

GOAT Noat for September 2017

One Water Partnership (OWP) is a program sponsored by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) to work with congregations in the Jones Falls watershed to cultivate a strong faith-based commitment to pollution reduction and water management. Homewood has joined OWP and has been selected to be one of 15 cohort congregations that will receive a \$1,000 grant and grant writing assistance to fund activities, enhancements, and programs to “green” our Meeting and benefit the health of the Jones Falls watershed. So far, GOAT has hosted a spiritual nature walk in April, completed a congregation self-assessment in May, and participated in visioning workshops for OWP congregations in June and July. After a hiatus in August, we will be bringing proposals to the Meeting in September and October. House and Grounds has already started a garden of fruit trees and flowering plants on the side yard. GOAT hopes to design and install additional water conserving landscaping in that area with the possible addition of one or two rain barrel to further reduce water runoff from the roof. Learn more about OWP at www.interfaithchesapeake.org/one_water_partnership.

What’s in a Name? While the image of a goat is appealing because of the animal’s connection to the health of the environment (not to mention being slightly amusing), many people don’t understand what GOAT stands for. With an eye toward being more audience friendly and meaningful to the Meeting and as the ad hoc group becomes a Meeting Committee we are testing an idea that the name of the group become known as **Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)**. This name seems to describe the group better to the Meeting and address the trend of congregations to have **Green Teams**, while retaining the option to use an image to identify the group. What do you think? Let us know!

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