



Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard

ST. BERNARD GREEN TEAM HOSTS ENVIRONMENTAL SHOWCASE

PARTICIPATING FAITH GROUPS

Universalist Unitarian Church of Somerset Hills
North Branch Reformed Church in Branchburg
Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Somerville
Universalist Unitarian Congregation in Somerville
St. Bernard Church in Bridgewater

The St. Bernard Green Team: (left to right) Doreen Sekora, Rosemary Pfreundschuh, Carol Goett and Liz Dransfield

These days, we all want to make eco-friendly choices, but sometimes keeping up with all of the information that's out there can be challenging. So, to help parishioners make informed choices and be good stewards of the environment, St. Bernard welcomed representatives from some of our neighboring faith communities when we hosted Greenfaith's "Traveling Road Show," an environmental education program, which is visiting Somerset County congregations this Fall.

The September 15th program at St. Bernard, held after the 9:00 and 10:30 masses, was the second stop for the showcase, which made its debut at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Somerset Hills in August, and also visited North Branch Reformed Church in Branchburg in late September. Exhibits included "Know Your Environmental Footprint," presented by Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough, "The Evolution of the Lightbulb,"

presented by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Somerville, "Living the Change: Plant Based Diets," presented by the Universalist Unitarian Congregation in Somerville, "Planet or Plastic: Choose Reusable Water Bottles," presented by North Branch Reformed Church, and the "One Week Plastic Challenge," presented by the St. Bernard Green Team.

The program is set to continue to make the tour of Greenfaith congregations, next visiting Temple Beth El in December. St. Bernard Green Team members will be on hand for that event to share their knowledge on the ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic material.

Greenfaith is a faith-based coalition promoting environmental stewardship, with which St. Bernard became affiliated last year. Its mission is to promote interfaith partnerships and enable congregations to work together on environmental action and education initiatives. With a shared vision of caring for God's kingdom, it has been exciting for our Green Team members to be able to visit other faith communities and also welcome representatives from those communities at our parish event.

Green Team member, Rosemary Pfreundshuh, helped man the "Plastics Challenge"

exhibit when St. Bernard hosted, and also represented the parish at North Branch Reformed's event:

"It was nice to get to know our GreenFaith partners better through our collaboration on the traveling showcase and I appreciated working with like-minded people concerned about the environment and motivated by their faith to care for God's creation. Our combined efforts enabled us to create an environmental stewardship fair with multiple displays instead of just one. Most who attended at Saint Bernard and the other congregations were friendly, welcoming and genuinely interested."

Carol Goett, another Green Team member, traveled with the road show to the Universalist Unitarian Church in August. She reflected that "the traveling road show emphasized what our faiths have in common, as opposed to our differences." Carol also noted the number of children visiting the displays, noting that "this is an issue that affects people of all ages."

The future of God's planet is an important issue for those of all faiths, and the road show has been a great way for the community to come together to learn about ways to answer the call. For even more ideas, keep an eye on the bulletin for the Green Team's monthly Eco-Tip.



Interested in joining the Green Team at St. Bernard?
Contact Doreen Sekora at doreents13@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOR 2019-20

Parishioners,

The Stewardship Council just kicked off its 16th year! As a result of the Council's first meeting this year held on Tuesday, September 10th, the following is planned for the upcoming year:

Events Hosted/Sponsored by the Council:

Stewardship Night for Confirmation candidates – Mid Feb, 2020
Community service event (Elijah's kitchen, SHIP, etc.) – just prior to Lent
Parish picnic – early June

Other Objectives

Celebrate stewardship in the parish via the Council's SiA (Stewardship in Action) newsletter, published on a monthly basis

Update and maintain the Stewardship Council webpage in accordance with new parish website platform Focus on enhancing the new parishioner onboarding process; for example, provide list of ministries insert for new parishioner package and other welcoming activities

Provide ongoing support to the St Bernard "Green Team" (environmental stewardship)

Roster

Mark Dransfield – Chairperson

Deacon Gerry Sims

Karen Brophy

Tess Cammack

Liz Dransfield

Greg Elia

Joanne Fabiano

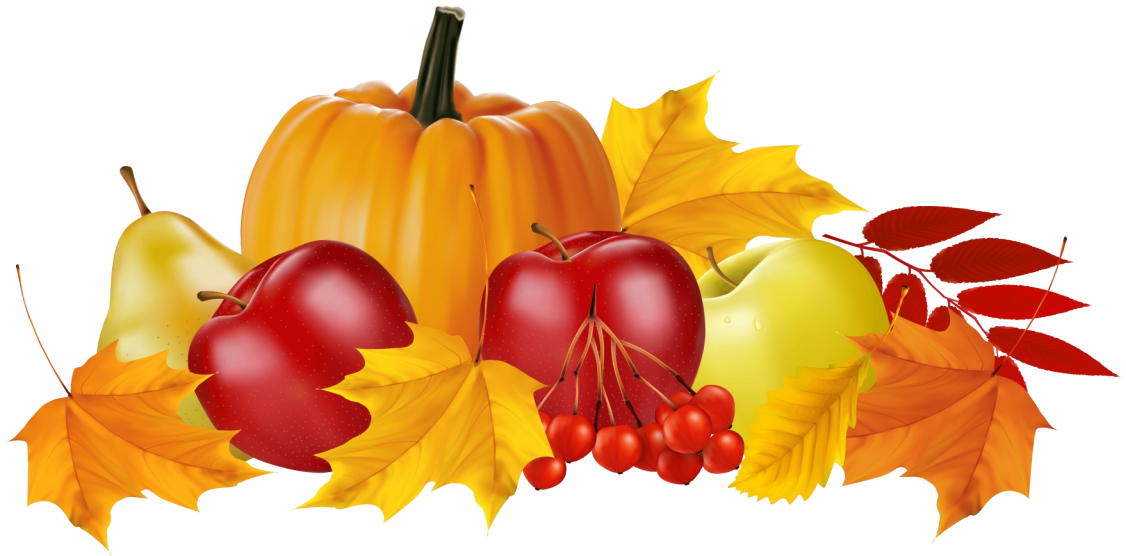
Fran Lim

Nancy Fritz Mombay

John Nestor

Steve Ossi

Doreen Sekora



Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?

Please contact Mark Dransfield (dransfam@gmail.com or by calling 908-526-6649)

