

Parish Council Meeting Minutes April 19, 2022

In attendance via Zoom: Skipp Sanders, Amber Hendricks, Lindsay Dierkes, John Moore, Geri Sicola, Ray Heil, Peggy Meyer, Joan Fulton, Jim Casey, Graham Yearley, Anne Freeburger, Albert Reichelt, Mark Palmer, Colleen McCahill, Fr. Ray Chase, Ned Banks, Deidre H, Craig Thornton

Amber opened the meeting with prayer and the reading of the parish mission statement and the sacred purpose statement.

There were no committee updates, aside from issues already planned for discussion later in the meeting. Minutes from committee meetings are appended.

Education & Enrichment: Represented by John Moore

Social Action: Represented by Ray Heil

Liturgy: Represented by Al Reichelt

Church Reform: Represented by Jim Casey

Finance: Represented by Mark Palmer

New Business

- I. Letter of gratitude to Roland Park Presbyterian Church
 - The council unanimously supported this letter.
 - Fr. Ray Chase took responsibility for printing the letter on parish letterhead and contacting Joe Cronyn who will mail or deliver it.
- II. Letter to the Archdiocese from the Racial Equity Working Group
 - Peggy Meyer and Skipp Sanders represented this group and explained that they had two requests for the council: 1) they wanted to sign the letter from the whole parish rather than only the working group and 2) they wanted to schedule a parish-wide townhall in June to share their work, especially details about the South Baltimore Community Land Trust.
 - The council was in favor of both the townhall and signing the letter from the parish.
 - All Sundays in June, except 6/5 which is Pentecost, are available for the townhall.
 - Ray Heil commented that the letter might request financial support of the racial equity fund. Geri Sicola also supported this idea; other disagreed, preferring that

such a request be omitted from the letter but addressed in conversation with Bishop Lewandowski.

- Peggy clarified that the hope is for this letter to be followed by a meeting with Bishop Lewandowski.
- Fr. Ray Chase thought that a discussion of directing annual appeal funds toward the racial equity fund, or organizations with similar goals, might be better saved for future discussions.
- Colleen suggested deciding on one name, either the *We have a dream group* or the *Racial Equity Working Group*

III. Reflections on Lenten and Holy Week liturgies

- Al noted the challenges posed by the retirement of both our sacristan and music director in the past year. He commended the work of Peggy Meyer and Andrea Chapman in filling extra roles in order for us to have beautiful liturgies.
- John Moore noted how moving Skipp's singing of the Litany of the Saints was.
- Additional feedback can be sent to Al or Pat Ball via email.

IV. Reflections on the synodal process and working with Global Learning Partners

- Several people commented positively on the prayer prompts, noting both the personal satisfaction of responding and the richness of responses gathered.
- John Moore wondered if prayer prompts, or something similar because we do not currently own the software, might be used in preparation for the June town hall.
- The enthusiasm of our parish, shown by the large number of volunteers and appreciation for the opportunity to talk, was also noted.
- Council agrees with the recommendation that GLP be hired for phase 2, the parish vision and identity part.
- Several issues must be addressed prior to the beginning of phase 2. Fr. Ray spoke to Sylvia and Jeannette from GLP about debriefing. They are planning to return their written reflections to Fr. Ray within the week. A meeting between the current synodal working group, Sylvia, and Jeanette will then follow.
- It might be useful to include the scope of work authors in the debriefing.
- GLP already proposed a process for phase 2. Knowing what we know from phase 1, would that process differ from the original proposal?
- Discussion addressed and clarified the dissatisfaction with GLP's data analysis. The issues were mostly in the presentation of the data. Data was not organized in a way that it could be sorted or subcategorized. Geri Sicola cautioned that we had not been specific in our requests for how data be presented. Forethought regarding the level of sophistication of data analysis needed can prevent future issues.
- Parish council will take the lead for phase 2, but parish council is about to change due to pending elections. The process of debriefing from phase 1 and signing a contract for phase 2 can begin, but no further action on phase 2 should begin until a new project manager and working group are established. Hopefully parish council can determine who will take those roles at the June meeting.

V. Council Elections

- Timeline: Nominations will be accepted 4/24-5/1. Bios will be published on 5/8. The election will be held 5/15.
- Amber will confirm the chief teller, who is responsible for having a list of nominees, biographical information, and counting votes.
- Amber also shared that she is traveling several weeks in the next month, so there is a need to confirm logistics sooner rather than later.
- Everyone's homework is to speak to potential nominees.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Debrief of Small Group regarding work with GLP

Areas of strength for GLP:

The Training they provided

The assistance in formulating the group process/experience

We loved the prayer prompts and the contributions from the community they elicited for our team.

Points of difficulty unrelated to GLP's work:

Tight timeline

Confusion about scope and responsibility

Areas of improvement or weaknesses for GLP:

GLP has an empowering model that we believe occasionally caused them to provide less direction than our team would have liked.

GLP has a limited capacity for data analysis. Due to their resources they do not have certain analytical software that would have been useful.

One obstacle we know going into Phase 2 is that **determining who from our several databases to include will be an issue.**

Need to keep a separate Phase 2 and Phase 3

The team considered the possibility of combining phase 2 (goal of phase 2 is to formulate an identity and vision) and phase 3 (goal of phase 3 is strategic planning), but ultimately decided that the **need for a coherent identity and vision** going into any planning process was too important to allow for this kind of conflation of the phases.

Recommend GLP for Phase 2, but not Phase 3

Working with GLP in Phase 2 is what our team would recommend with some qualifiers. Our team is still formulating what all of those qualifiers need to be.

For Phase 3, our team is currently of the opinion that it would be most beneficial to hire a contractor who can help us crunch data gathered in the interest of the planning process. We would come up with our own process and plan with the assistance of this contractor.

Timelines and Involvement in Phase 2

The group is in agreement that Phase 2 should be a Parish Council owned process. It is unclear who will specifically be a part of the phase 2 group. Amber is rotating off of Council in June. Audrey will not be continuing in her role as Project Manager. Consideration will need to be given as to how the new group will be formed and new Project Manager selected.

Minutes for the Social Action Committee Meeting March 14, 2022

Attendees on zoom: Joe and Peggy Cronyn, Chuck and Pat Frascati, Ray Heil, Marcia Metzler, Peggy Meyer, Jack Schmidt, and Kathy Younkin

Next meeting date: May 23, 2022, 8 - 9pm (Monday)

The meeting started at 3:30pm. Peggy M facilitated and opened the meeting with a period of silent prayer for Charlotte Grahe. Peggy C offered a prayer for the Afghan family with which St. Vincent's is working.

Breaking Bread with the Hungry: Jack stated that Ellen Draper, Anne Asquino, Mary Laukaitis, and he met to discuss the future of the program which is now going to be a direct ministry of St. Vincent's probably as a sub-committee of the Social Action Committee. Ellen is taking time off from the program and her responsibilities must be picked up by others. Peggy M will still lead the program and assign volunteers. Anne will handle security needs; Mary will handle supply needs; Jack will handle clothing and toiletries and Lindsay Dierkes will handle the communications responsibilities. Our Lady of the Fields will continue to provide the meals and handle the financial aspects. Our Lady of Perpetual Help will continue to handle the fifth Friday of the month meals. There is a meeting with most of the program volunteers scheduled for March 20 to discuss these issues.

City Springs: Joe said that the mask mandate was off at the school as of today and that there have been very, very few instances of Covid over the last month. He stated that the volunteers seem to be enjoying working with the students. He mentioned that Shayla (one of the volunteers from Roland Park Presbyterian Church) dropped out of the tutoring program due to an increase in workload at her job. Joe is hopeful of getting another professional development meeting set up with all the volunteers before the end of school. Donna Dannals is preparing for another book give away before the end of the school year.

Joe asked Chuck and Peggy M about their experience tutoring. Chuck said things are fine for him but mentioned the frustration of another teacher who told him that this was her worst year teaching due to lack of attendance. Peggy M said that she has had a mixed experience. She was "disheartened" by the immaturity level of 4th graders due to the lost time from Covid. She also mentioned the poor attendance as did Joe. Joe noted that both Chuck and Peggy M tutor on Wednesdays when periodically there are only half days of schooling and parents cannot arrange to pick up the children at that time, so they stay home from school or stay with grandparents. Peggy M again mentioned the food waste and stated that she has placed a basket near the trash can where students can place unwanted fruit rather than throwing it out. If other students do not take it, she uses it for our Friday night meals.

Monday's Food Pantry: Peggy M said that Aubree has been doing a great job and things have been going smoothly.

Green Team: Peggy M said that the Green Team met last week and that they may do something for Earth Day. She said that the team will be meeting in person every other meeting and asked if we had any thoughts about meeting in person. The consensus seemed to be that it was convenient for most members not to have to go downtown. For the moment, we will continue to meet by Zoom.

Men's Program: Marcia said she talked to Gayl Meir, and things seemed to be going well. Marcia is concerned about the financial aspect since she does not know the status. Peggy M said that there is \$9,000 in Emergency Services. Chuck asked if there was the possibility of returning to the once monthly open-door arrangement. Marcia said that Gayl was rethinking the need for two days per month and wanted to take the summer off. Peggy M said they could also go to once a month during the summer if they did not want to take off or take off one month. She also cautioned that there are still some clients that are not vaccinated. The main idea for 2 times a month was to lessen the requests coming to the front door of the rectory. Aubree was going to keep records on this. Jack said that we served about 25 clients on the Tuesday of last week and we are out of heavy coats, gloves, and hats. Jack suggested getting together to discuss future plans.

Peace and Justice Subcommittee: The February 14 meeting was cancelled due to the Synod effort. The next meeting is scheduled for March 28. Peggy M said that some parishioners expressed concern about an announcement telling them how to vote on a certain issue during last Sunday's mass. The proper way is to present the issue say that our committee supports it and invite people to think about it, then offer a letter to be signed if they so wish.

TRE: Peggy C said that we have a full schedule of clients and there is not a long waiting list. We do not have a lot of furniture, but the Holy Spirit always seems to supply what we need. On March 8, Joe and his team made a large pickup of furniture and on March 10, Joe met another donor at the units who had additional pieces of furniture. The team is scheduled for more pickups on March 22 and Joe mentioned that Dennis Flynn is back in Maryland and helping with the pickups. Peggy C mentioned that we have a good safety record. She also said that we have stopped renting the fourth unit at Extra Storage. Pat stated that we have received a large box of bathmats and small area rugs. At the recommendation of Gayl Meir, Marcia mentioned Tabitha's House as a possible source of lamps. It was noted that we currently have an unusually large supply of lamps.

Marcia asked if we follow up on clients once they take delivery. Peggy M said she sometimes calls the case worker if there is a problem that needs to be addressed. Marcia cited a problem she and Kathy had with a particularly dirty apartment and "disengaged" client. Peggy C mentioned that the case worker went

back to follow up and the client said he was “disengaged” because he had not been vaccinated and was trying to stay away from the delivery team.

Sojourner Place: Peggy M talked about Sojourner Place in Oliver which is now under construction. It will provide 70 units of different sizes with 50% meant for homeless individuals and 50% for certain lower levels of income. Ray asked if anyone knew anything additional to the published report about the city buying 2 hotels that Mayor Scott said would supply housing for homeless clients out of the federal funds the city received. It seems that it is still in the idea stage.

Afghan families: Peggy C said that, after a trying time, we are now well situated. (St. Vincent’s team includes Peggy C, Mary Hennigan, Pat Ball, Caroline Umana, and Lena Denis). She mentioned a volunteer (Bernie) who is a great resource for the set-up process. We at first were asked if we wanted to sponsor 4 single men but Peggy C said no, since we had shopped and prepared for a family of 5 with 4 boys ages 12, 9, 3 and 3 (the latter are not twins). They are tentatively moving this Thursday into a 3 bedroom, 1 bath apartment off Moravia Road in a section of the city that has Afghan families and other immigrants. We have ordered about \$3,000 worth of furniture from Price Busters (with some discounts for Peggy C), and Roland Park Presbyterian Church and St. Vincent’s are going to split the cost. Father Ray donated his dining room table and chairs which Bob Ball and Bob Betta are going to pick up. Pat has bought many necessary things over the internet and Caroline has been handling the food purchases. Lena has been keeping up with the paperwork. Tom Zerhusen will join the team to help set up the beds.

Peggy C said the total cost to set up the family would be about \$6,500. She also pointed out that St. Vincent’s parishioners have been very generous. Ray asked if we could use TRE furniture for them in order to serve more families. Peggy C said that the International Rescue Committee (IRC) requires new furniture. She noted that we would also do another family in May and that set-up should be a lot easier. In response to a question from Kathy, Peggy C said that we have no additional financial responsibility once the family is moved in.

Peggy C and 2 other team members are attending a mentoring training class tomorrow night. This effort, which will start in the summer, is not case management but more like social and moral support. Peggy C invited others, who may be interested, to join them.

Immigration: Peggy M asked if everyone had received Giuliana Valencia-Banks’ email about the legislation proposing access to counsel in immigration proceedings. The email asked for people to contact committee leadership to move the bill forward. Peggy M will send the email to those who did not receive it.

We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism: We are conducting the reconciliation service this coming Wednesday March 16 at 7:00pm. Skipp is giving the

reflection. Those that attend in person can join the team in the dining room to discuss the acknowledgement letter while those not there can join the meeting via Zoom. Peggy M stated that they edited the letter taking into account Archbishop Lori's January 2019 pastoral letter on racism.

Attracting Young Families: Peggy M talked to Lindsay Dierkes to see what might attract younger families to attend committee meetings. Lindsay said that it would help if we could schedule the meetings at 8:00pm and limit them to an hour. That is what we are going to try at our next meeting on May 23.

Parish Council: Peggy M mentioned that Ray was going to take her place representing the Social Action Committee at parish council meetings for a while.

New Business:

Curtis Bay Elementary: is holding a March Madness event – a basketball related STEM challenge with the kids on March 30 from 9 until 11am. Peggy M thought this might present an opportunity to meet someone involved in the South Baltimore Community Land Trust organization which includes the Curtis Bay area.

Sustainability in Schools: Kathy took a survey from Baltimore City schools asking if she saw signs of sustainability efforts in city schools. She responded that she saw 3 areas of concern: waste/recycling, having teachers aware of environmental issues and having students also made aware of these issues.

The meeting ended at 4:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Schmidt

Peace and Justice Committee Minutes for March 28, 2022

A video meeting using Zoom began at 7:00pm. Attending: Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer, Jack Schmidt, and Giuliana Valencia-Banks (Jules). Chuck facilitated and opened with the Pax Christi prayer for peace. Peggy continued with the prayer honoring the original owners of the land (the Piscataway community) on which St. Vincent's is built. This meeting was originally scheduled for February 14 but was postponed until March 28 in order to center the parish's attention on the Synodal process.

Next meeting: May 9, 2022, 7:00pm. Peggy will facilitate.

"We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism": There were meetings held on December 15, January 5 (brainstorming) and January 19. At the December meeting, we discussed the results of the poll in which the South Baltimore Community Land Trust was voted the top choice. The brainstorming meeting resulted in many good ideas. At the January 19 meeting, we discussed the ideas from the brainstorming session and asked group members to consider participating actively in the next steps. The February meeting was cancelled in order to give full attention to the Synodal process. On March 16, Peggy and Skipp wrote and led the reconciliation service at which Skipp gave a wonderful reflection. It was followed by a meeting to discuss the acknowledgement letter. Peggy is going to ask Father Ray and Colleen if she could present the letter to Parish Council for their approval to send it to the archbishop from the parish. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20 at 7:00pm via Zoom to introduce the leadership of the South Baltimore Community Land Trust.

Immigration: Peggy asked Jules how her job as the first Immigration Affairs Coordinator for Baltimore County was going. She said, "So far, so good." It presents some challenges in dealing with an institution-type of organization. She mentioned that there are a lot of good people who want change, but they have to work through the institutional system.

Jules is disappointed that the Access to Counsel for Immigrants bill has not moved out of the respective committees of the Maryland house and senate. This bill would provide legal services for immigrants in their battle against deportation. Jules asked that we contact our representatives in support of moving the bill forward. The Healthy Babies bill (prenatal and postnatal care for a year) moved forward but the Access to Health Care is stalled and is going to take time to build support.

On the national front, the Biden administration announced its intention to include DACA people in Pell grants, a situation which will continue to be debated. There are many non-DACA people that could use similar support. Jules does not see much happening on the overall immigration question. She also mentioned that Ukrainian refugees really want to remain in Europe and do not want to move to the U.S. unless they have family here so we will not see a lot of refugees. Jules responded to a question from Peggy and explained the refugee process. If a child, a spouse, a parent, or a sibling of a U.S. citizen applies for status, the U.S. citizen must show that he/she can and will provide full support for the incoming refugee. If that is not the

case and the incoming refugee is likely to become dependent on governmental support, a “public charge” is triggered, and the refugee’s application is denied.

Jules also said that it is better to give monetary donations to the resettlement agencies or non-government organizations (NGO’s) than trying to do material donations since the organizations already have the infrastructure in place. Other organizations include the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Lutheran Social Services, and the UN Refugee Organization (www.unhcr.org).

Black Lives Matter Interfaith Coalition (BLMIC): Mary Catherine attended and reported the last rally was on March 20 in Dundalk where the group was met by both positive and negative reactions. There seemed to be more of a feeling of white supremacy in this area. The rallies are usually held on the third Sunday in the month but since the next one would be Easter, the rally was postponed until April 24 at York Road and Ridgely Road. Scheduled time is 1:30-2:30.

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): Jack said that SURJ continues to send out Action Alerts for support on proposed legislation. They have been working in tandem with Jews United for Justice. Mary Catherine mentioned that they were more active earlier in the legislative process.

Historic Panels Commemorating St. Vincent’s Cemetery: Chuck is working with the cemetery to try to get funding grants for the panels, especially from the Baltimore Heritage Foundation.

Beyond the Boundaries (BtB): Mary Catherine stated that BtB has been meeting with City Councilwoman, Odette Ramos, every other Friday to work on inclusionary housing. Odette has been working very hard on specific language that would prevent amendments that water-down the legislation. She also mentioned an article in today’s Baltimore Sun that talks about inclusionary housing. Chuck added that BtB has not been very active in the legislative area this year. Peggy talked about Sojourner Place in Oliver which is now under construction. It will provide 70 units of different sizes with 50% meant for individuals exiting homelessness and 50% for those at or below 50% of the area’s median income. Chuck reminded everyone that Maureen Daly is the Chairwoman of BtB.

Maryland Catholic Labor Network: Chuck attended their workshop at the Social Ministry Convocation on March 26 and said it was excellent. He mentioned that Maureen Daly, Nancy Conrad, and Father Ty Hullinger ran the workshop.

Pax Christi: Chuck said that he missed several recent meetings due to funerals at St. Vincent’s. Regional Pax Christi has been working with the national and international groups on the Ukrainian war and nuclear issues. The annual conference is scheduled for August 5 – 7 in Washington, DC, and the regional group is concentrating on that.

South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT): Peggy mentioned that she asked SBCLT if they had any pressing needs now before our racial equity fund is set up. SBCLT gave Peggy very specific personnel needs amounting to about \$12,000. Peggy said that when she sends out the next notice for the We Have a Dream meeting, she will solicit donations toward this goal. In answer to Mary Catherine's question about how to direct funds, Peggy said that the check should be made out to SBCLT but sent to her for tracking.

Housing Homeless Individuals: Peggy stated that she was aware of differing rumors about housing for homeless individuals but that there does not seem to be anything concrete. Jack mentioned the \$90 million that the city received from the federal government. Mayor Scott is proposing to use those funds to buy 2 hotels to be devoted to homeless individuals. Peggy also mentioned that we continue to see the same people at our Friday meals.

City Springs: Peggy reported that things are going well in general. She mentioned that there have been attendance problems especially on Wednesdays when the school at times closes after a half day. When it does close for a half day, it is difficult for parents to take off from work to pick up the children, so other arrangements away from school are made. She also said the tutors like the spirit of the school citing the school pledge that all of the students know and recite daily. Masks are optional but most students and teachers continue to wear them, and pool testing is in effect.

Parish Council: Peggy mentioned that Ray Heil was going to take her place representing the Social Action Committee at parish council meetings for a while.

South African Higher Education Fund (SAHEF): Sylvia Eastman sent a thank you note to the sub-committee for the \$1,500 annual contribution.

Attracting Young Families: Peggy talked to Lindsay Dierkes to see what might attract younger families to attend committee meetings. Lindsay said that it would help if we could schedule the meetings at 8:00pm and limit them to an hour. That is what we are going to try at our next meeting of the Social Action Committee on May 23. Based on that attendance, we might adjust the meeting time for this sub-committee.

Social Ministry Convocation Award for Mary Catherine: Mary Catherine was presented with the **2022 Doris Johnson Community Award** at the Social Ministry Convocation on March 26. This award is given to an individual who has worked for justice within the community in harmony with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The award recipient has made a positive difference to those around them as well as those indirectly impacted by the issues addressed.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: Chuck stated that Chuck Michaels mentioned the Stations of the Cross at the end of an announcement for another gathering. Except for Chuck Frascati, no one else on the sub-committee saw it. Mary Catherine had asked Chuck Michaels about the stations two weeks earlier but did not get a response. The general feeling among sub-committee members is that the announcement was too late to arrange for stations this year.

Memories of Charlotte Grahe: Chuck asked us to remember Charlotte Grahe who was an active member of our subcommittee until health issues slowed her down. She died on March 12 and her funeral will be held on April 9, at 10:30am at St. Vincent's.

Breaking Bread with the Hungry: Mary Catherine asked if the transition from Our Lady of the Fields to St. Vincent's was complete and what did it mean. Peggy said that parishioners wouldn't notice a change. Friday night dinners will continue as before. Ellen is taking time off from the program and her responsibilities must be picked up by others. Peggy will still lead Friday night and assign volunteers. Anne Asquino will handle security needs; Mary Laukaitis will handle supply needs; Jack will handle clothing and toiletries and Lindsay Dierkes will handle the communications responsibilities. Our Lady of the Fields will continue to provide the meals and handle the financial aspects. Our Lady of Perpetual Help will continue to handle the fifth Friday of the month meals.

Brooke Lierman for Comptroller: Chuck mentioned that she has been receiving a lot of support and Peggy stated that she will be missed in District 46.

The meeting ended at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Schmidt

St. Vincent's Green Team Meeting
ZOOM
March 7, 2022

Attendees: Mary Catherine Bunting, Bethany Gregg, Peggy Meyer, Pam Sanders, Rita McMullin, Jill Huppert, Kathy Younkin

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Review.

Because our January meeting was cancelled due to the parish being involved with the Synodal process, our actions to support this session's legislation was managed over email. Bethany created the letter to be sent to legislators supporting 5 environmental bills. We advertised it in the eNewsletter and collected signatures and addresses at Mass on 3 Sundays. Bethany reported that 85 parishioners signed and 59 legislators were contacted. This was a lot for her to get done in a short period of time. Thank you Bethany!

Going forward, Bethany said we can help her by: (1) when we read that bills are close and need a push, send the info to the team. (2) Bethany will soon know the legislators she's never heard back from; we can then help her by making phone calls to the legislator, promoting the bills.

We complained that when we write to our legislatures sometimes they reply that although they support the issue, they are not on the committee hearing the bill. Bethany said to push back and reply by asking them to talk to their fellow legislators who are on those committees and promote the bill and ask for their vote.

Peggy added additional bills. These are active bills that need legislative push now.
HB570 – to get rid of PFAS chemicals, or the “forever chemical.” This bill bans PFAS from pesticides and mosquito control substances.
SB273 – This bill bans fire fighting foam that contains intentionally added PFAS chemicals.

Where are we with LSAP – Laudato Si Action Plan?

It is the committee's desire to encourage the Baltimore Archdiocese to create an action plan for our parishes. We have to wait until they are freed up from the Synodal process before we approach them again.

Recycling at St. V's.

We looked at a couple brochures (the city and Balt. county) showing what is accepted in their single stream recycling. Baltimore County's was simpler and clear.

Brigid said that city is picking up recycling at St. V's every other week, and she printed the schedule for those who put out the trash. We are stressing that on off weeks the recycling be stored inside the building and saved for pickup on the next week. Do we need larger containers?

NEW BUSINESS

eNewsletter posts reboot.

March - Jill told us about the Lenten Calendar drawn up by Interfaith & Light and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. The calendar suggests daily actions in support of common care for the environment. Jill will submit the calendar in a post for the eNewsletter this week.

April - Rita will do the post for April promoting Baltimore County's list of sustainable actions, and users can gain points if they want to start their own contest at home or at church or work.

Earth Day

IPL's Faith Climate Action Week starts on Earth Day, April 22. On Sunday April 24 we plan to have the environment mentioned in the liturgy. IPL is suggesting a youth & children blessing ceremony to fit the theme of Sacred Trust: our children's right to a livable future. There is a special movie which we will look into.

Community Solar.

Peggy suggested now is the time to have another signup program for solar and we all agreed. She looked into Neighborhood Sun and users can save 10% on their electric bill. Jill had joined an IPL talk on the various ways to convert to solar and she purchased solar through them. Their talk offers representatives from 3 different options: rented panels, purchased panels and community solar. We will ask IPL to setup a Zoom program in May, and St V's can be the host. Jill added we should reach out to other churches. Jill forwarded the information to Rita who will follow-up.

Next Green Team Meeting -- Monday April 18, 7pm – St V's Classroom

Peggy will put it on the Office schedule.

Green Team Goals:

Goal I (Participation in Legislative Sessions to protect the environment)

Goal II (Provide an annual opportunity for parishioners to participate in a direct environmental action.)

Goal III: Educate the parish on threats to our environment and what they can do to help.

Goal IV: Participate in Interfaith Power & Light's "Climate in the Pulpit"

Goal V: Promote and participate in other faith-based organizations' environmental activities.