

ATTENDANCE: Deacon Gerri Aston, Michael Churchman, Eleanor DelBene, Rosine Hall, Rev. Bill King, Freya Neely, Sam Robertson, and Charles Scribner.

OPENING REFLECTION: Eleanor read a prayer from the Task Force prayer card and asked everyone to reflect on what symbol they had brought to the meeting to remind them of our work. Items shared included: a logo of Black Warrior Riverkeeper as a reminder of personal work sharing and growing; a symbol of the Cosmic Walk that represents a number of groups of involvement; a rock from last year's retreat and a Lego from a child to remind us of how these items symbolize a way of life; a certificate from the Nat'l Wildlife Federation designation; the encouragement that comes from being involved in this work with this group of people; 2 environmental books on preaching creation and preventing global warming that remind us of importance of task force work; a computer "jump-drive" that contains the website, lectures, books, reports and all things important to environmental work. Eleanor closed with a thanksgiving from the prayer card.

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING: only correction was that acct. # 240250 had \$4,153.63 in April. No additional corrections. Send updated versions to Rosine to add to the website.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Freya reported that there is a form to complete for reimbursement to be sent to her, and then forwarded to Denise for Rev. Bill King to approve and submit. She also has worked on developing fiscal policies and shared some of the details. She also noted that we have \$4,156.63 in acct. # 240250. She also reported that we have \$1,401.88 of our acct. #636106, our budgeted account for 2006. It was also discussed that it is possible to carry over money from one year to the next if it is designated before the end of the year. We all need to make sure any money goes through this account.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESENTATION ON GREEN BUILDING: Eleanor shared that a presentation was made to Diocesan Council on green building and discussion was to pursue this practice. An outcome was that Carpenter House needs A/C and/or heat worked on, but rather than proceed, discussed the need to actually back up and do an energy audit of the Diocesan office. A non-profit, Southface, had been contacted about helping through that process.

TASK FORCE RETREAT PLANNING: A sub-committee to the Task Force had been formed to plan the retreat. The focus will be on the "Way of Life" and the development of a covenant for us all to participate in. Retreat will be September 15-17 at Camp McDowell, with the "Way of Life" as a central theme. Again this year, we will use the mission statement's 3 main goals of education, advocacy, and service as the framework for the retreat. Jack Allin and Cindy Coyle from ArchitectureWorks will make a presentation on green and sustainable building, Lynne Berry, member of Nativity in Huntsville, from the Nature Conservancy and Jymalyn Redmond from the Five Mile Creek clean-up will discuss advocacy, and Maggie Johnston and staff from the Environmental Center will join us and share info about the center as well as show us some of what they do. We will also have the Cosmic Walk followed by a night hike on Friday night and a time for sharing stories of local advocacy and visioning for the future on Saturday night. Sam will coordinate displaying materials brought by participants. A high point of the weekend will be participating in a Creation Liturgy created for this weekend including a covenant to the Way of Life. Eleanor is also working on a brochure to guide us through the weekend and in local congregations to commit to the covenant. The retreat is open to any Episcopalian interested.

LUNCH WITH BILL KING: Rev. Bill King, Congregational Development Deputy, has volunteered to be our staff member from the Diocese. He shared some of his perspectives. He sees that green building is a Charge of Creation Task Force. He shared how 2 local congregations received grants from outreach, this year, for the purpose of community vegetable gardens. The gardens our churches possess are of great wealth and could be spoken of more often. He shared some preliminary planning for the newest parish to

be started, which is in Chelsea. There is a parcel of 20 acres that was donated 20 years ago that will be developed. The Mayor of Chelsea wants to see this as an example for other churches, communities, and homes. So, green building would be a natural. Probably will sell 12 acres to pay for the development of the remaining 8 acres where the church will be, hopefully starting out with a building. It along with other projects like chapel at Camp McDowell can be great opportunities to share building green, environmentally friendly, as well as developing the land around in a sustainable way.

If we send an eco-hint a month to Bill King by the 20th, he can have it put on the "blue-sheet" which goes to clergy, spouses, wardens, and others around the Diocese.

WEBSITE: Rosine has updated the website. www.stewardsforcreation.org She moved the layout in a few ways, added some descriptions, and has a number of areas of opportunity. Send her info and she will add it to the website. Ideas may be for Eco-tips, meditations, and other hot-topics we want to highlight.

APOSTLE ARTICLES: Possible articles discussed were: Wildlife Habitat certification possibility for churches and homes from the National Wildlife Federation, written by Sam Robertson; Diocesan office Energy Audit for Dec/Jan; Playgrounds not parking lots; documentation of all the gardens of the Diocese; a recap of the Retreat written by October 1st by Michael; an article on the Advent program by GIPL for September 1st written by Sam Robertson.

CONVENTION 2007: Theme is Prayer and will be held in Tuscaloosa in February. It will be located in the Black Warrior River watershed, which should be highlighted. Will we coordinate recycling? Possible topics to highlight include: Care of Creation Covenant & Liturgy; sustainable building; and Millennium Development Goals. The two top positive responses from participants at this year's convention were information on Haiti and MDGs. Gerri will possibly be able to put together some type of poster board showing how environmental sustainability ties into other MDG's.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP: Task Force members need to record their starting date in the minutes. Typical tenure is 3 years, but as this was the first 3 years of existence, members may be able to stay on for 1, 2, or 3 additional years. Eleanor agreed to chair through September 2007.

OTHER:

BISHOP ANDRUS: We need to look into and decide on an appropriate gift for Marc from the Task Force.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

We set **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 11 AM - 2:30 PM** as our next meeting date, in the Upper Room at Carpenter House.

Care of Creation Retreat - September 15-17, 2007

Jonathan Daniels & Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage - August 12

November 2006 - Mary Evelyn Tucker at Sewanee EpEN meeting

Earth Day 2007

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.