

Meeting Notes, 1/22/12
First United Methodist Church
Natural Step Ministry Team

Attending: Marge Stevens, Robin Proebsting, Valerie White, LoErna Simpson, Corinne Butzin, Marian Veley, Rev. Bonnie Parr-Phillipson

Absent members, and send minutes to: Sara Power, Kris Graves, Jeanie Goul, Pat Smythe, Kim Burnap (church office), Maureen Beezhold (Natural Step), Matt Gregory (FUMC web master)

Next meetings: March 25, 2012, Round Table Room, 3:30 to 5 p.m., followed by May 20, 2012, same time and place

Fifth Sunday Potluck – the Natural Step group will host this event on January 29. Set up helpers: Robin, Valerie, LoErna, Marge; Clean up helpers: Marian, Corinne, Marge. Marian offered to make coffee. LoErna offered to bring milk and other beverage needs as advised by Sara. Marge will provide a turkey. Marge will contact Kim to request room set-up. Corinne and Valerie offered to help with signage. We will have four tables: Blue Sky, Smart Energy, Waste Management, and donations for the church's renewable energy program. We will compost!

We will receive a donation to the church for each new Blue Sky or Smart Energy home usage sign-up. We will take donations or pledges from people who wish to support the church's participation in those programs. We are currently purchasing one block of Blue Sky at \$13.85 per month and Smart Energy of \$15.00 per month.

Landscape: Robin convened several meetings regarding the space where the raised bed garden and dumpsters now reside. The consensus was to design and place a rock garden type landscape there, due to the hard ground, shade, and lack of water. We received a suggestion to put a vegetable garden on the parking strip between the driveway entrances to the parking lot off Jackson St. We can use the materials from the existing raised beds and the grant for \$150 from the Evening Garden Club. As this will require planning, resources and upkeep we will call for a group of interested persons to meet and see if there is enough interest to move forward. Marge will present this opportunity to members of the congregation, encouraging Dave Straub and Bob Smythe to participate.

Composting/Recycling: Marge has spoken with custodian Mark about how this is working. Marian offered to help empty the compost buckets into the yard debris cart after Sunday and Tuesday meals. Mark will put it at the curb for pick-up. He is working with Trustees to get a curb cut so it will be easier to get the carts to the curb. Marge will contact Betty Lawrence about disposing of coffee grounds from the Sunday morning service.

Earth Sunday is April 22 – also, American Indian Sunday. Bonnie suggested having information from all twelve action teams from the Sustainability Coalition. Also, it might be a good time to remember the formation of the Natural Step Ministry Team, and celebrate seven years. Ideas are welcome.

That's My Farmer Update – We received a Thank you letter for our contribution of \$200 to the SNAP 6 program for 2012. There will be a fundraising breakfast on Saturday March 17, St. Patrick's Day, in the Community Center and we are encouraged to help with the breakfast.

The **Litter Pick-Up** has not yet happened. Marge contacted Shauna Holt, the youth director, and they may schedule this as a spring activity.

Leadership of Natural Step Ministry Team: Marge is ready to turn over leadership of the Natural Step team. It is good for the organization's creativity and energy to have a change of leadership from time to time. ******If you are interested in becoming the Ministry Team leader, please contact Marge or Rev. Bonnie for more information.******

Mark your calendar:

Anytime – write articles on Natural Step for church newsletter

Anytime – lead the litter patrol on Airport Road

February TBA– Action Team presentation, Sustainability Coalition

March 17 - That's My Farmer breakfast fundraiser, Community Center

March 25 – Natural Step meeting

April 22, 2012 – Earth Sunday – program TBA

May 20, 2012 – Natural Step Meeting

Anytime – contact Marge that you are willing to take over leadership of Natural Step Ministry Team