

# Responses to Parish Survey Spring 2008

## Number of Surveys Returned : 48

### 1. How would you state your concern or commitment to care for creation?

My concern is lifelong and intense.

high; pervading; I am committed to it and to raising a family with a strong environmental conscience

A Christian's duty

Preservation of the glory of God's creation is very important to me.

great concern

It is very important to be aware of our environment, and preserve it. We should each take responsibility for this.

I believe that the people of God are called to be stewards of God's creation and, as such, must intentionally act to preserve and protect that creation.

I am very concerned that we do not honor what God has placed in our care.

just want to do my part to preserve our environment and what God created

Pretty strong, and believe in stewardship of this world

Taking care of people, animals, and nature. Taking care of our world so our children can enjoy the beauty of nature.

I think we should care for the sustainability of the human race, meaning food, shelter, basic clothing, education, health care, and, once these are in order, the spirit will move to give the gift of everlasting life.

We are mildly involved in our commitment to care for creation.

As one of God's creatures, it should be our duty to care for our creation.

After seeing a program on the History Channel about what would happen if people suddenly disappeared off the face of the Earth: Nature takes over completely as if humanity had never been here to alter its ecology.

Strong.

very concerned.

committed but not obsessed. interested in knowing what I can do in my home without spending a lot of extra time and money.

As a preservation architect I see my life as dedicated to the wise use of all our resources, built and natural, and regard my professional focus as part of the broader sustainable movement.

Committed but not passionate.

We have started recycling by taking the "stuff" to Wal-Mart since the city of Bryan does not offer pick-up service. With young children finding time is always a problem. I do want to know more about green products.

Overconsumption. Change the "More is better" philosophy. Learn to and teach how to live with less "stuff". Petition companies to reduce even more their over-sized packaging on products that do not need oversized boxes/plastic wraps.

Pretty high

On a scale of one to five, five being very concerned, I am a five

We must reverse current trends to keep this planet habitable for future generations.

We are responsible for how our actions affect all of creation. Acknowledging that responsibility is the first step, then taking action to reduce the harm we cause should follow.

I volunteer for PETA to help with animal welfare. I believe we are all God's creatures and the planet a gift. We must take care of it - it has been neglected for so long.

We are stewards of creation and my concern and commitment to care for creation cannot be separated for my concern and commitment to my relationship with God and God's creation.

my concern and commitment are high

I am very concerned and highly committed to protecting our environment for this and for future generations.

Committed except composting

## 2. What eco-friendly practices do you do?

Recycling

42

Reusing

40

Avoiding certain products

32

Other:

Reducing the amount of (eventual) trash that enters my life.

Try to teach grandchildren things they can do.

Teaching others to be more Earth-friendly at work and home.

fluorescent bulbs throughout house, heat rejection and insulation measures on house, somewhat fuel efficient cars

Planting that doesn't require excessive water use. Avoiding a lot of unnecessary travel in cars, carpooling when possible. Not buying a car every 3-5 years (excessive energy cost to construction) Replacing old windows with ones that help conserve energy. Not keeping the temperature too cold or warm which increases consumption. Planting shade trees near the house

I try to ask myself, Do I really need this or do I just want it?

Our family one summer ago, Came up with the phrase "Don't be Square - Be C.U.B.I.C." meaning "Cleaning Up Because I Can/Care" everywhere I took the kids we picked up trash, be it park, schools or theaters. We also tried to help nature to safely cross the street or find a better place to grow (tadpoles in volleyball pits to locally water areas)

Canterbury House has a set of recycle bins, Let's get a set for the Ministry Center kitchen.

i.e., mulching, not being excessive with materials

conserve water use.

Moving toward using shopping bags instead of plastic and trying to plan use of my car to reduce the number of journeys.

Composting, walking, biking instead of driving. Thinking about energy usage, bio-friendly clothing. Less lawn and more shrubs to conserve water.

Minimize heating and cooling. Minimize gasoline consumption.

Drive hybrid car; limit water use when possible; careful use of thermostats; combining car trips when possible

I am a vegetarian. It takes more of the earth's resources to produce one 8oz steak, than what it takes to feed a village of 50.

do not use grocery/plastic sacks (about 80% of the time); reuse printer paper for non-essential documents; rarely use the heat in winter; car-share with two other people; choose organic produce whenever possible; support research in the tropics, use biodegradable shampoo; use eco-friendly cleaning products; and use a reusable bottle for water.

want to learn more...

reducing junk mail, advocating for environmental friendly legislation, investing in green companies

turn off the water while i brush my teeth

Search "trash" for craft material for kids

**3. Do you have a job that relates to environmental issues?**

No

31

Yes

14

Only to the extent that all teachers have a responsibility to pass on crucial information about maintaining a sustainable environment.  
I am a mother raising 2 citizens of the world. It is my job that they understand the impact of their environmental footprint  
education, leader of a youth garden club  
I preach and teach stewardship of everything, relationships, creation, and our relationship with God.  
Realtor. I am not normally directly involved with development or building.  
Social Studies teacher (geography major) Teaching youth to be responsible world citizens.  
Teaching marital arts to children and adults helps them become a better person. Not everyone has a connection with their church,  
family, or support system. Even those with a good support system need help in some area of their life. The marital arts helps with  
life skills, self defense, fitness, and overall wellness. Developing the mind, body, and spirit.  
Health care. Medical waste is not reusable, is not often biodegradable, and the disposable waste have replaced reusable items (  
syringes, needles, scalpels) because of safety and liability concerns.  
I am the one that primarily decides which products and/or foods come into our home and lives.  
As noted above, preservation architecture is referred to in most parts of the world as heritage conservation. I have taught and  
practiced this for over 40 years and serve on several national committees  
medical field...biological waste  
Indirectly, everyone's job relates to these issues, some more directly than others.  
Priest charged with teaching by word and example how to live in God's presence  
Seminararian

**4. Would you be willing to meet and express what our parish could do?**

Yes

22

No

20

**5. What talents or interests do you possess that you would be willing to share with St. Thomas Green?**

Knowledge and skills related to composting	2
Green construction	2
Recycling	9
Earth friendly gardening	5
Using green products	3
Ways to enjoy nature	7
Nature photography	3
Making banners for the sanctuary that celebrate creation	8
Designing and maintaining the St. Thomas Green bulletin board	1
Advocacy	4
Other (please specify)	
Visit Cafe' Canterbury. We recycle, we use compostable cups and lids, fair trade coffee and tea and are going to begin composting and selling the results to gardeners to raise money for the Millennium Development Goals of overcoming extreme poverty and hunger in the world by 2015.	
Activities for Kids Sunday school that support mission/ things that could be decorated around the church.	
Taking care of yourself. Being able to defend yourself, fitness, and overall wellness of mind, body, and spirit.	
life-sustaining living.	
I am willing to help those that fall in above concerns, but I do not have a stand-alone skill to share.	
It would be a good idea if we could take our green gardening tips and apply them to the landscaping around the church.	
Continue to work to ensure that buildings and operations are as sustainable as possible	
No	
No talents, just interest in learning more about alternative cleaning and insect/ants control products to reduce chemical use in homes and yards.	
Will help anywhere I can.	
I can work on design and planning of banners (sewing best left to someone with better skills). I can articulate theological framework for Christian participation in environmental actions	
discuss environmental impact on tropical ecosystems and its ties to the lives of the poor in Latin America	
Leading discussion groups, leading nature field trips; leading environmental ministry outreach projects	
none	
Helping with kids (Beth's science camps)	

**6. Are there environmental and Earth-friendly learning activities in which you would like to participate?**

Seminars on topics such as simpler living	16
The link between environmental degradation and human justice globalization	10
Practical ideas for living green	27
Other (please specify)	
We are currently considering runoff barrels to collect rain and prevent it from building up on our sidewalk and running into our building.	
It is very important to me to link this to the Bible and spirituality. That really is the reason that I go to church is spiritual guidance. My degree in college covers the topics listed above, I don't need education there, but rather of a spiritual nature. Can we make the spiritual/environmental connections with the Bible?	
Health related topics.	
No.	
Alternative energy technology	
no	

**7. Are there community activities in which you would like to participate?**

Nature walks	19
Earth Day celebrations	14
Keep Brazos Beautiful activities	19
Planting trees in the community	13
Multi-generational environmental mission trips (e.g., to clean beaches or restore a habitat)	15
Other (please specify)	
this could be a great event with the college students	
The Martial Art organization I am with is partnered up with Amber Alert. In September I would like to have a kids safety training workshop. I would need sponsors. So someone with experience in this area would be needed.	
No	
No	

## 8. Do you have any concerns about or suggestions for St. Thomas Green?

I would like to thank Jan Hughes for getting this started. The entire committee has done a wonderful job. Thank you

I am excited that this is a concern and there is activity around teaching and practicing good stewardship in this area of our lives.

As listed above, coming to church for spiritual guidance is something I really need from St. Thomas. I didn't attend church regularly for almost 20 years and now I am back. I was really disappointed that they cancelled Bible study for the launching of the program, because I am just finishing a rotation in kids Sunday School and was looking forward to Adult Sunday school. I am not against the program, and I do like that St. Thomas is going out into the community more through this program, but I can do all these things through work or on my own. Getting religious instruction is something I depend on my church for. I would love for someone to make the biblical connections in their delivery, that would draw me in and offer something to me that maybe I didn't already know.

I think it is great that St Thomas is going green.

I would like St. Thomas Green to consider preserving the integrity of our neighborhood by maintaining the Lancaster properties as they are.

I know this is a worthy "cause" I just hope this does not cause a division in our church family.

I am an amateur astronomer and would like to see stargazing as part of the program. A colony of Church cats would also be nice.

Suggestion - eco-friendly ideas for living with and educating children.

Great initiative, keep everyone informed and involved. Explain why we use real mugs for coffee!

Explore what other churches and businesses are doing to 'live more green'.

We speak of trying to be green, but people at St. T. still throw away, at the church, things that could be recycled, like No. 2 plastic and beverage cans. Perhaps we should remove all the trash cans and force people to think about what they throw away?

Please excuse the brevity of my survey responses. I am not anti-environmental! I have been experiencing symptoms of burnout with my current commitments (or "over" commitments) with family, job and church, and cannot be actively involved in St. Thomas Green at this time, worthy as this initiative is.

Teaching parishioners about the horrors of slaughter houses and how eating a vegetarian diet can provide more resources for all.

<http://www.chicobag.com/> for reusable bags to see about alternatives to disposable cups, utensils, plates and napkins see Sandi for information about what Canterbury did.

it is disappointing that there is not a group at St. Thomas that is as well organized as the green group that concentrates on reading, studying and disseminating the Word of God.