**Have a Sustainable Christmas:**

**What was Once Old is New Again**

**In December of 2011 and 2012, the Green Team at Unity Church of Park sponsored an exchange of holiday items called, “What was Once Old is New Again.”**

**The idea is simple. Anytime during the first two weeks of December, congregants were invited to donate Christmas cards, ornaments, Christmas lights, decorations wrapping paper and other holiday items they no longer want to the exchange. An area in our community room was designated where people could leave items anytime during the week, including before Sunday services.**

**We began advertising the program in our Sunday bulletin and on the church webpage the last week of November through the last Sunday items were available for exchange.**

**For the first two consecutive weeks in December, members of the Green Team arranged the items for display on two, eight foot tables, prior to the first Sunday service. The items were left on display and available for adoption after both Sunday services, with representatives of the Green Team on hand to answer questions or help box items. There was no cost to take an item, although a love offering box was placed on the table. While there definitely were some abuses, most people were discreet by only taking one or two items.**

**After the second service, items were put in a storage area until the following Sunday. Each week, members of the Green Team set up and dismantled the display tables.**

**This has been our most popular activity the past two years and many, many items have found new homes. Last year we even had to extend the event an additional week due to popular demand.**

**This activity, which can be applied to many themes, is a great way to save time, money and reduce waste while giving new life to objects no longer needed by their current owner.**

**Left over items were donated to the Salvation Army.**

**For more information, contact Mike at 913.907.4061.**

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