

# ST. BART'S MONTHLY

## Lay Ministry: 4/7

**Chalice Bearer:** Tom Scholl

**Reader:** Helen Panetti

**Prayers of the People:** Lisa Bayh

**Ushers:** Tom Scholl, Volunteer

## Lay Ministry: 4/14

**Chalice Bearer:** Lee French

**Reader:** Lisa Bayh

**Prayers of the People:** Susan  
Ashley-LaFitte

**Ushers:** Darrell LaFitte, Volunteer

## Lay Ministry: 4/21

**Chalice Bearer:** TBA

**Reader:** TBA

**Prayers of the People:** TBA

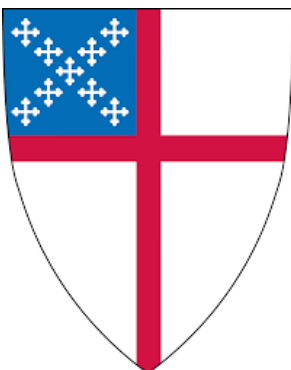
**Ushers:** TBA



## Hundreds of Episcopalians make 'Pledge to Care for Creation' in campaign's first days

Caring for God's creation may seem like a daunting task, the Earth being so vast and the threats to the natural world so pervasive, but The Episcopal Church is encouraging Episcopalians during Lent to [pledge to take even the smallest of steps](#), because those steps together can make a difference. That is the idea behind the church's Pledge to Care for Creation campaign, which [launched March 29](#) and runs through Easter, with the goal of collecting at least 1,000 pledges by April 22, Earth Day.

Discussion of these pledges figured prominently at the House of Bishops meeting in March, when a number of bishops committed to spreading the word to their dioceses. Such efforts seem to be having their intended effect: As of this week, more than 300 Episcopalians have gone online and completed the form

**Lay Ministry: 4/28****Chalice Bearer:** TBA**Reader:** Lee French**Prayers of the People:** Helen Panetti**Ushers:** Tom Scholl, Volunteer**Any Suggestions?  
Contact:****Susan Ashley-LaFitte,**  
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cathysbec@hotmail.com**Aubrey French,**  
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identifying ways they will be better caretakers of creation. “We can’t see this as a hobby. We have to see it as a vocation that we actually are called to care for this Earth,” said Olympia Bishop Greg Rickel, one of the bishops who participated last month in creating [this brief video invitation](#) to rest of the church.



Rickel told Episcopal News Service in a phone interview this week that he pledged to “eat lower on the chain,” meaning less meat and more food produced closer to home, which reduces the carbon footprint tied to food transportation. He also is considering switching from a hybrid to an electric car, and he pledged to deepen his diocese’s companion relationship with a diocese in the Philippines that involves a tree-planting ministry. Kansas Bishop Cathleen Bascom, who serves on General Convention’s [Task Force on Care of Creation & Environmental Racism](#), pledged to build on her long-time involvement in the cause of prairie restoration, and she is reducing her carbon footprint by choosing to live within walking distance of her new office after she was consecrated as bishop on March 2. [Her consecration itself](#) was a conduit for creation care advocacy. The Diocese of Kansas, at Bascom’s direction, distributed pledge forms to the hundreds of people who attended the consecration at Grace Cathedral in Topeka, even though it occurred before The Episcopal Church launched its online pledge form. Some of those attendees filled out the tear-off slip and turned it in the same day, and others have been sending them in a steady stream to the diocesan office for the past month. “People do think about this issue, and I think our particular spirituality has so much richness,” Bascom told ENS. “The Episcopal Church is such fertile ground for this movement.”

General Convention in 2015 [identified creation care](#) as one of the church's three top priorities, along with racial reconciliation and evangelism. In 2018, General Convention passed 19 environmental resolutions, including support for a national carbon tax, carbon offsets for church-related travel, ocean health and Episcopalians' continued participation in the Paris Agreement. Under Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the [church is emphasizing](#) its role in promoting a "loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with God" through creation care as part of the Jesus Movement.

The [online Pledge to Care for Creation](#) features three parts. Participants are asked to submit one example under "Loving" for sharing the love of God's creation, a second example

under "Liberating" for standing with people being harmed by environmental injustice, and a final example under "Life-Giving" of individual actions they intend to take. Some examples include changing eating habits, increasing use of renewable energy and sharing related information with one's congregation.

"We hope people understand this is more than adding your signature to a petition," the Rev. Melanie Mullen, director of reconciliation, justice and creation care, said in a press release announcing the campaign. "Pray with the pledge and the Reflection Guide during Lent. Think about what you love in God's Creation, where your heart breaks over environmental injustice, and how you'd like to simplify your life."



# APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Birthday! Charlie Menke	6
7 Sunday Service at 10:00am!	8	9	10	11 Birthday! Maddy Rodriguez	12	13
14 Sunday Service at 10:00am & Vestry Meeting!	15	16 Birthday! Carolyn Reynolds	17	18 Birthday! Lisa Bayh	19 Birthday! Cindy Kramer	20
21 Sunday Service at 10:00am!	22 Birthday! Sheila Dennis	23 Birthdays! Fr. Bob Merrill & Samuel Flukinger	24 Birthday! Mary Simpson	25 Birthday! Corbin Neuwirth	26	27
28 Sunday Service at 10:00am!	29	30				