

St. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Stewardship 2010

Each year the Stewardship chairman chooses a “theme” for the year. I have chosen “*Using the gifts God has given us.....to do the work He is calling us to do.*”

This is the first in a series of short stories about how we, at St. Mary's, are living into this theme.

Did you know that St. Mary's holds the charter for two Latin American Boy Scout groups? The first is Boy Scout Troop #7, made up of twenty 11-17 year old Latino boys. The troop meets on Wednesday nights in the basement of the church. Members of St. Mary's serve as assistants to the Scoutmaster. These boys have been advancing steadily in their ranks and one has achieved the rank of Star Scout. Several young men have their eyes on becoming Eagle Scouts.

In addition to the Boy Scout Troop #7, we also sponsor the all-Latina Venture Crew #7, an affiliate of Boy Scouts of America. These 24 young women, ages 14-21, also meet at the church on Wednesday nights and are working hard to advance in their ranks. Four of these young women will soon achieve their Bronze Awards. These girls will experience their first camping outing in early August as they over-night on the property across the street from the church – the property that will soon become our new Family Life Center.

Both troops are the only Latina/Latino groups of their kind in North Carolina.

The church's involvement in this ministry began with deacon, Evelyn Morales, and members of St. Mary's have continued the effort. In addition to line item support in our operating budget (\$1,000 in 2010/\$2,000 proposed for 2011), St. Mary's parishioners also contribute meals for both weekly Wednesday night meetings (sometimes the only meal these young people will have away from school) and have donated generous amounts of equipment for scouting activities (which the two groups share.)*

Through the gift of the talents of dedicated parishioners, the financial commitment we all make during the Every Member Canvass, the support we provide for Troop fundraisers, and the grace of God - this ministry is made possible.

Faithfully yours,

Carroll Ann Miller-Chair; Tony Bertschi-Co-Chair; and the Stewardship Steering Committee

*Want to get involved? Contact Amo Kearns at 882.2123. He can direct you to the appropriate person.