

DOCUMENTING OUR MINISTRIES

MINISTRY: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

DATE OF THIS DOCUMENTATION UPDATE: MAY 2008

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION:

The Environmental Stewardship Team helps us to be more aware of the need to care for “this fragile earth, our island home.” In addition to educational opportunities, the Environmental Stewardship team provides twice annual ingathering of hazardous wastes and Styrofoam and works closely with Oregon Interfaith Power & Light and the Global Warming Steering Committee with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and with the Environmental Commission of the Diocese of Oregon.

There are lots of opportunities to be involved and these are not necessarily defined by what is being done today.

1. First of all get on the e-list. Through the e-list the community of environmental concern is linked to learn about events and policy issues of likely concern.
2. Everyone on the e-list is encouraged to contact policy leaders when issues of concern come up.
3. We need a leader and members for a ‘green team.’ A green team would specifically focus on supporting St. Michael’s efforts to ‘recycle, reduce and reuse.’ For instance the green team could offers services for washing and clean up at events that otherwise would use plastic/paper utensils, the green team could support the landscaping team to ensure that organic approaches were considered, the green team could be part of all current activities and just think about being more green in everything we do.
4. W could use some helpers for the biannual ingathering of toxic waste and Styrofoam, another truck, someone to go to pick up material from people who can’t bring things to the church.
5. We would like to get involved with the master plastic recycling program, this could be a special project, and potentially we could collect plastics from parishioners if there are people compelled to do this.
6. We need ideas and possible leaders/participants for educational/forum events. It would be great if someone wants to lead voluntary simplicity, globalization, or environmental sustainability work shops. There are lots of materials readily available for two week, four week and up to eight week sessions.

There are no scheduled meetings, yet there are lots of ways to be involved. As everyone becomes a steward of the earth, the entire community benefits. So though there is no organized process all environmental stewardship ideas are welcome in this community. Don’t be afraid to mention an environmental issue that concerns you.