



St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church

Creation Care Ministry Accomplishments

JOYFUL WORSHIP ~ FAITHFUL SERVICE

5911 Fairview Woods Drive

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

*[www.stpetersinthewoods.org/
ministries/creation-care/](http://www.stpetersinthewoods.org/ministries/creation-care/)*

2019

- ◆ Call from Rev. Susan Hartzell to all who are interested in forming a Creation Care Ministry; First meeting October 2019; 12 participants
- ◆ Developed a mission statement
- ◆ Purchased washable tablecloths to be used instead of plastic disposable tablecloths
- ◆ Bulletin recycling initiated
- ◆ Beehives installed on property (2); (collapsed winter of 2020)
- ◆ Covanta Energy Recovery Facility group tour
- ◆ Began use of silverware rather than disposable plastic eating utensils
- ◆ Bluebird houses installed outdoors on hillside (2)
- ◆ Sold honey for fundraiser
- ◆ Motion sensors installed on bathroom and classroom lights
- ◆ Installed native plants garden in front of church using NVSWCD grant
- ◆ Obtained recognition as a Virginia Master Naturalist approved project through the Fairfax chapter. Our project number is S266; "St. Peter's Wildlife Sanctuary and Projects" and is listed under "stewardship projects" in the VMN files

2020

- ◆ Energy Audit conducted; report written
- ◆ LED lights replaced old incandescent bulbs, all except sanctuary which will be done during renovation
- ◆ Old appliances replaced with Energy Star appliances; 2 dishwashers, 1 refrigerator
- ◆ Weather stripping replaced and/or repaired on entryway doors
- ◆ Windows adjacent to altar repaired so they would close tightly
- ◆ Conducted a Stormwater and Erosion Run-off Assessment; report written
- ◆ Monitored drainageway from lower holding pond for erosion (ongoing)
- ◆ Purchased dishes and drinkware to replace single use disposable items whenever possible
- ◆ Started the Giving Garden behind the church. Donated vegetables to Burke United Methodist Church Food Pantry
- ◆ Planted 16 bare root native understory bushes on property
- ◆ Earned "Audubon At Home Wildlife Sanctuary" designation

2021

- ◆ Developed a chart of Long Range Plans
- ◆ Purchased a new recycling bin for the church kitchen
- ◆ Planted 12 bare root native plant seedlings on the property
- ◆ Expanded the Giving Garden to produce additional vegetables for B.U.M. Church Food Pantry
- ◆ Began composting food scraps at church events
- ◆ Developed a plan for responsible purchasing (kitchen and office items)
- ◆ Removed all styrofoam food and beverage containers from church pantry (donated to Lamb Center)
- ◆ Hosted information tables after 3 services
- ◆ Eliminated the use of harmful lawn chemicals on church lawn (grub control)
- ◆ Led 2 Mindfulness Walks on the Meditation Trail behind the church

2022

- ◆ Held an Earth Day event on April 23; Electric Vehicles, Electronics Recycling Truck, 10+ demonstration tables and environmental education activities, Bird friendly coffee and refreshments
- ◆ Planted 35 new native shade tolerant plants in the church Memorial Garden
- ◆ Supported the Landscaping Committee in creating a new garden on the hillside for erosion control and beautification of the hillside; includes 4 redbud trees, 27 native understory bushes, 2 serviceberry bushes and more than 130 additional native plants
- ◆ Expanded the number of bluebird boxes from 2 to 4
- ◆ Eliminated the use of more than 360 disposable paper plates, 400 disposable cups, and hundreds of disposable utensils by using our washable dinnerware and utensils
- ◆ Served "bird friendly coffee" after worship services twice (coffee is grown under the rainforest canopy, which saves critical sensitive habitat and supports migrating birds)
- ◆ Produced 108 pounds of organic vegetables for donation to B.U.M. Church Food Pantry and the SPW Pop-Up Pantry (eggplants, green beans, peppers and sugar snap peas; estimated value \$460)
- ◆ Joined the Fairfax Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
<https://faithforclimate.org/>