

Environmental Stewardship Team Minutes May 2025

Attended: Brian, Cory, Linda

Time Started: 5:03

Time Ended: 5:50

-Highland Prairie Update (Cory): The prairie was burned in early April and remaining trees are being thinned out. The future wish is to have a brush machine go in adjacent to the prairie to have that area thinned of brush. I would also like to create a sitting area within the tree stand for classrooms to venture out into.

-Coffee Ground Maintenance (Cory): The idea is to table the idea of a coffee ground dehydrator for now. We will revisit again in the future if better options are available. The dehydrator for preschool is also on hold until we learn from the preschool staff if they are even interested in conducting the practice and having the students learn for the process of composting. It might be more than what the staff can take on right now.

-Green Team Trifold (Sandy): Sandy is going to update the tri fold this summer.

-Recork (Linda): This project is not going to happen here at St. John. It is agreed that St. John was not going to become a recycling point for the congregation unless it was for a limited time or for a specific project. Linda is going to talk with the people at Happy' Wine and Spirits to see if they would be interested in recycling cork and having that cork be picked up and recycled into other products..

-Getting in the St. John calendar of events (Cory): We will all make the effort to get Jenny a reminder whenever something needs to be added to the calendar or Highlights a week or two before we expect it to be posted.

-Year in Review (lights, decorations, shoes, trail clean-up, more):We are all in agreement that this year has been successful in that our efforts paid dividends and helped the Earth and made our community better. Linda will call Western Homes to see if they are interested in the card donations (not Christmas cards) and if they would head that up on their end.

There is room for growth for this team and we need to make it known that the Green Team is not a gardening group, but rather an environmental stewardship team that educates and provides opportunities for the people of St. John to make our community and world healthier and cleaner through sustainable actions and decisions.

It is important that we start looking into Earth week earlier in the season. Maybe January to make the things we decide to do have the time to grow and mature with the congregation. The Earth Week Service can be an impactful time with positive actions and reflective moments to let seeds of stewardship to take root. What can we do at 9:00 as a congregation? Maybe the congregation can fill out a BINGO Card to win a tree seedling as a prize?

The Drug takeback information was provided, but the success of that is unknown. All we can do is provide information for the St. John congregation. As for the Hazardous Waste Collection, do we have a couple of trucks here at St. John on collection day that can take materials to the collection to limit the number of cars burning gas to sit in line at the collection site?

-Thoughts for summer 2025: Reflection time for the coming year.

-Thoughts for 2025-2026: Is there an alternative to spraying the yard here at St. John? What might be the options? Jenny might be able to call Wapsie Pines and ask if there are options and if they are willing to do other options or use environmentally safe products

Next Meeting will be: August 25th at 5:00 pm here at St. John.