**CARING FOR CREATION**

**2016 Green Resolutions Update**

Earlier this year the Caring for Creation team asked church members to record their “green” resolutions on a tablecloth. We checked in with a few people to learn how they’re doing:

**I resolve to ride my bike to and from the train station for work one day a week in the spring and summer. I resolve to better insulate our attic. *Tom Eisenhart***

Status: We have added insulation to our attic and sealed it, which was one of my resolutions. It seems to have kept the upstairs of our house cool. The other was to ride to the train station for work. I've only done that once, but hope to get in a few more times now that it is getting cooler out.

**Use reusable shopping bags. *Virginia Hopley***

Status: I use reusable bags for grocery shopping every week. Any time we have plastic bags from other purchases, those are recycled. We also recycle and compost, which means we have very little garbage and waste each week.

**Water grass later in the afternoon. *Naomi Mark***

Status: We don't water our grass, but we do water our flower/herb garden each day in the late afternoon. This saves water, because less is lost to evaporation.

**Eat beef no more than 3 meals a week*. Judi Davenport***

Status: I am doing great!  And I don't miss it.

**No coffee pods! Put coffee grounds in soil. *Dan Swick***

Status: Using a recyclable filter in my coffee maker most of the time, and composting more.

**I will reduce my driving mileage by 10% a week. *Jan Hessler***

Status: I was on track to reduce mileage, therefore, gas consumption by 10%. However, in the middle of July we moved about two miles west to just north of Maple and west of Belmont. This apparently slight change has significantly increased the mileage needed to accomplish routine tasks and activities. To me, this is a stark example of the relatively high and hidden costs of suburban sprawl, which, apparently, is a big part of the American dream.

**Convert the rest of our lights bulbs (including Christmas bulbs) to LEDs, and walk/bike/carpool to church whenever feasible to help reduce our carbon footprint. *Sandy and Rich Toleikis***

Status: We made good on our New Year's "green" resolutions by converting all 18 of our halogen ceiling light bulbs to LEDs. We plan to convert our lamps’ bulbs - first the ones that don't require 3-way bulbs, and then will tackle those as LED 3-way technology improves. We also made efforts to walk and not drive to church to help reduce our carbon footprint. For much of June, July and August, we walked to the church with our new puppy Bella in tow, for the many meetings and work related to Building and Grounds projects (driveway, security, HVAC and landscaping).

**Find way to recycle old clothes and textiles. *Laurel Carlson***

Status: Goodwill accepts all textiles and either resells or recycles them. I’ve taken several bags of old clothing and linens. I’ve also found that Freecycle is a good way to recycle other unwanted household items. Most suburbs have an active group, and you may join multiple groups – see [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org).

The Caring for Creation web site has more green tips for you, including information on Styrofoam recycling and composting. Be sure to check out the monthly articles for tips on using leaf mulch, conserving water, and holiday recycling. You’ll find these tips and others at <http://uccdg-caring-for-creation.weebly.com/>