

Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus Christ called his disciples to lives of service, compassion and justice. As Christian disciples in the early 21st century we too are called to serve others, especially those in need and the poor, and to work for greater justice in the world. St. James' mission programs provide numerous and varied opportunities for children and adults to answer Christ's call to service and social concern.

# Mission

Fall 2009



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Tuesday Lunch Program

Volunteers prepare and serve a sit-down lunch to approximately eighty homeless and hungry guests throughout the year. There are two shifts: 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Friday Dinner Program

Volunteers prepare and serve a sit-down dinner to approximately eighty homeless and hungry guests Fridays from September through June, and Tuesdays in July and August, from 5:30 -8:30 p.m.

### Homeless Shelter

Open House/Orientations: October 11, November 8, December 13  
In partnership with Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (MAPC), parishioners staff a shelter for twelve homeless men Sunday through Friday. The early shift is 6:00–8:00 p.m. and the overnight shift is 8:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

Orientations take place at MAPC (73rd and Madison) on the second Sunday of each month following the 11:15 a.m. service. Open to adults and children accompanied by a parent.

### Partners in Mission—Ministry for Children

Fall activity dates: September 19, October 17, December 12  
In partnership with the Osborne Association, an organization which provides individuals and families who have been involved in the criminal justice system opportunities to transform their lives, St. James' members work with children who have an incarcerated parent. Volunteers join children for Saturday activities and field trips, accompany children to visit their parents in prison, tutor, and provide advice on college and/or careers. Families are welcome!

## Bicentennial Forum

October 4

Prophetic Witness: Mission in the Bicentennial Year

Leeanna Varga, St. James' Associate for Mission

A look at the mission opportunities available during our bicentennial year, both special events and ongoing ministries.

### **Environmental Stewardship**

Join the Mission Committee for discussion about what caring for the environment means, both theologically and practically. Discern what we can do, both individually and as a parish, to counter the negative effects of global warming, protect our environment, and empower ourselves to take action.

### **Housing Justice**

In cooperation with other faith-based organizations, St. James' advocates for more equitable governmental housing policies on city, state and federal levels.

### **For Whom the Bells Toll**

St. James' participates in the national For Whom the Bells Toll campaign to raise awareness of issues related to the criminal justice system by tolling the church bells at 6:00 pm on the day of an execution anywhere in the United States. We also pray for those executed as well as their victims on Sundays.

### **Mission Trips**

#### **Partners in Mission – Haiti**

In partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, St. James' missionaries travel to the southern coast of Haiti, providing hands-on assistance and working alongside people living in these communities. This year projects include school renovation and health education. Trip dates: February 13–20, 2010. The deadline to sign up is October 30. An information session will be held Sunday, September 27 at 12:30 p.m.

#### **Partners in Mission—Africa**

Through St. James' partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Southern Malawi, St. James' missionaries travel to Malawi to provide hands-on help with building projects and other community initiatives. This year's trip is open to 9th–12th graders, who will work alongside Malawian youth. The trip dates are August 2-15. Information sessions will be held on October 18 and November 1.

#### **Partners in Mission—Children**

Trip dates: November 19–20 and March 25–26

Albion Prison is located in upstate New York, in an area difficult to reach for many families of women imprisoned there. St. James' members chaperone children on two overnight trips each year, supporting children and their parents to maintain family ties. The deadline to sign up for the Fall trip is October 9. An information session will be held Sunday, October 4 at 12:30 p.m.

### **Donate**

#### **First Sunday Food Drive**

Fall dates: October 4, November 1, December 6

Donate non-perishable food items for the Yorkville Common Pantry, which serves low-income families and individuals in East Harlem. Donations are brought to the service of Holy Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month and placed in a basket in front of the altar. At other times, foods may be left in a basket in the Narthex. Specific requests are announced in the service bulletin.

### **Toiletries**

Parishioners donate new, unused, sample-size toiletries that are combined into toiletry kits and given to the men in the shelter and to guests at the meal programs at special times such as Christmas. Toiletries may be left at the Parish House reception desk.

### **SAT and ACT Prep Books**

Parishioners donate new or unused SAT and ACT prep books for teens whose parents are incarcerated. The students also receive tutoring and support through Partners in Mission—Children in partnership with the Osborne Association to fulfill their college dreams. Books may be left at the Parish House reception desk until October 4.

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## **Contact Information**

Leeanna Varga  
Associate for Mission  
212.774-4234  
lvarga@stjames.org

Nina Maldari  
Administrative Assistant  
212.774-4256  
nmaldari@stjames.org

### **St. James' Church**

865 Madison Avenue · New York, NY 10021  
212.288-4100 · fax 212.650-0304 · [www.stjames.org](http://www.stjames.org)

