Caring for Creation, for Feb. 2018 *Pilgrim*

Near the beginning of a new year it is appropriate to reflect upon how well we have fulfilled God's command to be stewards of the earth, e.g. Genesis 2:15, "The Lord God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to serve it and to guard and protect it." Clearly, many individuals may look back upon their significant accomplishments in this area.

However, when we look at our accomplishments as a nation we observe a significant negative trend.[[1]](#endnote-1) The most egregious of these is the decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. Although this is the position of our current federal administration, 389 Mayors (representing 68 million Americans) have committed to honor and uphold the goals of the agreement.[[2]](#endnote-2) Thus, the people of the United States must decide where we wish to stand: Do we believe the blatant lies told by the current administration or do we believe the scientific consensus, “We know that we can’t avoid the cataclysmic impacts of global warming by only focusing on achieving net zero carbon emission; we must also rapidly re-quester carbon”.[[3]](#endnote-3)

Therefore, a positive goal for 2018 could be for each and every citizen to clearly inform our elected officials of our desires. The issue may be simply stated, “Do we wish to support the short-term goals of a few wealthy individuals and, thereby, bequeath to our grandchildren an uninhabitable world, or do we wish to support the long-term goal of being good stewards of the earth?” Our system of governance allows us to influence this decision. Between now and early November we must decide and send a clear message to our elected officials. If you do not know who your elected representatives are, enter your address at the DuPage Country Election commission web page, and you will get a list of your federal, state, and local officials. The web page is <https://www.dupageco.org/Districtlookup>

1. M. Greshko, L. Parker, and B. C. Howard, *A Running List of How Trump in Changing the Environment*, Dec. 18, 2017, available at <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/03/how-trump-is-changing-science-environment/>, accessed Jan 2, 2018 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. *Cities adopt the Paris Climate Agreement goals*, Jun. 1, 2017, available at http:// www.climatemayors.org, accessed Jan 2, 2018. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. P., Hawken, *Drawdown: the most comprehensive plan even proposed to reverse global warming*, Penguin Books, New York, 2017, p. ix. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)