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# NETWORKING

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## Creation Celebration

By Selina H. Hathaway

Creation Celebration has been an April event at St. Pauls, Summerville, S.C., since 1995. Under the umbrella of the Stewardship Commission, the outdoor worship and trashless picnic as well as the environmental games and crafts were planned by the laity to promote fellowship, thanksgiving and awareness of our Christian responsibility. The date was chosen with Earth or Rogation Days in mind.

A study of Psalm 104 had created an awareness of the majestic and splendid gift that the Lord had given when He created the earth. As the psalmist wrote:

How many are your works, O lord!  
In wisdom you made them all;  
The earth is full of your creatures.  
-Psalm 104:24

The Stewards of the Earth wanted to magnify that awareness of the environment with reverence and fellowship, and Creation Celebration was begun.

Worship and Parish Life Commissions were also involved. The Worship Commission moved the 11:15 a.m. service out onto the church grounds. Members dressed casually and brought their own chairs or quilts. The outdoor Eucharist included Eucharistic Prayer C: *At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.* (BCP page 369.) Hymns and sermons expanded the theme.

Parish Life Commission invited members to bring family picnics, and awards were given for the best examples of being trashless: no foil or plastic wrap and no disposable napkins, plates, cups or utensils. The commission served ice cream cones, a dessert requiring no utensils. By 1998 the meal plan had evolved into a covered dish dinner in order to foster a community spirit.

Varied activities followed the common meal. The children rotated among the stations to play games featuring recyclable items. A few were Can Stomp Relay

using aluminum cans and Jug Legs Relay using plastic milk jugs, Jousting with boxing gloves fashioned from plastic grocery bags, and Bowling with 2 liter soda bottles as pins. The final game, Recycle Bin Relay, used all recyclables before they were bagged for the local recycling effort.

Games were only one part of the recreation. Other events included face and rock painting, story telling and parachute fun. Church flower beds received new planting by willing members. Prizes were provided by the local county environmental office. In 1999 the Celebration Creations theme was The Earth is the Lords from Psalm 24. Members of the congregation were asked to collect and bring bags of roadside litter to add to Mount Trashnomore, which is sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. Those who contributed trash-filled bags were given a collection of items which had Christian or earthly symbolism, such as a strawberry (fruits of the earth) and a nut (fertility,) animal crackers and candies, a chocolate earth ball and a book-mark with Psalm 24. More than 50 persons signed a pledge to leave a community area more clean than they found it.

Popular new activities were added: a ride on a mini-tractor, blue grass music, Gytaku (fish prints) and paper-making. There was an opportunity to design novelty photo mats using shells, dried flowers, etc. Children planted a daisy seed (God's eye) and marked the seed with a quote from scripture.

Plans for 2000 may involve celebration of the people in our church, especially artists. St. Pauls recognizes that we have cause for celebration!

*Selina Hathaway is a member at St. Pauls in Summerville, South Carolina. In her service as Vestry Link to the Stewardship Commission she has nurtured the growth of the Creation Celebration into an event that is both purposeful and fun.*

## **GAMES FOR CREATION CELEBRATION**

### **CAN STOMP RELAY**

Divide participants into equal teams.

Line teams up at one end of the yard.

At the other end, place a bag of uncrushed soft drink cans and an empty bag.

At "GO", the first person from each team runs down to the other end of the yard, gets a can out of the bag, stomps it, puts it in the empty bag, runs back to his team, and goes to the end of the line.

The race is over when everyone has had a chance to run with the jug.

The team that finishes first is the winner.

In case of rain, this game is canceled.

### **JUG LEGS RELAY RACE**

Divide participants into equal teams.

Line teams up at one end of the yard.

Give the first person in line on each team a milk jug.

At "GO", the first person from each team puts the jug between his legs, runs with it to the other end of the yard, carries the jug back to the next person on the team, and goes to the end of the line. Note: Station a person at the turn-around point to make sure everyone crosses the line.

The race is over when everyone has had a chance to run with the jug.

The team that finishes first is the winner.

In case of rain, this game will take place in the Christian Ed wing hallway.

### WATER CARRY RELAY RACE

Divide participants into equal teams.

Line teams up at one end of the yard.

Give the first person in line on each team a "cup" made from a milk jug.

At "GO", the first person runs to the other end of the yard where there is a large container of water, fills his cup, runs back to his team, pours the water into a team bucket, gives the cup to the next person in line, and goes to the end of the line.

The race is over when everyone has had a chance to run with the jug.

The team that finishes first is the winner.

In case of rain, this game will take place in the main hall of Skardon.

### JOUSTING

Two players of equal size and strength stand on the log.

Each is given a plastic grocery bag stuffed with more bags.

Object is the knock the other person off the log first.

Game is over when one person falls off the log.

In case of rain, this game will be held in the lobby of Skardon hall.

### BOWLING

"Pins" are plastic 2 liter soda bottles filled with water. The amount of water may be increased or decreased for more or less difficulty.

Player is given a ball and three chances to knock down all the pins.

Distance of player from the pins may be varied according to the age and skill of the player.

In case of rain, this game will be played in the Administration wing of Skardon hall.

### JUG TOSS

Ten to twenty people can play at the same time. Each player has a partner, and every player is given a "scoop" made from a plastic gallon milk jug.

To begin, form two parallel lines with partners facing each other about a foot apart.

One partner from each team is given a ball.

At the command "TOSS", each partner with the ball tosses it to his partner who

must catch it in the scoop.

Then all players step back a foot, and the "Toss" is repeated.

Continue until there is just one pair of players left.

In case of rain, this game will be played in the main hall of Skardon.

#### RECYCLE BIN RELAY RACE

Divide participants into equal teams.

Line teams up at one end of the yard.

At "GO", the first person in line from each team runs down to the other end of the yard,

picks up a recyclable (cans, cups, jugs from other races), puts it in a team bag, and goes to the end of the line.

The race is over when everyone has had a chance to run.

The team that finishes first is the winner.

In case of rain, this game will take place in Skardon's main hall.

#### FACE PAINTING

Children can choose from a variety of creatures of the earth.

In case of rain, this will take place on the stage of Skardon Hall.

#### PLANTING FLOWERS IN THE TWO BEDS NEAR THE CHURCH

In case of rain, this will take place at a later time.

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