

2009 MISSION TRIP APPEAL SENT TO CONGREGATION

This year a number of our dedicated parishioners are working locally and traveling to do the work of Christ in places where help is desperately needed. The two mission efforts for which we need support involve relationships with the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and our Companion Diocese in the Dominican Republic. The mission of these dedicated parishioners is the mission of our entire parish.

By now everyone in the parish should have received a letter with a request for financial sponsorship to support the 2009 mission trips. In it Father Remer asks us to please embrace them and those they go to serve with your prayerful support and generous donations. The following is information regarding the two efforts.

St. John's Mission Trips - 2009

New Orleans Mission Trip

A St. John's youth team is being led by our parish youth director, Leland Baldwin, (245.2776, lbaldwin@stjohnstampa.org) to continue the Episcopal Diocese's ministry to post-Katrina victims in New Orleans, the "Big Easy." As a graduate of Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans, Leland will be of great help during their tour of the city. The high school aged young people will be re-building a Katrina damaged home while the middle-school youth will be painting and helping with yard work. The youth construction team will be led by Albert Edwards. There will also be an opportunity for the participants to study the rich history of New Orleans and the role the Episcopal Church played in the building of the city. St. John's parishioner, Katie Brown, M.D., will be assisting Leland with chaperoning our students. In light of the economy, it was decided that this year's summer mission for St. John's youth would minister closer to home, and do some good old-fashioned hard labor while glorifying Christ. There will be two different work camps, one for 12-15 year olds and one for 16-18 year olds. The mission is planned for June 10-17, 2009. The trip with travel, food, and lodging is running approximately \$500 per person.

Our Companion Diocese in the Dominican Republic:

The Tampa Deanery Project for 2009 is to complete the shell for the first floor of the new church and school for Mission San Pedro & San Pablo, La Barquita, located near the Ozama River in Santo Domingo where there has been frequent flooding. The Diocese of the Dominican Republic recently purchased the present lot, which is above flood level, for the mission. Priest in charge of San Pedro & San Pablo is Fr. Monique Bruno, who is also the vicar of the larger San Felipe mission, and is fluent in Creole, French, Spanish and English. In the coming years the overall goal is to construct a two story church and small school. Facilities at the school will be used to meet community needs, such as job training for teens and adults and a nutrition center for the neighborhood. When completed, the church and the school will be able to be used for shelter for the inevitable floods that will hit Santo Domingo, as well as in the aftermath of hurricanes.

The three Tampa Teams this year will stay at the Bishop Holly units at the Diocesan Center in Santo Domingo. Dates for the 2009 Tampa Deanery / Mission San Pedro & San Pablo, La Barquita project are the following: Team I, June 6-13; Team II, June 13-20; and Team III, July 5-11 This is the tenth year that members of several Episcopal churches in the Tampa area have worked together as a group effort. We are trying to raise approximately \$1500 per person to cover building materials, in addition to travel, food and lodging. Please contact the chair of our parish outreach committee, Sally Thompson (254.3009, tampasal@verizon.net), for more information.

Saint John's Mission Projects 2009 – Sponsor Form

Sponsor Information:

I/We desire to support missionary work in the Dominican Republic and Louisiana.

_____ Praying for them before and during the Mission Trip/Visit.

_____ Enclosing a gift of \$ _____ for the Mission Trips.

I am/We are:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: Day _____ **Evening:** _____

Please make your check payable to Saint John's Church, marked for 2009 Mission Trip and Projects, and mail it to the parish offices at 906 South Orleans Ave, Tampa, Florida 33606-2941.

All gifts are tax deductible and all funds will be used for 2009 St John's Mission projects in the Dominican Republic and Louisiana. If more funds are received than are needed for projects, the remaining funds will be used for additional missionary work supported by the St. John's Outreach Committee.