

Since the issue of the newsletter, 2 very exciting things have happened:

MCC Hartford will be taking custody of the library that had been operated by the Hartford LGBT center for many years. The center is closing its doors after more than 25 years in operation. MCC Hartford had originally donated this library to the . community because the church did not have the space to house it. The library has since grown to an estimated 20,000 volumes. The library had been inactive for over a year but continued receiving donations. Dr. Richard Stillson is leading the rescue operation to transport the books from the center to the church. Pastor Julio will lead the task force that will catalog the collection and establish a working lending library. That operation will take several months.

The previous tenants of MCC Hartford's new space moved out on Ash Wednesday. We can now begin to work converting an office and classroom layout into a sanctuary with a church office and library. We should be able to move in late March or early April. At nearly 4,000 sq. ft., our new home is more than three times the size of the space we had occupied for the past 15 years. It's on the ground floor with direct access to a 300-space parking lot and includes a kitchen and 2 restrooms. Although it is unlikely that we will be occupying the space by the time of her visit, the Rev. Elder Diane Fisher will be blessing our new space during her visit on March 18.

BTW, the joint pancake supper with the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd on Shrove Tuesday was a great success serving close to 80 people. Photos have been posted on the Good Shepherd website, <http://www.cgshartford.org/>. Ash Wednesday services were also quite successful. We held three joint services with Good Shepherd and served soup and bread for lunch and supper. Pastor Julio preached at all three services, twice in English and once in Spanish. The pastors of both churches participated and about 70 people attended.

Pastor Julio