

Mission Forward/Misión Adelante Report

In May 2010, the United Thank Offering informed us that **St. John's was awarded a \$26,000 grant for Mission Forward/Misión Adelante**, which needed to be used within the 12 month grant cycle.

A **Mission Forward Committee** was quickly formed and was open to any member who wanted to be a part of this initiative. To date, more than 40 people have participated in this initiative in varying ways, from interviewing candidates for the position to deciding that St. John's needed to call a priest for the job, from leading Movie Night discussions on movies that address the issues of hospitality to helping decorate the Altar of Remembrance for All Saints' Day, from attending the bilingual liturgy to learning how to make tamales, from spending serious time in goals and objectives planning to meeting with the Vestry to chart the future course of St. John's Mission and Ministry. There was also a Bible Study on the Book of Ruth in January and a National Church Conference at Kanuga, NC—Nuevo Amanecer— on Hispanic Ministry in the Episcopal Church, which 4 people attended. The **Reverend Sandra Castillo** worked with this parish until the end of March 2011 when she took a position as Vicar of a church in Wisconsin.

The Vestry has listened to the learnings and vision of members who have been active in welcoming new members, whose roots are from Mexico, to this church. I think these comments sum up the feelings of the members who attended: **"I think it is important to go ahead with our plans of becoming a welcoming church...we are all God's children...I want to see this go forward...It makes sense to do this...we are supposed to be spreading the Gospel...1/3 of my neighborhood is Mexican American...I want to embrace this...we need to incorporate Mexican Americans into our congregation, not just offer charity...Easter this year was glorious with all the children...it's a person to person relationship thing."**

The Vestry voted in May that the Rector proceed a search process for a new bi-lingual priest or layperson, for at least a 2 year commitment, to be funded with earnings from the Trust Funds, in order to continue St. John's Mission Forward/Misión Adelante initiative. To date, there have been three priest candidates who have not quite been a good fit, and the Rector is now considering a Lay Missioner for the position. It may still take some time to bring to reality!

If a Lay Missioner for Mission Forward can be found, the Vestry has approved a flexible re-allocation of the approved funds to be applied to the position of Organist and Music Director, which will increase the chance of a successful search process there as well.

Millenium Project Report

In the fall of 2010, a committee (Don Fox, Chairperson, Ned Good, Anne Cook, Luke Kinsey, Liz Kinsey, John Griffith, Tom Soper, and the Rector) was formed to evaluate the feasibility of renovations to the Great Hall and Lower Level. **At the January Annual Meeting**, architectural drawings were presented and a proposal for Brussee-Brady, Inc. of Three Rivers to undertake the work which now includes air conditioning, construction of bathrooms with showers in the Lower Level, glass doors at the bottom of the stairs as a sound barrier, finishing of the upper room off the Great Hall, construction of a sink and counter in the Lower Level, new flooring, and room dividers. Some other funds will be used to redecorate the upstairs bathrooms. In April the Vestry approved some revisions and additional aspects to the project so that the beauty of the Great Hall would not be compromised.

The Vestry met last Tuesday and voted unanimously to proceed with the final project quote by Brussee-Brady. The Project will be funded from contributions which have been pledged. It is hopeful that additional pledges will still come in so that about 1/3 of the project is directly funded. The remainder will be a mortgage from the church endowed funds, to be paid back from the Trust Fund earnings, over a 15 year period beginning in 2014, in order not to jeopardize the current mission and ministry which are supported from those earnings now. The information regarding the funding process will be posted on the Bulletin Board and you can speak with the Treasurer or Rector or Senior Warden at any time if you have questions.

Barb Funk, of the Community Healing Centers, spoke to the Vestry about the importance that our building is for Ministry in this Community. We are known as the "meeting church". We are well thought of because of our Outreach and Mission Forward.

We will provide updates as the work begins. Remember, we will be a construction zone in the Great Hall and Lower Level for about 5-6 months, but in the end our building will be changed in some ways that will make for greater hospitality and opportunities for mission and ministry.