

## TASK FORCE FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

JULY 18, 2005 – CARPENTER HOUSE 11AM-3PM

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Attendance: Bishop Andrus, Robyn Arnold, Gerri Aston, Michael Churchman, Roger Conville, Eleanor DelBene, Mark Johnston, and Freya Neely.

**UPDATE ON TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP:** Rick Oates left the Diocese with those who left the church of the Ascension, Montgomery; Cameron Vowell has not been to any meetings and withdrew from the Task Force; Jack Alvey, Matt Crowe and Mary London Lehman withdrew from the Task Force. Michael Churchman was introduced as a member of the Task Force, and will continue to coordinate the liaisons. Mark Johnston has some ideas for young people for the Task Force. He will forward those names to Eleanor.

**MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:** no corrections

**OPENING REFLECTION:** Eleanor read the Task Force Mission Statement and invited members to reflect for a few minutes on ways one of these three focuses is reflected in our life and ministry. Some responses included: CD for Sunday school study; Recycling; Campus ministry project; scientific study to benefit creation; Working in the dirt; Continued Task Force work and progress. **Concluded with prayer.** It was later suggested that this Mission Statement reflection be used as an opening prayer **to introduce ourselves to each other at Camp McDowell** – by sharing ways we are already living the Ministry of the Task Force.

### CD UPDATE

Bishop Andrus discussed the CD at Kanuga for Province IV bishops' meeting, and in Nottingham, England, during worldwide Anglican Consultation – Bishop of Louisiana is Province IV Bishops' Synod President, and he asked for all the copies Mark could give him of the CD. Province IV is the largest province. The synod meeting is held every spring. Convention delegates attend as well.

Interest in the CD: Four dioceses have requested CDs. CD/Study Guide at St. Andrew's is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> week – small group but going well. Eleanor DelBene is meeting with Andrew Whitehurst in Mississippi about a workshop on 9/10. Elizabeth Lindsley would like another copy at Grace, Woodlawn. Eleanor will send her a copy. Eleanor talked with Jeff Ross-Bain in Atlanta. They may include the CD in a program at All Saints' after the first of the year. Eleanor will contact Carol Barnett. Pat Byington would like a copy to review for BENNOTES. Eleanor will send the new version when it is available. There are a few orders from outside the southeast.

Robyn Arnold, discussing an updated version, reported that Nancy Boutwell has had a challenging time getting the music and voice on in a balanced way. It's more than a home-PC version, but not a business version, and it's hard to find someone who can do that.

**Apostle articles** –Gerri is coordinating articles for the Apostle. Michael wrote an article about Liaisons. Roger has one for the upcoming issue.

Bishop Andrus suggested an Apostle article on who is using the Study Guide in their congregation. Possibilities include: Frank Young, Jeff Ross-Bain or someone in Atlanta, Andrew Whitehurst in Mississippi, Gerri at St. Andrews, etc. This article might move up to the next issue. Robyn's article related to consumerism would be appropriate for the holidays, with more from Roger in between or later. Bishop Andrus suggested reviewing Catechism of Creation for an Apostle article. It is lengthy, but is available online. Robyn suggested we write for a copy. Need to check on dates for deadlines for upcoming issues. Norma McKittrick, 979-2680, requests 400 words, plus logo and photo. She would like articles ahead of schedule so we always have something ready to go.

Episcopal Life had a cover page article on "Greening the Church."

**Web page** – Rosine was not with us to share about the web page.

**Treasurer's report** – Freya was able to get information from Rob Morpeth when she came today. We have monies from various sources and a good balance: \$4,156.53.

**Election of a new secretary** –We thanked Robyn for her work as secretary, and her labor-intensive work with the CD. Bishop Andrus asked her to share with us her plans for seminary. She will be going to CDSP and we hope she will continue to stay connected with the Task Force. Michael agreed to serve as secretary and was affirmed by acclamation.

### Camp McDowell October 21-22, 2005

Chairpersons – Eleanor, Gerri, Michael, with all involved in some way.

The weekend focuses around three areas of our mission statement: Advocacy, Education, and Service.

Jeff Ross-Bain in Atlanta had asked if the weekend is open for people outside the diocese. We agreed to this and Eleanor will send a blurb to Joyce Wilding.

It was suggested that we open it to the whole diocese. (It was not clear how that would happen – perhaps in an Apostle article.) 5:00 PM Friday evening Registration

6:30 PM - Gather for dinner. After a welcome by Bishop Andrus and the Task Force - e.g. Michael as coordinator of liaisons, Eleanor as chair, and a brief introduction to the weekend format and focus. We would then do introductions of ourselves to each other, similar to the format of our opening meditation today. (See above.) We will then share the pastoral letter context and view the CD as a meditation. Mark Johnston offered for the camp staff to take us on a night hike, to view the night sky, appropriate to the physical ability level of the group.

Saturday: 8 AM breakfast

8:45-10:00 AM Advocacy: Mark Andrus - Millennium Development Goals keeping our focus involved at the global as well as the local level; Mark Johnston - advocacy.

10:00-10:30 BREAK and time outside

10:30-11:45 Education: Gerri Aston - a Study Guide session supporting the CD.

Noon - Lunch

12:45-2:00 PM - Roger and Rosine - local opportunities like the Energy Audit and rain gardens.

2:15 - closing Liturgy of Creation - Freya and Kerry Sibold. Eleanor had a copy of one that Mark Johnston had a part in creating. Others knew of options.

3:00 - nature hikes led by Camp staff

??? - dinner at Mark and Maggie's

At some point, share with people gathered about plans for upcoming convention and theme of mussels in Mussel Shoals - along the theme of the decade for water.

Eleanor, Gerri, and Michael to develop a brochure to promote the retreat and serve as a registration form.

### **Liaisons:**

Bishop Andrus will write a letter to churches that do not have a liaison and offer an updated CD for their Sunday School program. Michael and others will follow up with clergy after Bishop Andrus' letter. The brochure for the Camp McDowell weekend should be included with the letter.

Bishop Andrus would like something about liaisons and the Retreat at McDowell to share with congregations when he and Bishop Parsley visit them for consultations in September and October related to the capital campaign drive. We could also offer scholarships for the retreat.

Freya Neely offered to contact clergy in her area about liaisons.

Gerri will contact Pat Wingo and ask to speak at clericus.

During lunch we discussed: N Y Times editorial on Environmentalism and the article on **Death of Environmentalism**. We had a lively and insightful discussion. Bishop Andrus raised the reality that those involved with Earth issues can meet challenges if they become involved politically. This could be a "frontier" issue in our Task Force ministry. Bishop Andrus mentioned that the newest Michael Crichton novel is anti-environmentalism, saying lots of the statistics are made up and/or his personal findings and translations of the facts. He mentioned a new book out about "grand metaphors" and the power of language, by George Lakoff. He also mentioned that the presidential commission on global warming, appointed to debunk it as an issue, concluded that it is undeniably an issue.

### **Convention 2006**

Several creative ideas emerged for the theme and booth: focus on the Mussel Shoals bioregion and ecosystem. Bishop Andrus shared some of what he had learned from Randy Haddock on a Cahaba River canoe trip. He will contact Randy. Eleanor will check for information and materials from Legacy (water wheel), ARA, CRS, Nature Conservancy, Jim Lacefield, etc. Mussel Shoals is in the Tennessee River watershed, not the Mobile Basin. Mussels in the Mobile Basin - which is most of Alabama - are an issue. Robyn will send Eleanor a downloadable piece for the Fish Watch booklet. Eleanor will check on that as a handout. Eleanor will contact Beth Young regarding some of her Rivers of the Southeast exhibit as a backdrop for our booth, and for Bishop Andrus' luncheon conversation.

Bishop Andrus suggested selling Bishops' Blend coffee at registration.

Recycling - Freya agreed to check into recycling for convention.

Gardens - Roger will prepare something about rain gardens.

An aquarium was suggested with mussels, fish, and turtles.

For his luncheon meeting offering, Bishop Andrus suggested he focus on Millennium Development Goals and watershed stewardship of mussels in Alabama.

### **Upcoming events**

November 3, 2005 will be the liaisons meeting in conjunction with DuBose lectures at Sewanee. Duke professor Ellen Davis will be the featured speaker. Mark Andrus knows her and has heard her speak, and speaks very highly of her. Freya Neely offered for us to stay at her Sewanee home while we are there for the meeting.

### **Upcoming meeting dates**

We set **Monday, October 3, 11 AM - 3 PM** as our next meeting date, at Carpenter House.

**Prayer** Bishop Andrus closed with a prayer.