

Spring 2011 *Update*

Green Sanctuary Mother's Day (May 8) Sunday Reports

- **Worship Service** Nancy Hurrelbrinck presented a sermon, "What is the Story of Your Food?" available at this link. This was combined with a child dedication ceremony, as well as a beautiful altar display to invite the congregation to join discussions on "Ethical Eating" in the fall. Member artist Lara Gastinger provided the cover art for the Sunday program, a painting of kale.
- **Sacred Trees Pamphlet and Arboretum Tours** -- Al Reynolds -- there were few takers for the tree tours this year due to a scheduling conflict with our Mother Earth Brunch. We should consider a fall tree tour when we publicize our arboretum and pamphlet as well. The pamphlet is printed, as is a self-guided tour map. Tree group needs to meet to discuss where to put the copies, whether to have a box with map, or to have a laminated map for people who want to do the self-guided tree tour. See budget discussion above.
- **RE Tree Program** -- Margaret G. and Jean -- Jenny Gaden spoke to the elementary children on May 1, and the tree scavenger hunt is being implemented this summer.
- **Raised Bed Gardening** -- Sallie Kate reports she has two unused beds just perfect for planting. We suggest advertising it now and also in early September for spinach, lettuces, etc.
- **WormCrusader** -- Deborah arranged with the Finance Committee to let us use Jim Ashley's appearance for a fundraiser. For every plant he sold, he gave the church \$1. We received \$51 in our account from the sale of plants raised in worm compost. At \$4 a plant, Jim must have netted around \$150 for the morning. Jim was eager to work with us again and support our fundraising.
- **Green Sanctuary Mothers' Day Brunch** -- Katie and Jean report that they fed around 250 people, at a cost of \$287, or roughly \$1 a person. Discussion about whether this should have been a fundraiser concluded with a resounding, "no!" It was the best effort so far in getting the entire congregation involved in our program. Kudos to Katie and Jean, who cooked up a storm, recruited "potluck" volunteers, selected flowers for the tables and gardens, and organized the kitchen volunteers. It was a lovely event, and the church staff sent us a nice thank you note.

Other Reports

Green Sanctuary May 15 Carpooling Challenge

This was a limited success. People loved the "green" prizes, but only 1 in 5 cars had more than one person. Thus, we established a baseline average of 1.26 people per car. Since it was a choir Sunday, many people told us they could not carpool. That said, our attendance was 58 adults, 10 children, 64 cars in and around TJMC for the 9:15 service. The second service did a bit better, with 140 adults, 13 children, 111 cars. That made our ratio of people to cars 1.06 for the first service, and 1.37 for the second service. Though this is not particularly impressive, it is a start. We know that not everyone can carpool every Sunday, but we want to keep trying in the fall. We awarded 26 prizes to those who entered our Carpool Challenge Drawing, including organic pillows from Savvy Sleeper of Ivy and solar-powered lanterns and flashlights from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. Thanks also to Johanna Woodchild and Mickey Meyer for donating small items from cloth bags to toilet paper from recycled paper and to Glenn Short for staffing our Green Sanctuary table every Sunday. Carpool, and go Green!

Spring 2011 *Update*

Williamsburg Ecojustice Sermon – Laura Wallace gave a sermon April 10 before the Williamsburg UU Congregation. She estimates that there were 170+ folks there, at the 2nd service anyway, but the first was smaller. Laura reported, “At both services, their response was warm and vocal. I stayed with a retired William & Mary professor and his wife, a retired teacher, and we had dinner with the WA, who was terrific. We had a discussion circle after the 2nd service and people processed a lot of feelings about the state of things. I did a guided meditation benediction about energy coming up to us from the earth, and how we also can feel the connection of our own energy being given back to the earth...I got several emails afterward, and they sent me a CD of the whole service which was nice. One of their members I'd talked with at some length came recently and stayed two nights at my house, when he was attending Cville Eco-Festival. He had just done a workshop at VPI on his nonprofit: