



Green Notes: What a Party ... and What's Next?

Wow! Wasn't that fun? Three cheers for everyone who joined in last Sunday's chili dog extravaganza after church! What a wonderful way to celebrate the successful completion of our solar panel project.

Many thanks to all who helped prepare the food, set up tables and chairs, and who came outside to enjoy the beautiful fall afternoon on First Church's front lawn. And an extra thank you to Ralph Walters, general manager of SBS Solar, who joined us for the event – and to Araya Decker of Miss Zoola's Ice Cream, who drove her classic ice cream truck all the way from Bonner to provide treats. (Did you know Decker's little truck once did duty at Devils Tower National Park in Wyoming?!)

Of course, the obvious question now is: What next?

The Green Team started that brainstorming process at a meeting Wednesday afternoon. But we'd also like to hear any suggestions that you might have. If you have ideas for earth-friendly projects we can take on as a congregation, please email Carole Addis at cjeanaddis51@gmail.com.

In the meantime, Green Team member Kathie Snodgrass is working to complete an application to have First Church designated as a "Cool Congregation" by Interfaith Power & Light – which recognizes congregations that cut their energy use by at least 20 percent, and helps them make the changes necessary to increase that percentage.

The Green Team also has the go-ahead from First Church's Board of Trustees to assess the lighting in every room of our building and recommend any necessary energy-efficiency upgrades. We could use your help in that effort. Let us know if you're interested!

And we're looking to join forces with other First Church groups – possibly the Youth Group and/or United Women of Faith. There are so many possible projects out there: greater use of composting and recycling, more education about our solar power generation, Sunday morning carpools ...

Let's build on the energy and determination that brought solar panels to First Church's rooftop in eight short months. Help us come up with the next big project – or two or three – and then let's all get to work!