

Serving and Growing - Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation
By: Sam Robertson and Michael Churchman

Imagine a tree. Its roots are in the soil of our God-created planet Earth. The trunk is our church. The limbs are the members of the Diocesan *Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation*. The branches are the liaisons to the *Task Force*. Liaisons connect the limbs to the leaves - church leaders and the people in the pews. Liaisons are the Task Force's connection to the people of their Parishes. Would you like to be a liaison for your Parish?

Task Force Liaisons from 14 Parishes attended the first Diocesan *Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation* weekend retreat and workshop in October 2005 at Camp McDowell. It was inspiring and informative. By year's end 39 churches were represented with liaisons.

Your Task Force's educational booth at the 175th Annual Diocesan Convention in Florence was fun and informative, well visited and yielded additional liaisons, now close to 50. The Task Force is seeking liaisons in the remaining 50 Parishes in the Diocese. Would you like to be one?

Also at Convention, Bishop Andrus, the initial visionary for our Task Force, presented a "teaching" on The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These are embraced by the national church and by nations around the world with the primary objective of reducing extreme poverty. Environmental sustainability is one of the MDGs we can impact by simple lifestyle changes like recycling and curtailing consumption.

The *Task Force* is committed to helping liaisons live into a "Way of Life" dedicated to the Care of Creation. This "Way of Life" will be the focus at this year's retreat at Camp McDowell, September 15-17th. We will offer the refreshment and the information that will equip you to live into a "Way of Life." We will discuss ways to incorporate earth connections daily through prayer and meditation, ways to connect to the outdoors on a regular basis, and ways to incorporate the care of creation into your parish's liturgy. At this retreat, we will participate in a liturgy of commitment to this "Way of Life," or covenant.

You can visit our website, www.stewardsforcreation.org, for more information. Or contact our Liaison Coordinator Michael Churchman at mjchurchman@hotmail.com.