

**ATTENDANCE:** Bishop Mark Andrus, Gerri Aston, Michael Churchman, Roger Conville, Eleanor DelBene, Mark Johnston, Freya Neely, Sam Robertson, and Charles Scribner.

**Gathering Time:** Eleanor DelBene showed and mentioned a recent cover story in TIME magazine entitled \_\_\_\_ about global warming.

Charles Scribner mentioned a recent special aired on the National Geographic Channel about islands in the Southern Pacific being affected by rising ocean levels attributed to global warming.

Freya Neely indicated her frustration with the lack of recycling at church sponsored functions, and how that seems to be contradictory to the message of the church. Many agreed that it shows apathy on the part of society as well.

**OPENING REFLECTION:** Eleanor read a poem from Earth Prayers entitled, “We join with the Earth and with each other.” She asked each of us to reflect on what in the poem speaks to us currently. A number of personal reflections included: the thought of how Europe seems more one with the earth with no cars and such; we need to be sure to instill earth connections with our children; in order to join with the Earth, we must join with each other; remembering our companion relationship with Haiti and all the soil depletion and de-forestation going on there; to join the Earth takes self-discipline; Societal consumerism is out of control and contradicts being one with the earth or each other; sometimes it is not very hard to do the little things of recycling.

As an end result of our discussion, Eleanor asked Freya if she would consider identifying 1 thing a week(or so) that we can do to recycle or be mindful of our actions and we will email it to the task force members and Liaisons.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Freya reported that she is still working to identify the procedures for requisitions and remittance, and found there is a form for both. She also noted that we have \$4,156.83 in acct. # 240250-0. She also reported that we have spent \$422.10 of our acct. #636106, our budgeted account for 2006. It was also pointed out that it is possible to carryover money from one year to the next if it is not all spent. We all need to make sure any money goes through this account.

**MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:** only correction was the date on Decembers minutes, still has October as well and will be corrected. No additional corrections.

**CAPITAL FUNDS CAMPAIGN:** Wording was suggested at our last meeting to include in the language of the Capital Funds campaign, but was not used in the final version. Rob Morpeth is looking for architects who are aware of “green building practices” that may be a resource for building projects. Eleanor suggested Jack Allen ( grandson of John Allen – past presiding Bishop) as a possibility from Architectural Works. He is going to speak to the Council Committee to expose them to green building ideas. It was recommended that “green building practices” may be a great future Apostle article topic and Architectural Works agreed to help and support and review the article. Several others mentioned examples of local green buildings in the Birmingham area. Charles Scribner pointed out how at Alabama Rivers Alliance, it was mentioned that it is no longer just environmentally beneficial but now also economically beneficial, as well. Sam Robertson added that a recent powerpoint presentation he did has source information from Seattle, WA had data that supports the economical benefit.

**LIAISONS:** Susan Cleage has agreed to help make phone calls to Liaisons. Elizabeth Lindsey is also willing to help. Discussion about how to communicate to the Liaisons started and continued with the question of what is the job of the Liaison. Someone pointed out how it would be great to communicate, for instance, that 8 parishes have conducted already, or have plans to conduct, an energy audit. Sam was asked to do an article illustrating where we have Liaisons and what their task is. As a second article, Freya was asked if she could put together information as an example of an energy audit and other task force related activities at Nativity and where to find information on the website.

Sam asked if we could create a “job description” for liaisons? An example of a task would be to let us know quarterly what they are doing in their parish. Discussion continued and developed into creating a covenant or rule of life. This evolved into a “way of life,” which refers to how care of creation ideas can be incorporated into everyday life. It may relate how a group of people in a parish or community could work together to accomplish care of creation goals. Eleanor asked if Michael, Sam, Elizabeth, and Susan could get together to help develop this covenant or commitment to a way of life. This may turn into a commission for our Liaisons. Michael & Sam to set the meeting and invite anyone affiliated with the Task Force.

A Yahoo Group has been started. Go to [www.groups.yahoo.com](http://www.groups.yahoo.com), and search for stewardsforcreation as a group name and follow instructions to join. This can be a great forum for discussion, without overwhelming people’s email accounts. It was agreed that it was OK for any parishioner to join, not just limited to Liaisons. An example of something to send out would be the idea of entering “remember our Watershed,” in the Prayers of the People.

**APOSTLE ARTICLES:** It was recommended that “green building practices” might be a great future article topic.

Freya was asked if she could put together information as an example of an energy audit at Nativity for an article in the Apostle.

Roger mentioned the idea of writing an article on Biosphere.

Freya mentioned how helpful it is to have articles on realistic things that people can do. Maybe a small "Green Tip" of the month. Eleanor asked Freya if she would send one out to the task force and it be forwarded to the Liaisons.

Bishop Andrus mentioned the idea of writing an article on the Gwich'In Indian Nation and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This Indian nation in Alaska has been leading the charge to protect ANWR and is mostly Episcopalian.

Michael mentioned an article about websites and other opportunities pursued through Task Force work like EPPN and other Episcopal Care of Creation sources.

**BISHOP ANDRUS:** Tizaa brothers will be sharing at this year's clergy conference May 17-19 and staying through 19-20<sup>th</sup> for a youth pilgrimage.

There have been many people using Creation forms

**Convention 2006:** Theme is Prayer.

The two top positive responses from participants at this year's convention were information on Haiti and MDGs.

There were many great responses to our booth. We were able to identify 8-10 new liaisons. Next year's convention will be in Tuscaloosa.

Bishop Andrus and Randy Haddock lead a session on the MDGs, River watersheds, and Mussells.

Freya shared information about recycling at convention. She is creating a report that is about planning and implementing recycling at convention or another similar venue. Eleanor also made notes about the convention for future planning.

**Other:**

**Alabama Rivers Alliance** led a watershed leadership conference, which was a great opportunity to learn about watershed ecology. They do a great job, training trainers. If anyone has a chance to attend, they should take that opportunity. Next year's conference will be at Camp McDowell.

**ADEM Reform Coalition** (ARC) focus is enforcement and environmental justice. It has a structure including committees working in a number of different areas. Only groups can join, but people in the groups attend and participate. Task Force may consider joining, which would allow members to become active in ARC, and also set an example to other groups about joining.

- Motion was made by Michael, seconded by Sam, to have the Task Force Join ARC, after further discussion about its appropriateness. If not appropriate, we can at least promote its potential impact.

Please talk to others about our interest in **building the chapel at Camp McDowell as green** as possible. Stay in touch and be aware of timing and when we need to promote green building.

Mark Johnston invited anyone to the **Environmental Commission** meeting in Montgomery on April 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10AM.

**Catechism of Creation** was mentioned as a great document and resource. Presentations can be adjusted for different audiences. Dr. Snyder has many articles about Catechism.

**Upcoming meeting dates**

We set **Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 11 PM - 2 PM** as our next meeting date, at Carpenter.

Task Force Retreat and Workshop is **September 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2006** at Camp McDowell.

For our closing prayer, we gathered in a circle. Eleanor invited everyone to a moment of silence, and then to comment on our time together.