

St. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Stewardship 2010

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

For many years, St. Mary's has opened its doors to various groups in our community. Among the oldest associations is the one we have with local Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

With our central location and the availability of public transportation we are in a unique position to serve as gracious hosts to these people who are engaged in the hard work of maintaining lives free of alcohol and chemical dependency. Currently we have the following meetings taking place at St. Mary's:

AA meetings are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at noon. Attendance at these meetings averages about 30 people per meeting. On those same days, in the evenings, NA meetings* are offered. They, too, average about 30 folks per evening. In addition there are 2 different AA meetings on Thursday evenings with a total of about 28 people. All of these groups meet in our Education Building. For people committed to maintaining recovery, there are no vacations or holidays from meetings and so our doors are open on these days throughout the year.

On Sunday afternoons, members of the Sudanese community in our area gather to worship in our sanctuary and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the school year English as a Second Language classes are taught at St. Mary's. (There will be more about this program in an upcoming story.)

Our church campus is not just a Sunday morning/Wednesday at noon operation! Here at St. Mary's we take very seriously the vows we make in our Baptismal Covenant** as we answer the questions, **"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"** and **"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"** We answer with a resounding, **"I will, with God's help."**

*If you are interested in volunteering as a gatekeeper on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday evenings please contact Paul Siceloff @ paul-siceloff@triad.rr.com.

**BCP p. 305.

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

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