

***History of ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY (EM)***  
***Province IV EM Leader – Joyce Wilding***  
January 3, 2009

For two decades plus, the ***ECUSA Peace and Justice Ministries Office*** focused on Environmental Stewardship through its active participation in the ecumenical Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches and by providing a liaison support to the **EpEN - Episcopal Ecological Network**, a grassroots network of Episcopalians from around the country that is helping the Church advocate and articulate protection of the environment and preserving the sanctity of creation. Many of the 20 dioceses in the nine SE states of Province IV environmental programs built are built on a ***Reflection, Education and Action*** model. This model is described on the EM Province IV web page links and on the Sewanee ENTREAT web pages ([www.sewanee.edu/ENTREAT](http://www.sewanee.edu/ENTREAT)). Some diocesan programs have vibrant science and religion programs that are helping people connect liturgy, learning and lifestyle. These enable people to open their hearts, heads and hands when addressing important environmental issues – better care of God’s world.

Province IV EM work has been covered in several national Episcopalians communications during last few years. Our province has the largest number of members signed for the EpEN on-line newsletter and has one of the best environmental networks in ECUSA. See [www.eenonline.org](http://www.eenonline.org) to learn more ECUSA provincial and diocesan EM programs and projects. See [http://www.provinceiv.org/4th\\_Watch\\_Newsletter.html](http://www.provinceiv.org/4th_Watch_Newsletter.html) for current articles, ongoing activities and resources.

In 2001, the Prov IV EM budget was zero dollars. The 2009 budget is \$8,000. About one third of the annual budget is spent for T&E for EM leaders, one third for resource development and resource distributions and one third for special projects and programs. EM narrative budgets are sent Province IV Executive Committee annually.

**Province IV Environmental Coordinators and Leaders**

**Scott Evans Hughes**, former President of Prov IV Executive Committee and dynamic EM leader in the Diocese of NC, was the first informal EM leader in our province. She provided many resources for dioceses in our province and worked with the first ECUSA national Environmental Stewardship Committee. Scott was resource person to the team that wrote, published and promoted *One God, One Family* in 1994. This six-session curriculum helped program participants examine their attitudes, assumptions and personal theologies about our planet’s condition. At one time Scott ensured that every parish in her diocese had some type of environmental ministry and resources.

**Jody Bryon** worked a few years as EM leader in our province and served on the national EpEN Steering Committee. She developed several resources including *Water Stewardship* documents and gave these to leaders in our province. Jody consulted with Joyce Wilding and other diocesan leaders in 2003-4.

**Dick Cob**, a retired priest, worked a few years as EM leader in our province. He spent much time coordinating resources for EM events at General Conventions from late 1990s to 2001. Top priority during his leadership was green alternative energy and energy conservation. Dick sent his resources to Joyce Wilding when he completed his leadership.

**Joyce Wilding** became Province IV Environmental Ministerial Leader and a member of EEN (Episcopal Environmental Network) National Steering committee in March 2001. Her primary commitment to National Steering Committee that functions like a Board of Directors for EpEN included: conference calls, sharing a summary of her local and Province IV environmental ministry activities, attending a 3 day annual meeting, helping with priority projects including the EpEN web site. Ms. Wilding has been an active member of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, a liaison to CERES (Coalition for Responsible Economies) and liaison to the Episcopal Science, Technology & Faith Committee. She develops and implements the EM programs of twenty Episcopal dioceses in nine southern states, was the EM Group Leader at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, TN from Aug 1998- Aug 2008 and is a Third Order Franciscan (TSSF). Joyce often represents the province in presentations and training events throughout ECUSA.

From 2005 to 2008, Province IV EM network co-sponsored, along with the University of the South and the School of Theology an annual symposium on science and religion. Joyce served as ENTREAT Local Societies Initiative (LSI)

Co-chair at the University of the South at Sewanee, responsible for planning, hosting and/or facilitating the public *Science & Religion: Renewal of Reverence* series. She wrote Templeton Foundation proposal that co-funded the ENTREAT programs and continues to work with Sewanee to incorporate environmental stewardship its new Sustainable Institute programs.

## **Highlights of EM Work 2001-9**

### **2001**

During this year, Joyce Wilding began to travel to the twenty dioceses of our province to review ongoing EM programs and to determine how programs could be initiated and expanded. She began to recruit EM Coordinators in each diocese. These coordinators were asked to find one person in each parish to carry out environmental ministry. Each coordinator was encouraged to develop a mission statement and/or guidelines for environmental ministry. These provide a foundation and EM focus for each diocese. Joyce provided samples of mission statements, EM fact sheets, resource materials and created a Province IV EM icon.

EM Coordinators encouraged all parishes, missions, schools and offices of each diocese to live more clearly the deep spiritual significance of our relationship with the Earth and reflect our commitment as a Church to a healthy people. They ask their dioceses to offer:

1. Prayer, study, and reflection together at all age levels on the meaning and calling of God to us through the revelation of the Creation
2. Plans and implementation GUIDELINES for becoming a model of the stewardship of God's Creation and compliance to environmentally friendly policies and practices
3. Authentic environmental resource assessments of church property (building and grounds)\*, as well as programs
4. Dialogue among people of all ages on the environment, stewardship and economic/social justice.
5. Sermons and homilies which reflect on the environmental issues and all creation.

\*Some dioceses used Dr. Albert Fritsch's sustainability model to promote a spirituality that expresses sincere love for the planet Earth and marginalized people. This model identifies the ways a parish can improve its expression of the harmony that exists between God and creation. The ten areas of assessment include: physical facilities, edible landscaping, water resources, wildlife encouragement, energy conservation and alternative, food selection and preparation, waste management, transportation and parking, indoor environment and community relations.

Joyce Wilding attended two green sustainable conferences in Atlanta in 2001: *CERES*- Coalition of Environmental Responsible Economies and *Southface Greening Conference*. Many free education materials were handed out. The resources were shared with all diocesan leaders in our province. These expanded our implementation of green practices in several dioceses.

### **2002**

- In April, Joyce Wilding planned and hosted EPISCOPAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE - ANNUAL MEETING in Nashville, Tennessee. *Called to Be Stewards of God's Creation* was examined from a number of perspectives at this annual meeting. The national committee members and some Prov IV EM guest leaders outlined tactics and strategies for building a stronger national network. Guest Speaker – Ray Waddle, Religion Editor of the *Tennessean* for 17 years talked about “The Environment As A Faith Issue: Options and Obstacles for Getting Media Coverage”.
- The Reverend Sally Bingham, Environmental Canon of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and her *Interfaith Power & Light* programs were introduced to several dioceses in our province. Bingham teaches how faithful stewards of God's creation can respond to climate change. She promotes energy efficiency and renewable green energy.
- The Diocese of Alabama and the Diocese of the Gulf Coast began a variety of new ministries in the Black Belt. They offered several parish ministries. Their Diocesan offices support the Sawyerville Project and annual project

that involves about 100 African-American in summer camp enrichment. The annual commemoration of Jonathon Daniel's Feast Day takes place in the Black Belt, at Hayneville.

- June Province IV Synod – An EM workshop was led by Joyce Wilding. Workshop participants were invited to examine: why some old ways of thinking/living are inadequate as we deal with unprecedented threats to our world -- the destruction of habitats; the deterioration of air, land and water; over-population; injustice and oppression, and new ways of addressing ecological problems that are based on an awareness of the sacred integrity of all creation and the interdependence of all life. Small group discussions covered issues re: what impact the ecological changes will have on our families and communities, how Christians should relate EM to faith and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the roles and responsibilities of church and business leaders

Twenty-six people attended the EM workshop – five Bishops, three diocesan coordinators. Eighteen of 20 dioceses were represented. Participants expressed sincere concerns about finding ways to promote EM in each diocese.

After Synod Joyce traveled to Diocese of NC Conference Center to participate in its annual conference and lead an EM workshop. After this workshop she helped the camp and conference naturalists develop plans for on-site food garden and gave a small grant from the Province IV EM budget for the garden.

In the summer and fall of this year, Wilding gave EM presentations and hosted Exhibits in these diocese: Diocese of Atlanta at All Saints church, annual conference at All Souls Cathedral in Diocese of WNC, Camp Gray and diocesan office in Diocese of Mississippi.

## **2003**

The Provincial IV Executive Committee awarded EM a JPIC grant to be used for Care of Creation exhibits and for training the Provincial Environmental Coordinators. A CD-ROM Starter Kit was developed, produced and distribute with funding from the Province IV JPIC funds.

Trees in honor of paper used at 2003 GC and Stewardship of Creation - At Synod, all twenty dioceses agreed to send contributions to CG for trees to be planted Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, near the Twin Cities, Minnesota, host of the 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The \$6,480 was largest provincial gift given to this GC project.

### Wilding Gives EM Presentations and Hosts Exhibits

- Diocese of GA annual parish priest retreat at Honey Creek Center
- ENC ECW annual conference and site visit in April

Water Resolution - During 2003, Joyce Wiling communicated with many Episcopalian leaders who had promoted care of fresh water during the last ten years. She shared this information with the writer of the Diocese of North Carolina Water Resolution that was passed at 2003 General Convention. This resolution ask parishes to become active stewards of their water resources through conservation efforts including consumption reduction; through examination of water discharge such that contaminated water does not improperly leave church grounds; and through the creation of environmental programs for stewardship of water and the whole of Creation and for the education of congregants in regard to good and faithful stewardship of Earth's resources.

Congregations and communicants were invited to undertake one or more of the following four stewardship steps:

1. When and where possible, install water saving devices such as low-flow commodes and aspirators on sink faucets to conserve water.
2. Replant parish campuses and home gardens with plants and trees that are drought tolerant and have low requirements for water. It is also advised that plants and trees native to the local region be planted as these will have the capacity to survive local climatic conditions.
3. When and where possible, devise drainage systems that allow rainwater to flow from gutters and drainpipes to spread onto lawn and landscaped areas of parish campus and in home gardens, thereby reducing water lost to sewer systems.

4. Pave new or repave existing parking lots with materials that are pervious so that water penetrates and is sequestered in soil beneath parking area. This will reduce opportunity for automotive oil and other automotive fluids to be washed downstream during rain events.

***Spirituality and the Environment Conference - Praising the Creator, Preserving Creation*** May 29-June 2, 2003 at the Kanuga Episcopal Center near Hendersonville, NC. About 50 people from 13 states heard presentations and shared in discussions and exercises illustrating our responsibilities for appreciating and safeguarding God's Creation. Central to the conference was the theme of environmental ministry as articulated by the Episcopal Ecological Network. This theme calls the Church to reflection, education, and action and to play a lead societal role in addressing priority environmental issues. More than 40 of the 50 plus participants were from Province IV. Seventeen of the twenty dioceses in Prov IV sent participants to this conference. People from eight of the nine states in Province IV were present making it possible to compare ideas and experiences from different dioceses. Province IV EM, Environmental Ministry JPIC grant enabled several people to attend this conference.

Each diocesan leader was given a CD entitled Prov IV *Care for Creation, Starter Kit*. Clark Heath from Diocese of GA wrote: "The CD contains a wealth of information describing the experiences of EpEN and various church groups in developing environmental activities in different parts of the country. It also contains 3 power-point slide shows, useful for scripture-based presentations concerning environmental issues." Each team leader was encouraged to copy the CD and distribute it to parishes as needed. During the conference several network members held break out work sessions to discuss:

1. projects for our whole province to pursue
2. guidelines for expanding environmental ministry in each diocese
3. best ways to recruit people for EM
4. best mode for communicating EM priorities
5. EMEN advisors – professionals with special expertise in environmental stewardship who don't have enough time to serve in our *active* network
6. best time and place to meet once a year or every other year
7. list of environmental programs offered at Episcopal camps, conference centers
8. on-going EM challenges in each diocese.

#### *Praising the Creator, Preserving Creation Reports*

Leslie Poole, Diocese of Central Florida; Andrew Whitehurst, Diocese of Mississippi and Clark W. Heath, Diocese of Georgia wrote articles about the conferences their diocesan newsletters. Highlights from these articles are in the section below.

"What I wanted to do at the conference was meet people from other states and learn about their experiences in getting environmental ministries going in their churches or diocese. This is commonly called networking, but I prefer to call it meeting people, talking to them, and learning from them. I heard several experiences with environmental ministries including their successes and frustrations. The main problem to overcome seems to be addressing apathy from fellow communicants, parish priests and church organizations.

We learned about the Black Belt Initiative that is working on economic and environmental justice projects in counties that are economically depressed in Alabama. The black belt refers to the soil type (black belt prairie), but the counties are also poor and predominantly African American. Improving sewage service by improving individual septic systems is one issue being addressed in these Alabama counties. Mississippi's rural individual septic systems are governed only by county ordinances. Requiring reliable rural septic systems can be an expensive proposition, and it was this fact that caused the Health Department to lose control of something that is a state public health problem. It becomes the states problem when water with high fecal coliform bacteria counts is discharged from failing or absent septic systems and flows into streams and rivers that move across jurisdictional boundaries into other counties. Alabama's black belt experience can inform us about this issue.

"Tennessee Episcopalians have worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) on issues surrounding the promotion of alternative sources of electric power. TVA was not excited about the partnership and joined only after a certain amount of prodding and cajoling, but it seems to be a win-win situation now.

"One Tennessee Episcopalian is spearheading an effort in that state's legislature to make crop dusters and other applicators of agricultural chemicals leave a modest buffer zone around people's homes on land adjacent to fields being sprayed. This Episcopalian is doing this out of concern for those who have been and will be sprayed with

malathion and other chemicals that are dangerous when breathed or when in contact with human skin. He is a farmer who worked with these chemicals and knows first hand what it is like to be sprayed.

“Florida and Georgia Episcopalians have summer camps that are doing environmental education. They were excited to hear about the Earth Lab at the Gray Center and want to know more about how to serve more kids. There is an existing nature center in Central Florida where some of the Episcopalians volunteer that serves 38,000 children a year.

“The information exchange that happened and will happen because of the conference will be helpful to many of the participants, and to their various programs. Joyce Wilding’s hard work and passion have inspired and infected lots of people. “

### **General Convention 2003**

After GC, several EM diocesan leaders began to work with the ENEJ, Episcopal Network for Economic Justice and to promote the United Nations' *Millennium Development Goals*:

- 1.) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- 2) Achieve universal primary education;
- 3) Promote gender equality and empower women;
- 4) Reduce child mortality;
- 5) Improve maternal health;
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- 7) Ensure environmental stability; and
- 8) Develop a global partnership for development.

Several dioceses and parishes began to promote the **ERD, Episcopal Relief and Development Bishops Blend**, a premium line of *Certified Fair Trade, organic, and shade grown coffees* from Central American and Indonesia. When we purchase Bishops Blend (BB) for your personal use or for parish use you do the following:

- Provide funds to ERD for its domestic and overseas programs
- You support the Fair Trade agreement that ensures that coffee farmers are being paid a fair living wage and gain access to affordable credit.
- You promote sustainable farming practices
- You support the manufacturer, Pura Vida Coffee that is a Seattle-based company, which donates 100% of its net profits to benefit at-risk children in coffee-growing countries.

You may order BB Coffee on the ERD Website [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org) or call the Bishops Blend customer service representative, at Pura Vida Coffee (888) 700-8585.

### **2004**

By the end of 2004, Joyce had visited and/or worked with leaders from every diocese in our province. During this year she made a site visit to Diocese of Lexington and LA to explore modes for expanding EM projects and programs.

#### ECCC - Episcopal Camp and Conference Centers, Inc. Annual Conference

In January Joyce Wilding conducted two workshops at the ECCC annual conference and spent hours talking with Prov IV Camp Directors and staff from eight of the nine states in Prov. IV (every state but Kentucky) and with several directors from other Provinces including Prov I, III, VII and VII. She set up EM exhibits illustrated the *Reflection, Education and Action* components of the Episcopal Ecological Network.

#### Highlight from ECCC EM Workshop - *Actions That Transform and Renew*

Workshop participants were invited to share how they could expand:

- a spirituality that is rooted in and connected with all creation, and embodied in a more simplified and compassionate life
- silence as primary tool to open conference/camp attendees to God
- intergenerational retreat experiences of worship and meditation and workshops that focus more attention on CARE FOR CREATION
- modes for modeling sustainable green practices in buildings, grounds and programs
- ways to promote environmental stewardship
- modes for interacting as a naturalist/artist with as many churches as possible
- methods for getting environmental educational programs well suited to camps and conference centers
- intentional changes in lifestyles can reflect a reverence for God's creation and honor the integrity of God's creation
- solidarity with the poor and marginalized persons in conference and camp programs
- distribution of worship and education resources concerning environmental issues
- Creation Awareness Center exhibits in the parish churches, key diocesan buildings and in their centers
- Implementation of local projects that address the Episcopal Ecological Network priority issues:

Participants talked about finding ways to specify which camp and conference centers have:

1. environmental education programs – type of programs (for public schools students, for parish school students, other\_\_\_) and constituents; financial returns of these programs as well as feedback about the short and long term benefits
2. been selected to serve as *Creation Center* for the diocese
3. organic vegetable and flower gardens on-site and/or buy portions of food products from local food co-ops or CBG–community based gardens
4. sustainable/green buildings and sustainable practices for maintaining building and grounds; any environmental assessments or LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design facilities
5. environmental education programs – type of programs (for public schools students, for parish school students, other\_\_\_) and constituents
6. financial data about ROI of on-site education programs, as well as feedback about the short and long term benefits
7. sustainable/green buildings and sustainable practices for maintaining building and grounds; any environmental assessments or LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design facilities

## 2004

- Bishop Mark Andrus from the Diocese of Alabama coordinated the writing of a Prov IV pastoral letter about environment stewardship. This letter addresses our joyful, weighty responsibility to take seriously our stewardship of God's creation. It speaks to the theology of earth stewardship, the imminent earth crisis that demands our attention as stewards of the earth, and a specific call to engage in a ministry of reflection, education and action with special attention to environmental education in our dioceses and parishes.
- March 2004 - The University of the South (Sewanee) received a \$15,000 matching grant from the John Templeton Foundation Metanexus Institute that supports Local Societies Initiatives (LSI) which encourages thoughtful and dynamic exploration of the interrelationship of science and religion. Sewanee's ENTREAT - Enter Now The Reflection, Education, Action Treatise was one 129 LSI groups in 26 countries on six continents. ENTREAT programs provided a method for examining the concerns, connections and conflicts of science and religion. All programs examined the intersection of science, religion, and ethics. This project was a three-way collaboration among the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Theology, and the Province of Sewanee Environmental Ministry of the Episcopal Church. See [www.sewanee.edu/ENTREAT](http://www.sewanee.edu/ENTREAT) to learn more.

## 2005

In January, Joyce Wilding visited two FL dioceses and led a retreat at Saint Boniface Church in diocese of SE FL.

In February, several EM team leaders from a few dioceses attended *Holy & Beautiful: Greening Sacred Spaces* conference at Duke. This conference brought together church pastors and laity, architects, builders, academics and environmentalists for education and reflection on ways to implement environmentally friendly building design in North Carolina churches. Participants at this program explored green building design (also known as sustainable design) and ways it can be used to meet both the spiritual needs of a congregation and its economic realities. The Duke Divinity School and the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences offered presentations about the construction of environmentally responsible church buildings. Joyce Wilding collected the papers from this conference and used this information to help plant Sewanee ENTREAT 2006 annual conference about environmentally friendly construction and architecture.

March SEWANEE ENTREAT CONFERENCE - The Conference theme was *Dominion, Domain & Stewardship: Roles and Responsibilities*. Conference participants examined how the biblical concept of the dominion of humanity over the created order has been blamed for the current ecological disasters as well as praised for the demythologizing that made modern science possible. While theologians have tried to correct for the first by emphasizing that biblical dominion is more a form of stewardship than of manipulative or abusive rule, this can downplay the responsibility our species has as the only one with the power to destroy the planet. The "Domain" of the University of the South clearly implies some sort of expression of dominion as both governance and responsibility, derived from a unique blend of University and Church. The ENTREAT programs provide a theological and scientific dialogue, focused on issues of Domain and campus management, that lead to a more faithful exercise of local responsibility and also serve as a laboratory for addressing environmental issues.

Dr. Larry L. Rasmussen, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City was keynote speaker and leader at the conference. He is author of *Earth Community, Earth Ethics* - recipient of the 1997 Grawemeyer Award, *Moral Fragments and Moral Community: A Proposal for Church & Society* and Editor, with Dieter Hessel - *Earth Habitat: Eco-Injustice and the Church's Response*. Rasmussen preached at All Saint's Chapel and co-led with Joyce Wilding "Greening" of the Church workshop at the School of Theology. His presentation about *Ethical Issues Surrounding the "Greening" of the Domain* was opened to the public. He gave a lecture about globalization and economic justice in Dr. Robin Gottfried's Economics of Sustainability class. .

May 2005 *Opening The Book of Nature, OBN* at **St. Mary's At Sewanee Conference Center** led by *Robin Gottfried*, Eco-Economics Faculty, University of the South. OBN helps retreat participants honor from the earliest days of Christianity to the present, saints and teachers, such as Irenaeus, Basil, Bonaventure, Luther, and Calvin urge us to read "the book of nature" that we might experience God and gain insights into the spiritual life. "Reading" the book of nature includes spending time outside in periods of quiet and reflection, followed by discussion.

In September 2005, Bishop Mark Andrus, author of *Province IV Pastoral Letter on the Care of Creation* and the Diocese of Alabama Stewardship of Creation Task Force distributed copies of the Pastoral Letter along with a Study Guide to all twenty dioceses. The team also developed an Energy Audit for Churches.

*A Catechism of Creation*, an Episcopal understanding prepared by the Committee on Science, Technology and Faith was posted at [www.dfms.org/science/](http://www.dfms.org/science/). This catechism provides a foundation for extensive study of theology of creation, the relationship of modern science to Christian faith including creationism and Intelligent Design. Increased participation in the Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology and the Church in the United States and Canada, in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and in Local Societies Initiative (LSI) enhance the Southeast science and religion programs.

Joyce Wilding paper, *Collaborative Science & Religion in Southeast United States: Beyond Scopes Trial* was accepted for the "Science and Religion: Global Perspective", June 2005 Metanexus Institute Conference. You may down load this paper at <http://www.metanexus.net/conference2005/papers.asp#W> or contact Joyce for a copy of the paper.

The Sewanee ENTREAT program has examined a wide range of issues at the religion/science interface this year. The implementation of this model for the consideration of environmental ethics issues at the local level promotes the cooperation of people, whose backgrounds are in science or religion and deals with problems in daily lives. Since May 2004 nearly 1000 people have attended our programs.

October 2005 **Via Media** Conference *Praising, Protecting & Healing God's World* in DC. Bishop Mark Andrus and Joyce Wilding led and co-led presentation re:

- Environmental ministry connects social justice and eco-justice with a Reflection, Education and Action model.
- International and regional leaders are putting "A Face" on ecological concerns from S. Alabama to S. Africa.
- Local parish members can implement practical activities to preserve natural resources and promote sustainability at home and around the world.
- Living Waters/Water of Baptism is a top concern of many churches as well as global conservation and faith organizations.

Note: Several dioceses and parishes in our province are conducting excellent water conservation programs. Watersheds are in crisis due to increasing population, pollution, climate change and a multitude of competing local, regional and global demands. Local leaders, around the world, with diverse science and religion expertise could shape local care of fresh water and connect these with national and international concerns by utilizing programs of: United Nations International Decade for Action – “Water for Life” and Local Societies Initiative (LSI) groups. Joyce Wilding attended the “kick-off” meeting of the UN decade of water programs. While in NY she met with national ECUSA environmental and Anglican UN leaders. She gave informal presentations about how Prov IV EM work is developed and implemented.

## 2006

### Sewanee ENTREAT programs open to public and Prov IV EM leaders

- In September, Jeff Ross-Bain made a presentation about the LEED Green Building Rating System and the technical and economic issues surrounding this burgeoning program. Jeff's talk revealed how sustainable building practices are realistically achievable. He discussed how the question is not whether can we afford it, but can we really afford not to do it. Formerly with the Southface Energy Institute in Atlanta, Jeff is presently with Smith Dalia Architects, where he specializes in environmentally-sustainable design of churches and schools. He is also a green building consultant for several projects of the United States Green Building Council's LEED program. Active in the Episcopal Church, Jeff is the Diocese of Atlanta Environmental Ministry leader.
- In October, a panel discussion of a paper “The Tabernacle is Not a Storehouse: Building Sacred Space” by the DuBose lecturer Dr. Ellen Davis, a professor of bible and practical theology at Duke University Divinity School was hosted by ENTREAT. In addition to the panel discussion, EM leaders were encouraged to attend DuBose lectures, "Creating and Transforming Sacred Spaces: Theological Opportunities and Issues in Building and Renovating Churches. EM had a green sustainable building exhibit at the DuBose Lectures.
- In November, Dr. Ron Carroll, a Professor in the Institute of Ecology at The University of Georgia and Co-Director of the River Basin Science Center, gave a presentation about "Communities With Long-Lasting Environmental Stewardship". He is a coauthor of the popular textbook "Principles of Conservation Biology", which is used at Sewanee. His research interests include the relationships between managed and natural ecosystems, plant-animal interactions as they influence forest regeneration, and invasive species.

## 2007

### March Sewanee ENTREAT - **Water for Life: Conserving Water for People & Nature**

Several EM leaders from a few dioceses attend this conference. In addition to attending the lectures, workshops and worship services they met in whole group and small group break out meetings to discuss on-going programs and projects. Part of the T&E expenses were covered by ENTREAT budget.

All events at this conference focused on ways to preserve our watersheds and water. Many issues at the religion/science interface do not impact the way people live their lives. What happens to the natural landscape, to the animal and plant life living in it and the quality of the water they drink affects them deeply. Thus people need to learn more about the scientific and ethical principles that govern decisions about environmental issues especially about decisions that are based on a dynamic water ethic.

Conference Speakers and Workshop Leaders:

The Rev. Canon Jeff Gollhofer, Ph.D., is Priest-in-Charge at St. John's Memorial Episcopal Church in Ellenville, New York. Previously, he was Canon for Environmental Justice and Community Development at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. He is Program Associate for the Environment and Sustainable Development with the Office of the Anglican Observer at the United Nations. Before entering General Theological Seminary in 1979, he worked as a cultural anthropologist. He has written on numerous subjects in the field of environmental ethics and ministry

Roberta (Robbi) Savage led the Association's of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) as Executive Director, shepherding a fledgling organization into one of the most creditable and recognized associations dealing with water issues in the country. During her tenure ASIWPCA (1978 - 2006) Robbi presented Congressional testimony nearly 100 times and was involved in the 1977, 1981, and 1987 reauthorizations of the Clean Water Act. In addition, ASIWPCA's 1982 Clean Water Status and Trends Report were among the primary resource documents used in the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act, which became law in 1987.

### **EM in ECUSA and other Communications**

*Joyce Wilding (Diocese of Tennessee) has established a network of contacts throughout Province 4 that works on addressing local and regional issues. She also established Environmental Ministries at Sewanee: The University of the South, a three-year program to explore the science-religion interface through an examination of local environmental problems. Ms. Wilding speaks often around The Episcopal Church about environmental spirituality.*

**The Living Church – July 2007 - <http://www.livingchurch.org/publishertlc/viewarticle.asp?ID=3514>).**

EOL August 2007 Article - "Ecumenical Eco-Justice program urges wise summertime water ethic" By Phina Borgeson Joyce Wilding, Environmental Ministry Leader in the Episcopal Church's Province IV, recalled that the General Convention in 2003 resolved to advocate public policy which ensures accessible clean water for all. "Every parish member needs to learn more about the scientific and ethical principles that govern a solid water ethic," says Wilding, who earlier this year organized the conference "Water for Life: Conserving Water for Nature and People" conference in Sewanee, Tennessee.

**Water Conservation** remains a big issue in our province. The Diocese of Alabama has some new water stewardship resources funded by WWF grant. Diocese of TN parishes are promoting a state bottle/container bill that expands recycling drinking containers as well helps minimize and eliminate use of bottled water. There are many free Resources On-line. See the Prov IV EM web pages for connections to the free resources.

Joyce Wilding led presentations and/or hosted exhibits at

- April St Mary's "Care for Creation Retreat
- April ECW Diocese of TN, WTN & ETN annual retreat
- Diocese of TN CE annual workshop
- "Food Faith & Hunger" workshop at **EPF Peace With and On Earth Conference**

Joyce and several diocesan leaders met at Synod in June 2008 at Kanuga. They hosted an exhibit filled with sample free resources materials and fact sheets about on-going work. Diocesan EM coordinators and representatives met to share best practices and program models that promote water conservation issues, the MDGS and other programs that connect social, economic and environmental justice

## 2009

All 20 EM diocesan leaders are invited to attend the two programs offered at Sewanee:

**Jan 21-3** Trinity Institute at Sewanee Partner Site. *Radical Abundance: theology of sustainability – God created earth and entrusted its care to us.* Further details about the speakers and workshops read at <http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/education/?institute-2009&p=partner&s=protected>

**May 1-3**, Kurt Hoelting, wilderness leader, meditation teacher and UCC minister leads “The Power of Presence: Spirituality As the Art of Homecoming” at St. Mary’s Sewanee: A Center for Spiritual Development. See [www.stmaryssewanee.org](http://www.stmaryssewanee.org) to learn more about this retreat.

Ongoing activities in our province include:

- **TVA Green Power Switch** or some other alternative green energy programs
- Collaboration with local watershed compacts that protect, preserve and “clean up” creeks, rivers and coastal waters Recycle pick-up service for parish cardboard and paper; volunteer recycling of bottles, cans and other recyclable items
- Ongoing implementation of GC 2003 water resolution including the connections between Mountain Top Removal to get coal for power plants, other energy and water issues; gardening, lawn care and farming issues – food, faith and hunger
- Expanded use of native plants that use less water and protect biodiversity
- Reducing and eliminating use of bottled water at parish events
- Purchases of 100% post consumer recycled paper and “tree-free” paper, as well as, promote practices that minimize and reduce paper use – connecting paper production with varied pollution problems and energy issues
- Intergenerational *Weeds to Wreaths* project – remove invasive honeysuckle plants then turn these vines into base for Advent wreaths
- Eco-Palm purchases for Palm Sunday,
- ERD Bishop’s Blend Coffee & shares of organic produce from local farms and ERD World Water Day as well as other water and sanitation projects ( part of Prov IV EM budget was sent to ERD water projects in 2006 and 2007)
- Purchases of local, healthy farm products (food co-op shares)
- Sustainable green building practices at camp and conference centers as well parish buildings and grounds – energy conservation and alternative energy
- Intergenerational care for creation retreats and workshops

EM leaders from the three dioceses of TN are invited to attended programs in Nashville described below:

***Reconciliation with Earth* - Cathedral Ministries for Reconciliation (CMR)**  
**Christ Church Cathedral - Community Cross of Nails Affiliate**  
**900 Broadway Nashville, TN 615-255-7729 [www.christcathedral.org](http://www.christcathedral.org)**

**As Christians we are called to be ministers of Christ's reconciliation for all Creation. This special calling includes care for and protection of earth's soil, plants, animals, the air and water that support all life.** During 2009 *Reconciliation with Earth* programs include endorsement of onsite cathedral programs and special offsite programs at Sewanee:

**February** 27-8 Luke Timothy Johnson (Emory University) symposia at Christ Church Cathedral “Creation and Care of the Earth: A Scriptural Approach to Environmental Concerns.”\*

\* **March** - Third Order of Society of Saint Francis (TSSF) *Wind, Water, Fire, and Earth Fellowship* - will host a Lenten Retreat. Participants will be invited to walk stations of cross outdoors. Date, time and place to be confirmed.

*First Friday Sacred Soul Space* - Services are held at 6 p.m. on the first Friday of each month at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, TN. **May** and **June** services celebrate Creation and Celtic spirituality; . **October service** celebrates St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecology.