care; Season of Creation Worship services in September leading up to St. Francis's Day, using existing liturgies and building on them; services around different aspects of the Earth, like ocean, water.

Vision: Knowing our values and living them through trying to be sustainable as best we can, and expressing that through our worship.

- [St. John's, Mt. Rainier](#)

Rector: No Priest-in-Charge at present

Green Team contact: Deacon Sandra Bramble

Activities: Recycling and energy efficient processes, LEDs installed.

Vision: We would like to see more involvement in the community and on parish grounds, to see things grow and get their hands dirty; and more recycling and energy efficient processes.

- [St. John's. Zion Parish](#)

Rector: The Rev. Joseph Constant

Green Team contact: Mary Abe, Senior Warden Elsie Kirton

Activities: Children planting flowers in the meditation garden using the Abundant Life Garden Project from ERD resources; recycling, energy audit, LEDs installed; organizing regional walks for different causes, including Hunger, Underground Railroad, Lent, etc.

Partnerships: Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake; Anacostia Watershed Society; Save Guilford Woods; PLAN: Prince George's Planning and Action Network, an interfaith organization working on homelessness, affordable housing, mental health issues, more.

Spirituality and worship: Observing Earth Day, St. Francis Day; exploring new curriculum from GenOn, intergenerational Creation Care aimed at families. Meeting outside for Sunday School; outdoor Sunrise services.

Vision: God wants all people to have access to the essentials of life, which include clean air and water, food, and it's our responsibility as good stewards of God's Creation to protect resources for the use of God's people.
- [St. Matthew's/San Mateo](#)

Rector: The Rev. Father Vidal Rivas

Green Team contact: None

Activities: We are improving our use of recyclables instead of nonrecyclables at parish activities. Members are trying to use cloth instead of disposable diapers, bags, pads; all the members are encouraged to pick up trash around the area and plant things; day care children encouraged to plant; support a group clean up the beach at the Bay; stop serving water in single-use bottles.

Spirituality and worship: St. Francis Day; Creation Care in context of Woman's Day: members are interested in women's issues and creation care.

Vision: We always work for Justice. God wants the parish to be the home of solidarity, love, and justice. We want to make people be conscious of nature and help people understand what is happening with the earth.
- [St. Michael & All Angels](#)

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Bill Lewis (interim)

Green Team contact: Senior Warden Claudette Clarke

Activities: Want to develop space for a community garden and organize recycling.

Vision: To do our part to preserve God's beautiful gift to mankind, the Earth, through recycling, advocacy, and planting to replenish the earth.
- [St. Philip's. Laurel](#)

Rector: Father Robert Bunker, Priest-in-Charge

Green Team contact: None

Activities: Energy audit led to greatly reduced energy bills; landscaping efforts; recycling.

Partnerships: Interfaith Power & Light

Spirituality and worship: Earth Day, Season of Creation, St. Francis Day, Creation Liturgy approved by Bishop Mariann.

Vision: We're called to be good stewards of Creation and be mindful of what we're doing. Leading by example, standing up for what is right, and share what we're doing with the world.

- [University of Maryland Chaplaincy](#)
(Not active – see St. Andrew's, College Park)

Chaplain: The Rev. Timothy Johnson

Southern Maryland

The Rev. Greg Syler serves as the rector of Ascension (Lexington Park) and St. George's (Valley Lee) and as a co-dean of the Southern Maryland region. The Rev. Dr. Peter Antoci serves as rector of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Croom, Maryland, and as a co-dean of the Southern Maryland region.

CONGREGATIONS

- [All Faith, Charlotte Hall](#)
Rector: The Rev. Debbie Kirk
Green Team contact: None
Activities: Restart after 10 years without a priest, new families, emphasis on church school, revitalizing the vestry. Can't take on climate change immediately, but rector has a lot of personal interest. But interest up ahead as things get moving. Have 6 1/2 acres of land, cemetery only on part of it. Keep us in the loop.
- [All Saints', Oakley](#)
No response received.
- [Ascension, Lexington Park](#)
(Jointly with St. George's, Valley Lee)
Rector: The Rev. Gregory Syler
Green Team contact: None
Activities: Need to focus on cost-cutting projects like solar, active parishes involved in many local programs but Creation Care has not been a priority, it could be if presented effectively. Have land and are willing to sell part in order to finance solar.
- [Christ Church, Chaptico](#)
Rector: None at present
Green Team contact: None
Activities: Recycling; no Styrofoam; Altar Guild uses local flowers; hold local strawberry festival; several Master Gardeners in parish.

Spirituality and worship: Building Garden of Gethsemane in church for Triduum; Prayers of the People refer to creation care; overall, parishioners respectful of environment and avoid waste.

- [Christ Church, Clinton](#)

No response received.

- [Christ Church, Durham Parish](#)

Rector: The Rev. Catharine Gibson

Green Team contact: None.

Activities: We are trying to be responsible stewards: Maintain land with forestry management plan and respect for nature; provide water and sanitation for local community; developing contemplation garden; treat kindly the insects, reptiles, and mammals with which we share our buildings; in past have supported county environmental education facility by building canoe racks and collecting gear for students.

Spirituality and worship: Sunrise Easter service at local waterfront or in churchyard; outdoor services during COVID; Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day; tried a Rogation celebration; clear windows allow contemplation of nature during worship; most parishioners connected to out-of-doors by virtue of location, still several farmers in congregation; preaching and prayers remind us of creation.

Vision: Genesis gives human vocation as gardeners; Isaiah offers image of holy mountain where all live in peace; we have responsibility to renew and care for what we have for future generations and we owe a great deal to prior occupants of the land, including indigenous peoples and enslaved persons.

- [Christ Church, Port Tobacco \(La Plata\)](#)

(Jointly with Christ Church, Wayside)

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Kate Heichler

Green Team contact: None

Activities: Installed Meditation Garden with native plants, high-speed dishwasher.

Spirituality and worship: Several preaching and 4-week workshops creation-focused in the past, Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day in fall. However, Creation Care never seems to rise to the top, and needs emphasis from the diocese.

Vision: "Everyone sits under their own vine and fig tree and no one will make them afraid." God desires us to live in sacred relationship with all the life forms with which we share this universe, with mutual giving and taking, with gratitude, collaborating and honoring each element of God's creation. And do unto others as you would have them do unto you – plants and animals and people.

- [Christ Church, Wayside](#)

(Jointly with Christ Church, Port Tobacco)

- [St. Andrew's, Leonardtown](#)

Rector: The Rev. Michael Pumphrey (interim)

Green Team contact: None. Parish Administrator: Donna Triplett. Senior Warden: Mary Maker.

Activities: Temporary clergy, in a holding pattern for major new initiatives, food bank takes most of the energy now, trying to build a family-friendly environment. No one seems interested in environment right now, too many other issues.

- [St. Barnabas', Leeland](#)

Rector: The Rev. Robyn Franklin-Vaughn

Green Team contact: None

Activities: Recycling; outreach vegetable gardens on campus; does clean-ups around school and church; have worked with help of the diocese to get city water/sewer.

Spirituality and worship: Outdoor services, but they are difficult; have celebrated Earth Day, Season of Creation, and St. Francis Day (blessing of animals).

Vision: "All things are created equal."

- [St. Barnabas', Temple Hills](#)

Rector: The Rev. Shell Kimble

Green Team contact: Linda Crudup (currently inactive)

Activities: There is interest in part of the congregation, need to think through what would work. Keep in the loop.

- [St. George's, Valley Lee](#)

(Included with Ascension, Lexington Park)

- [St. James', Indian Head](#)

Rector: None at present

Green Team contact: Tom Peterson

Activities: Recycling; previous clergy encouraged "green" utensils at coffee hour but that was rejected; some interest in green burial, but do not have cemetery.

Partnerships: Sierra Club set up a vegetable garden plot on campus that parishioners work on.

Spirituality and worship: Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day.

Vision: Increased awareness of the fragility of nature and how everything is connected; cascading impacts on others of personal behaviors like using fertilizers and fossil fuels.

- [St. John's, Broad Creek](#)

No response received.

- St. Mary's University Chaplaincy

(Included with Trinity, St. Mary's)

- [St. Paul's, Baden](#) and St. Mary's Chapel, Aquasco

Rector: Fr. Christian Anton Lehrer

Green Team contact: None

Activities: Not high priority now, small historic congregations. Have land at St. Paul's Baden but no interest to do anything with it. Longtime parishioners been doing same jobs for years. Many other dire issues here. Rectory has major heating/cooling issues. Need to cut costs is primary.

- [St. Paul's, Piney \(Waldorf\)](#)

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Maria A. Kane

Green Team contact: None. Rev. Deacon Steve Seeley for outreach projects

Activities: Recycling a major focus – unused bulletins, cardboard, waste from parish events. A major new step is the new confirmands' community garden for fresh produce for the poor, we will build on this initiative. Located on edge of several residential developments; we have roots as a country church evolving to a destination church, strong relationships with nearby Methodist and Lutheran churches; our primary focus has been partnership with soup kitchen, and a Title 1 elementary school. Active parish but we need to take care not to spread ourselves too thin. Several members have expressed interest in environmental issues, including solar or alternate power sources.

Spirituality and worship: Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day.

- [St. Philip's, Baden](#)

Rector: Supply clergy at present

Green Team contact: None

Activities: No response received. They have a long-time feeding program and substantial lay leadership.

- [St. Thomas', Croom](#)

Rector: The Rev. Peter Antoci

Green Team contact: None (most parish "justice" energy goes to racial issues).

Activities: Have sought solar farm arrangement for some of their land; organic management of cemeteries and fields.

Partnerships: Ujaama Farms managing some of their land for heirloom seed bank and education of young farmers; occasional visits and casual relationship with Patuxent RiverKeeper.

Spirituality and worship: Stations of the Cross hike; petting zoo at annual festival; Blessing of Animals on St Francis Day.

Vision: Can't see the dream right now, only the necessity of standing in the breach; in midst of mass extinction and must do what we can immediately; can't see garden right now.

- [Trinity Parish, Newport & Hughesville](#)

No response received.

- [Trinity, St. Mary's](#)

Rector: None at present

Green Team contact: None.

Activities: Recycling; food programs use biodegradable and/or responsible packaging; energy efficient lightbulbs; careful of indoor air quality; growing interest in green burials on

environmental grounds and on setting aside some of cemetery for that purpose; recently renegotiated contract for grounds maintenance to ensure environmentally friendly practices; maintain columbarium and cemetery grounds.

Spirituality and worship: Have celebrated Earth Day and St. Francis Day; occasional outdoor worship, mostly for COVID.

Vision: A dream of stewardship of the gift we have been given, the water and waterside that provide beauty and a livelihood for many.

- Trinity, Upper Marlboro

Rector: Supply clergy at present

Green Team contact: None. Susan Wilson, parish administrator

Activities: No response received. An elderly parish, just moved to mission status, used to have a major feeding program but that is now located with the partner church, could possibly raise flowers on church property to use on altar, or bird feeders, but anything major is beyond reach right now. Basically need to rebuild youth and young families.