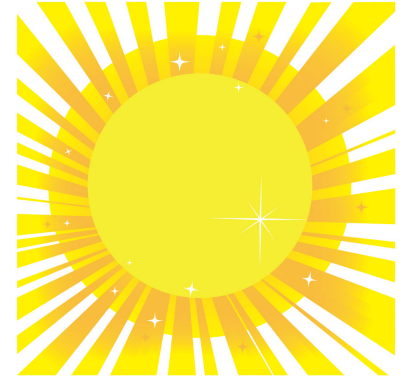


St. Mary's Going Solar



Beginning around October, 2009, the Property Committee of St. Mary's, anticipating a new roof installation, began to explore the possibility of installing solar panels on St. Mary's roof. We were put in contact with Mr. Don Powell of Powell Energy and Solar who was doing an installation at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Medford, NJ, his home parish. Mr. Powell served as a resource to our property committee and another ad hoc group as we began our exploration. He, together with Mr. Brad Denn, also of St. Peter's, were a wealth of information about how to pursue this installation and take full advantage of the tax credits and rebates available.

Powell Energy and Solar submitted a bid for the project along with a proposal for funding the project. Three other bids were secured from local solar installers. After considerable study and deliberation, the Property Committee and then the Vestry at the December, 2009, meeting decided to engage Powell Energy and Solar for the project. Panels will be installed on the south side of the parish hall roof and the south-facing roof above the church office/chapel.

In order to undertake this project, it is necessary to form a LLC (limited liability corporation) to be called 95th Street Power Associates, LLC, from which St. Mary's would buy its electricity under a Power Purchase Agreement. Investors would form the LLC and receive the benefits of the state and federal rebate incentives (30% rebate of the system cost as a grant from the federal government), the sale of SREC's (solar renewable energy credits) along with interest on their investment. Those investors have been secured thus making it possible for us to move forward with the project. The Power Purchase Agreement has been reviewed and approved by an attorney whom we secured to represent us in this matter to ensure fairness and protect St. Mary's. Once our roof is replaced, we will sign the Power Purchase Agreement and the installation of the solar panels will commence probably in early August.

Through this project, St. Mary's will become better stewards of God's creation by relying on renewable solar power for a majority of our electric power and by cutting our carbon footprint in needing to purchase less fossil fueled power. We will be better stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us in several ways: first, while the initial cost of electricity from 95th Street Power Associates will be the same rate that Atlantic City Electric is charging us, future costs will increase only by 2% per year; secondly, the solar panels on our roof will extend the life of the roof by reducing the direct impact of the elements; and finally by acting as insulation on the roof.

Finally, 95th Street Power Associates will sell the solar installation to St. Mary's after it has paid off the loan necessary to build the system for "fair market value" (estimated time of sale is eight years from now and probably valued at \$1). Once St. Mary's owns the system, we will be able to cut our electricity cost by about 2/3 and be able to sell the SREC's (solar renewable energy credits) for the remaining 7 years to year 15 when they expire. The panels carry a 25 year warranty and will continue to provide a good portion of St. Mary's electricity for many more years.

So, this project makes sense from a stewardship perspective and is a good long term investment in St. Mary's future. We are excited to be involved in this green energy project in our centennial year and look forward to have the system up and running sometime early this Fall.

Fr. John