

## ECO Team



The mission of the ECO Team is to make a difference with the First Presbyterian Faith community and beyond, 1) by transforming attitudes and commitments, and 2) by embracing individual and corporate participation in actions that reduce human ecological impact on the earth and contribute to justice for people affected by ecological degradation.

The ECO Team meets six times during the year on the second Saturday of the month, to be in fellowship over pot-luck suppers and to discuss future ways to implement our mission. The group is responsible for making recommendations to the session, the governing body of FPC.

**Planned meeting dates are:** March 12 at Barry Nason's home. May 14 at Gaye and Tom Groene's home, July 9 at Dee and Skeeter Link's home, Sept. 10 at Carroll and Ron Tucker's home, and November 12, Sue and Rich Given's home. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex before each meeting.

## Emphasis on Education

### Adult Sunday School Class

**January - Providing education regarding water issues in Kansas**

**February 6 Tom Sloan, Kansas State Representative, 45th District.**

**Explore issues and ideas with regard to the proposed coal plant, reservoirs and water sources.**

**What can our congregation do to implement change with regard to water?**

**Come join us and learn what all of us can do!**

### **What can I do to conserve water in my house?**

- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or washing hands.
- Wash dishes using a sink of water instead of running the water while you wash.
- Take shorter showers. Or take a shower instead of a bath.
- Water lawns during the cooler times of the day.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
- When you wait for water to get hot out of the tap, run the water into a container and use that water to water plants.



- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet to get a cold drink.
- Fix any leaks around the house. Dripping faucets can waste up to 2000 gallons of water per year in the average home and leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.
- Spread the word about water conservation.

(Left is a photo of FPC members after receiving instruction from the city on how to build rain barrels for home use.)

### **What can I do to conserve water outside?**

- Mulch plants to help retain moisture.
- Install a drip irrigation system to water shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardens.
- Install a rain sensor to stop an auto-

matic sprinkler system when it rains.

- Sweep your sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them.
- Use plants native to your climate, which require less watering.
- Raise the blade on your lawn mower. Closely cropped grass requires more water.
- Place rain barrels beneath your downspouts.

## **Accomplishments**

- An Eco-Trek at the KU Field Station to explore the fauna and guided by Stan Roth on September 26. This is slated to become an annual event.
- Creation of a mission statement and logo and a “document notebook” for the team.
- Reviewed the energy usage of the Church and encouraged the Trustees to install motion sensors for lighting beginning with the restrooms, an ongoing project.
- Placed recycle collection containers throughout the Church and transported contents to recycle centers, an ongoing activity.
- Actively raised concerns for the damage to the environment by addition of a proposed coal-fired electric plant in western Kansas.
- Decorated an Eco-tree to celebrate Christmas. This will become an annual event.

### **Current team members include:**

Sven Alstrom, Rich and Sue Givens, Gaye and Tom Groene, Thad Holcombe and Linda Watts, Dave and Carol Kyner, Dee and Forest Link, Barry Nason, Stan and Jan Roth, and Ron and Caroll Tucker.

Any member or friend of FPC is welcome to join the ECO Team for fun, meals together, and planning for helping our congregation and church to care for God’s creation.

