

St. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Stewardship 2010

This year's theme for stewardship is ***"Using the gifts God has given us....to do the work He is calling us to do."*** This is the third in a series of short stories about how we, at St. Mary's, are living into this theme.

Several years ago a group of St. Mary's parishioners created an Environmental Stewardship Committee. They conducted an energy audit of our existing facilities creating a roadmap for ways in which we can conserve resources. Compact fluorescent bulbs have been installed in the parish hall and sanctuary.

In conjunction with the Jr. Warden they applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from the Diocese as we replaced our aging, inefficient HVAC system last year. They maintain a permanent collection box for used batteries in the Education Building and have placed recycling bins around our campus. One Saturday morning the committee even helped parishioners and neighbors as they collected old paint cans and then took the truck-load full of cans to Greensboro for responsible disposal. The roadmap they created influences all we do as we repair and maintain our facilities.

This past winter and spring, members of the committee facilitated 3 different adult Christian Education offerings which explored the relationship between faith and the moral imperative of environmental stewardship. Members of this committee serve on the Design/Construction team and Steering Committee of the Land Development Committee. In May, the Steering Committee voted to seek LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the new South Campus building. Please see the *Herald* and St. Mary's website www.stmaryseoisc.org to learn more about this exciting project.

The Diocese, too, has noticed the innovative work of the committee and one of its members now serves as the Co-Chair of the Chartered Committee for Environmental Ministry of the Diocese of North Carolina. (See an article she has written in the upcoming issue of the Diocesan publication, *The Disciple*.) By providing a roadmap for future improvements for energy efficiency; educating the parish on environmental stewardship; and keeping our attention focused on the just use of God's creation; this committee is truly ***"Using the gifts God has given us....to do the work He is calling us to do."***

Want to get involved with this dynamic group? Contact Dorothy Darr at 887-5130 or dorothy1@northstate.net.

Faithfully yours,

Carroll Ann Miller, Chair; Tony Bertschi, Co-Chair; and the Stewardship Steering Committee – Andrew Brehm, Evie Cottam, Jason Ewing, Elizabeth Finch, Johnny Slate, and Sandra Vernon.