

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 sixth in a series of stories about how we, at St. Mary's, are living into this theme.

Among the gifts God has given us is the opportunity to gather in our beautiful church to worship, to learn, to pray, to give thanks, and to partake of "the gifts of God, for the people of God." The Episcopal tradition of worship compels us to participate in all aspects of the liturgy, not the least of which is glorifying Him through music. The children of St. Mary's have a unique opportunity to share their gifts through participation in one of our 3 youth choirs.

The **Cherub Choir** is open to all children ages 4-7 or 2nd grade. The Cherubs meet for 30 minutes on Wednesdays beginning at 4:00 beginning September 1st. They develop their musical awareness by playing pitch-matching games, playing with rhythm instruments and chimes, dancing, and preparing hymns and anthems for the worship service. Activities for the Cherubs are much like you would find if your child were enrolled in a Kindermusik or Musikgarten program.

The **Youth Choir** includes children in the 3rd - 5th grades and these singers have the opportunity to begin to learn to read music, recognize intervals, and to sight read. These "older" musicians learn to use the hymn book and to organize their sheet music in folders just like the adult choir uses. This group of singers travels to area nursing and independent living facilities where their music is heartily appreciated. They, too, are involved in our Sunday worship and special events like the Christmas pageant. Their practice follows the Cherubs' from 4:35 to 5:20 on Wednesdays, also beginning 9-1.

The **Young Adult Choir** is open to children in the 6th - 12th grades. This group participates in worship services and tackles four-part harmony along with refining their sight-reading skills. They practice on Mondays from 6:00 - 6:45 starting August 30th. Over the years many of our various choir members have gone on to college to major in music. We've even had 2 young men audition for be accepted to the American Boy Choir in Washington, D.C.

There is no audition required for our choirs. All that is necessary is an eagerness to praise God in this very special way. St. Mary's has a long history of guiding and enlightening children through music so your children are welcome to invite friends and neighbors to become involved. Margaret reports that on many occasions children have come to her to say that something they learned in choir – be it the words of a song they sang or the feeling they had while participating in the worship service – made a tough decision easier. **These opportunities are a gift.** Become involved by contacting Margaret McDonald at 886-7265 or musicacademy@northstate.net.

The Stewardship Steering Committee

These stories are archived on our website www.stmarysepisc.org. Click in the Stewardship link on the About Us page.