

"Everything that is in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, is penetrated with connectedness, is penetrated with relatedness." Hildegard of Bingen said that nearly 1,000 years ago. But it still rings true in the hearts and minds of many in the Diocese of Alabama. If it rings true with you and you are interested in helping to further that connectedness, please consider joining the Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation as a liaison for your parish.

The mission of the task force is "to educate the people of the diocese, to advocate for wise and just environmental policy, and to provide opportunities for service in the stewardship of earth." This mission was supported at the 2005 Diocesan convention with the passing of Resolution #7, the Millennium Development Goals Resolution, which is to: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental stability; and develop a global partnership for development.

As a liaison, you would be a vital connection between this task force and your local parish. You could help everyone in your parish to remain mindful of stewardship of earth. You could help your Parish save money and the earth by helping to conduct an energy audit and discovering where small changes could conserve energy and reduce energy costs. You could use the Province IV Bishops' Pastoral Letter CD-Rom that was shown by Bishop Andrus at this year's Diocesan Convention and the accompanying leaders guide to conduct a short series adult Christian Education program. You could also help your parish to understand the Millennium Development Goals Resolution and point them toward Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation.

To help you gain the skills and information to do all these things, you will be able to participate in a weekend retreat in October at Wonderful Camp McDowell. While there, we will have liaison orientation, environmental education opportunities, and of course time for fellowship. October is a great time of year at Camp McDowell and should lend itself well to our gathering.

A letter from Bishop Andrus will be going to all parishes, but if any or all of this sounds like something that you would like to be a part of, please get in touch with Michael Churchman at [mjchurchman@hotmail.com](mailto:mjchurchman@hotmail.com), 205-999-5328, or The Rev. Deacon Gerri Aston at [gerriaston@charter.net](mailto:gerriaston@charter.net), 205-879-8390 to discuss further what it means to be a liaison. If you are not interested yourself, please encourage someone from your parish to become the liaison.