



## Green Note, August 24, 2026. Season of Creation Starts Soon

As summer winds down, the Green Parish Action Team (GPAT) is planning the Parish's celebration of the Season of Creation, which opens with the Feast of the Creator on September 1st and concludes on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th. The Season of Creation is a time of special devotion to God's acts in creation and our ministry of care of God's creation. Please mark your calendars and look for further announcements and sign-up sheets in the narthex for some activities. As in previous years, Heather Rankin will exhibit books for borrowing from the St Hilda's Library in the narthex—many thanks to Heather for giving us this opportunity again.

### Meditative walk

We are planning four meditative walks, organized and led by Bruce Pond ([millpondsailor@gmail.com](mailto:millpondsailor@gmail.com)). All will occur on Tuesdays; the first at 7PM (sunset is 7:42PM) so that employed people may take part; other walks will start at 2PM. Some of the locations are still tentative, so please watch for updates.

- **September 8th** Snickett Park at 7:00PM (the sea; wheel chair accessible)
- **September 15th** 2PM St Hilda's (land in our stewardship)
- **September 22nd** 2PM Botanical Gardens (accessible [coastbotanicalgarden.org/visit](https://coastbotanicalgarden.org/visit) (forest)
- **September 29th** 2PM Local farm,(local food production); still confirming location

### One Parish, One Book (Book Discussion)

Led by Carol Hartley ([cahartley2022@gmail.com](mailto:cahartley2022@gmail.com)); three Thursdays, **September 10th, 17th, 24th**, 10.00 to 11.30 in the Gathering Room.

The chosen book: *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2024).

Our economy, Kimmerer tells us, is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources—a system that actually harms what we love. By contrast, the serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth— its abundance of sweet, juicy berries—to meet the needs of its natural community. Kimmerer explains that serviceberries show us a model "based upon reciprocity, where wealth comes from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency." (NB other names for the serviceberry include saskatoonberry, shadbush, and juneberry. We have two serviceberry bushes on the Parish grounds, but they are hard to find, partly because of invasive ivy).

Please consider joining the discussion, even if you aren't planning to read the book. The Serviceberry is only 112 pages long and includes quite a few drawings; we hope people won't find the actual reading (or listening) too challenging. We are hoping to have one copy available to borrow from the Church Library. Sechelt Public Library has paper and ebook versions; you might need to recall a copy, though, by putting a hold on it. The book in paper (hardcover only) is available to buy through Talewinds for \$25.00. They have copies in stock now, or can order new copies which takes a week or less, they say. Because the book is only fairly recently published, there are not lots of used copies around, but you could check out your favourite used book outlet, such as Abebooks (<https://www.abebooks.com/canada/>) or thrift books <https://www.thriftbooks.com/> . You can hear Kimmerer read her book by borrowing the audio version from Audible (<https://www.audible.ca/>) or order an e book from an online provider such as [ebooks.com](https://ebooks.com)

**Your Resilient Neighbourhood Begins at Home: a Practical Introduction:** Saturday, **September 12th** 4-6 PM, Gathering Room

Nicole Hartley Bradford (nicolebradford110@gmail.com) invites you to move past anxiety into action with experiments to do according to what is relevant and valuable to you, such as:

- experiments for better getting to know your friends, family, neighbours and local food-growers the people you will have and want closest if/when challenges with systemic infrastructure escalate;
- experiments to develop your in-house pantry, for when food accessibility and/or availability decline;
- experiments to plan or expand local food gardens;;
- other experiments for safeguarding and enhancing your food, water and relational security

For more information, and to register:

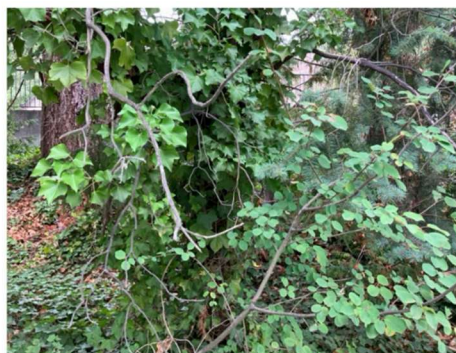


**Restoring the Grounds**, Saturday **September 19th** (*September 26th as alternative in case of rain*) This gardening opportunity (facilitated by Christine Pawley {cpawley@wisc.edu}) has three components:

- clearing invasive ivy (wear sturdy shoes and bring tools, such as clippers, loppers, handsaws, work gloves, green waste paper bags, also need loan of pickup, if possible for transporting green waste);
- planting clumps of miniature daffodils (hardy, love rocks, deer resistant) in the circles near the Anniversary Tree and around the Peace Post (no digging required; GPAT provides bulbs, dirt and bulb food; bring work gloves and trowel). Great activity for children! We hope the bulbs will flower next spring around Earth Day, bringing joy and encouragement to us all.
- staffing a water station to refresh the workers; donations of refreshments very welcome



Miniature daffodils will brighten these beds next spring



Serviceberry choked with ivy; please come and help it to breathe

**Blessing the bulbs Sunday**, Sunday **September 13th**, weather permitting, we will hold the 10.00 AM service outside on the Labyrinth. The service will include a blessing of the bulbs we plan to plant. GPAT will provide daffodil bulbs, but feel free to donate some if you wish (dwarf/miniature varieties such as Tête-à-Tête or Jetfire only, for hardiness and ease of planting). Please also bring along bulbs for blessing that you are going to plant in your own garden.

**Potluck with Vegetarian Focus** Sunday **September 20th** after church. Eating less meat is a great way to reduce our personal carbon footprint. Please bring non-meat dishes to share.

**Planning for Earth Day**, Sunday, **September 27th** 11.30-12.30 in the sanctuary GPAT invites everyone to help plan how we will celebrate Earth Day in 2027 (April 22nd). Please bring your ideas and tell us your preferences.

### **Blessing the animals**

St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment. We will follow the tradition of blessing of animals (pets of all kinds, or pictures of pets). The blessings will be on the labyrinth so people can leave their “frisky” pets either in their car or run home to bring them back. NO GUARANTEES that pets will be more obedient after their blessing!

In the next few days and weeks, we will be making announcements with further details. In the meantime, please feel free to get in touch with GPAT members if you have questions. We're very excited about these activities, and look forward to sharing them with you.

Thank you, as always, for your continuing support and concern for our natural world,  
Christine.

