

September

Environmental Stewardship Team Agenda

Start Time: 5:01 pm

End Time: 5:42 pm

Attendance: Pastor Brian, Linda, Sandy, and Cory

- **Drug Take Back Focus for October.** Cory will ask Jenny to create a screen slide for the Atrium video screen and for a write up in the Highlights. Since Red Ribbon Week is October 23rd-31st and National Drug Take Back Day (NDTBD) is October 25th, The Environmental Stewardship Team thought that it would be more than appropriate to encourage those with expired or unused medication to take them to the Main St. Police Station and deposit them in the white medical container (mailbox) for proper disposal. When medication is flushed or placed into the trash, medication will likely end up in our rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater.

- **Chemical Use by Lawn Care Providers.** It has been mentioned a time or two that maybe there are some options to spraying the grass at St. John. Currently the Wapsie Pine Group is maintaining the St. John grass for growth and weed control. As stewards, we were curious to know if there are alternatives to spraying chemicals that are more environmentally friendly. Cory will call and see what is available and the cost differences of any alternatives.

Linda will check on pots from surrounding nurseries to see what is available for planters that were once the containers for potted trees for planting. Thoughts are that these containers can be made into reused and cost effective planters for St. John to put daylilies into.

Cory will talk to Larry P. about removing grass around the ginkgo tree in the parking lot. The grass is affecting the water and nutrient uptake of the ginkgo tree. Permission will be received to mow down the grass that is currently there, put down a sunlight blocking material and cover with rock. The planters could then be added to the rock around the ginkgo tree and provide an aesthetic presentation for all who arrive at St. John.

- **Sun Day, Solar Floodlight, MORE Foundation, and Card Updates (Linda).** The Sun Day Presentation that Linda gave last Sunday went very well. Afterwards, Linda had conversations that led to CFU's Solar Project and Solar Shares. One couple even discussed if they move that they would give their shares as gifts to St. John. Linda sent Jenny a graphic to use for the screens. Jenny is amazing at finding graphics and building upon what we start with. Thanks to Jenny for her amazing skills.

The MORE Foundation Box almost filled. Linda and Cory will count and bind pairs of shoes soon. The shoes need to be neatly packed in order to ship them. They will be picked up free of charge. Thank you to all who have donated shoes to the MORE Foundation.

Used cards are being donated and the initiative is well received here at St. John. Anyone from St. John is welcome to help make new cards. Jane Ingram is the contact person for the card collecting and making crew. On the second Tuesday of every month all are welcome to participate in the making of new cards from once used cards. No experience is necessary for you to attend. Helpers will be trained and your help is appreciated. The card making is held at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) from 11am-3 pm. These reused cards are provided for those at FUMC and the Western Homes Community. These reused cards allow a low cost opportunity for sharing kindness to others. The money generated each quarter is given to a different charity.

- **Pollinator Questions from Larry: how big, what would be planted, who would be in charge of maintaining it, and location?** Our thoughts are that a small plot would be established near or around the main St. John sign on the east side of the church. We decided to take some time to think more about this and to return next month with more ideas and thoughts that would answer these questions.

- **Light Rebate Second Round.** Cory will ask Larry again about a rebate from last lights and ballasts.

-**New Business.** Cory will ask Jenny to mention in the Happenings that as we approach the Holiday Lights Season, those with unwanted/broken Halloween, Fall, or Christmas lights or can be placed in the box at St. John for recycling in December.

-**Next Meeting:** Tuesday October 21st, 5:00 pm