

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 seventh in a series of stories about how we, at St. Mary's, are living into this theme. Most of you remember our Deacon Evelyn Morales. When Evelyn was ordained as a deacon she committed herself to her liturgical duties at St. Mary's and to serving the local Hispanic community. Under her guidance we became connected to various agencies serving our Latino neighbors. (\$1,500 is allotted to Hispanic Ministries in our 2010 budget.) Since Evelyn's departure, a group of parishioners has come together to continue this work. One of our projects has been hosting weekly, adult ESL (English as a Second Language) classes during the school year.

In conjunction with Latino Family Services and GTCC we will once again be a part of this mission. If the size of last year's classes is any indication, we will be bursting at the seams on Tuesday and Thursday nights in the Education Building. In order to encourage participation, we also welcome the children of these mothers and fathers. Instructors from GTCC provide the language instruction to the adults. What we organize is the child care for children who range in age from birth – 13. Volunteers rock babies in the nursery, play games with the younger children, and help the older children with homework and projects. These children speak English so no fluency in Spanish is required! There are three ways that you can become involved.

- The first is by volunteering to help with child care – you need not commit to coming twice a week, every week. This would be a wonderful opportunity for teenaged members of the congregation to give of themselves and receive much in return.
- The second is by volunteering to bring snacks for the children.

- The third is by donating board games, puzzles, coloring books, etc. to the toy closet that we maintain for this purpose. We could also use a DVD/VCR player and appropriate “G” and “PG” discs and videos.

If you have any interest in volunteering to help, you may contact Evie Cottam at 869-5992. Please bring any donations to the reception office (Chantal’s old office) in the Education Building.

St. Mary’s has a long tradition of making our facilities available to people who are working hard to improve their lives. With your involvement and by the grace of God we can help these Latino adults learn English and we can show their children that our church is a place of love and acceptance.

Faithfully yours,

THE STEWARDSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE – Carroll Ann Miller and Tony Bertschi, Chairs, and Andrew Brehm, Evie Cottam, Jason Ewing, Elizabeth Finch, Johnny Slate, and Sandra Vernon.