



Mission Ministries 2011

118 North Washington Street ✠ Alexandria, VA 22314 ✠ www.HistoricChristChurch.org

A Call to Mission

At Christ Church, we believe in a God who calls the human family to a future greater than anyone could make for themselves alone. In the Bible, the voice of God is active, insistent, and in every way encourages us to move and change, to recognize what gifts we have been given and what by God's grace we can become. Unlocking our own gifts encourages us to unlock the gifts of others, especially those who suffer and are prevented from enjoying God's bounty.

If we choose to orient our lives with gratitude for God's love and care for us, then we realize that God not only calls us, but also sends us. For instance, the call of Moses or Isaiah was more than just a summons to be in relationship with God

or live by God's law. It was a call to be transformed and therefore to change the lives of others. Mission is not an option for Christians. Rather, it is a

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natural and necessary response, motivated by our gratitude and compas-

sion, to reach out and reverse the insufficient cards which have been dealt to so many suffering people. To be sent is to be alive with the light of Jesus and compelled to share His grace and truth with the world. The good news, therefore, is never just information, but a call to action, a call to serve a world that is often badly broken.

Everyone in this great church is called to become an activist. The horror of those who suffer is too great for any one of us to neglect the commission to be sent. I hope you will find in this brochure a calling to be sent. Should you go, you will be connected to God, find your true self, and make a difference in a world yearning for your life to become significant.

Vision Statement: Our Call to Ministry

In grateful response to the love of God given to us in Jesus Christ, the faith community of Christ Church is called to live out Christ's gift of love that brings transformation and new life both within the Christ Church community and to our brothers and sisters, especially those who suffer from poverty, violence, and injustice.

You are the church.

*God has chosen to depend upon you
To manifest God's kingdom on earth,*

*To transform this world
Through worship, acts of mercy and justice,
And the practice of neighborly hospitality.
Engage in God's transforming work by
Participating in one of these
Mission Ministries with your time,
talent and treasure.*

*In so doing, you are accomplishing
The mission of the church:*

*To restore all people to unity with
God and each other in Christ.*



MISSION STATEMENT: *Who We Are as a Faith Community*

Children of Chernobyl Shifts to Ukraine

For more than 15 years, the Children of Chernobyl mission at Christ Church brought children ages 8–12 from the radiated areas of Belarus each summer for a six-week health respite. Our mission work has been complicated by political tensions between the two countries, and during the summer of 2009 we hoped in vain for a resolution to the political impasse that prevented more than 2,000 Belarusian children from coming to the U.S. As disappointing as it was for our host families, the cancellation was devastating for our Belarusian children and families, who rely on the winter clothes and pharmaceuticals we send back with the children each summer. Please keep them in your prayers this cold winter, particularly as Russia plays havoc with gas delivery to Belarus.

Challenges also bring new opportunities and the need to adapt to changing circumstances. This summer working with the Boyarka Center in the small town of Boyarka near Kiev, we will bring Ukrainian children for health respites from mid-June to the end of July in 2010. The Boyarka Center is one of five organizations founded by the UN after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. It is supported by the Ukrainian government and a U.S.-based aid organization (FO-CUSS), and offers programs for over 10,000 children and their families coping with the issues resulting from Chernobyl exposure.

We invite you to get involved in this mission. We are looking for families to host children and the chaperone or translator who accompany the children. For additional information, contact Mary Beth Stein, Children of Chernobyl committee at 703-837-8721 or Michele Smith, Director of Outreach and Mission at 703-778-4937.

Friends of Mengo Hospital USA

For 27 years Christ Church has had a close relationship with Mengo Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. During this time, our committee initiated many projects in support of the hospital. We have sent medicines, purchased a truck, paid for school fees for children of staff members, and built a chapel. In 2005, after ten years of work, our committee along with Mengo committees in Canada and the UK, completed a fully equipped dental clinic, which is now self-supporting. Since then we have turned our efforts to supporting the HIV/AIDS clinic's work with woman and children. We have provided funds for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, life-saving anti-retroviral medicine for children, mosquito nets for patients, and we have established an emergency fund for children.

Our relationship with Mengo Hospital has been strengthened by the many Christ Church parishioners who have journeyed to Mengo and returned home spiritually enriched—in giving we have received. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, contact Betsy Thompson at 703-765-7336 or cookthompson@gmail.com.

Holy Land Mission

The Holy Land Mission supports the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. As a force for good, the Diocese exemplifies the care that Christ gave to the needy. Its efforts to provide spiritual guidance and basic education, health care, and employment for the Christian community will help slow the steady decline of Christians in the Holy Land.

Prayer is the first act of the faithful.

In addition, we need to visit the Holy Land to form meaningful personal relationships; give our financial support to organizations in need, such as the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, Jordan; and cement our ancient ties with the people in whose land our Savior gave so much of Himself. Our committee needs more volunteers to help deliberate on how to support our mission most effectively.

To join this effort or to be added to our email list, contact Jane Gilchrist at jegi@loc.gov or 703-548-2657.

Sudan Ministry

For more than 12 years, Christ Church has maintained a covenant relationship with Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and persecuted Christians in the Diocese of Renk in Southern Sudan. We have lived faithfully into our covenant through:

- Reciprocal visits, including three mission trips to Renk
- Public prayer
- Financial support for vital projects, including construction of St. Matthew's Cathedral, translation of several books of the Bible into the Dinka tribal language, and the operation of a medical clinic.

Many of our projects have been done in partnership with other churches and individuals in the Dioceses of Virginia and Chicago.

But Christ Church has been the primary supporter of the medical clinic, in which Doctor Paul and a small number of nurses combat malaria, improve maternal health care, and reduce infant mortality. Christ Church has raised most of the funds for a new medical clinic which provides service to Christians living in this region.

To learn more about how you can get involved in these efforts, please contact contact Nancy Knapp at 703-765-8372 or nvknapp@aol.com.

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating and empowering people, whoever they are and wherever they find themselves on their journeys of faith.

Native American Missions: Walking in Beauty in Navajoland and Close to Home in Virginia

The Christ Church Native American group has for several years led a Vacation Bible School for the Navajo at St. John Baptizer Episcopal Mission Church in Montezuma Creek, Utah. Each year when we go back to help our friends, the tie between us grows stronger. The Navajo are a culture that is very spiritual, but very different from our culture. We learn about the beauty of creation in a timeless atmosphere. We teach *Godly Play* to the Navajo children. We sing with them and help them learn to play guitar and percussion with instruments donated to the mission. We invite local Navajo families to share songs and stories during two evening community dinners.

Our annual mission trip is now part of a collaborative outreach with parishioners from dioceses around the country. We work with St. John's and St. Christopher's, its partner mission in Bluff, Utah, to help them support local families and strengthen calls for native clergy. In the process of listening to the needs of others, we begin to give in a new way. We witness to the love and hope of Christ and are transformed in the process. We learn to live the Navajo blessing: *Hozhoogo Nani-naa Doo* (May You Walk in Beauty).

Mission can conjure up images of exotic and faraway places, but mission opportunities also exist right in our own backyard. In the last year, the Diocese of Virginia has invited parishes to get to know their Indian neighbors. There are eight organized tribes in Virginia, two with reservations in King William County. The Diocese is working closely with the Pamunkey tribe,

located along the shores of the Pamunkey River, northeast of Richmond near West Point. The Pamunkey people settled this land ten to twelve thousand years ago. They welcomed the first English colonies, helping the newcomers survive their first Virginia winter.

The Pamunkey are a people bound together by a common identity, and they are eager to share their history, their story, and their very selves with the Episcopal Church. Christ Church made two trips to the reservation in 2009.

If you would like to join the Native American Mission, contact Stacey George at dcstacey@aol.com.

Our Little Roses Ministry

Our Little Roses Home for Girls (OLR) in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, is a place where the lives of once destitute girls are being trans-

formed. Once victims of poverty and oppression, these girls are given the chance to heal and grow and to learn to love and trust God and one another in a family atmosphere with Christian leadership.

This ministry supports the girls of OLR with friendship, companionship, monetary support for the facility, and education for their physical and emotional well-being. A relationship has been established with the girls of OLR and members of this faith community who have traveled to Honduras during the summer on the annual mission trip. This ministry also provides general care sponsorship and educational sponsorship for one young resident, Sihan Villalobos.

If you are interested in supporting the work of this mission, please contact mission team leader Liz Hoekstra, lizhoekstra@fcds.org, or committee chairperson Sarah Decamps at sarah-decamps@mac.com.

Lord, It is Good That We Are Here— World Mission Sunday 2011

By Paul Currer, Chair, Christ Church Mission Committee

On March 6, Christ Church will join Episcopal parishes in the U.S. and across the globe to celebrate World Mission Sunday. Each year we focus on a different aspect of mission in the Church, and on this day we will honor the Episcopal Church's missionaries and their ministries throughout the world.

Our theme, taken from the Gospel reading for the day, is "Lord, it is Good That We Are Here." According to Matthew, that is what Peter said to Jesus when they traveled with James and John to a place outside of their normal circumstances and experienced a part of eternity.

Did you know that over 60 missionaries from dioceses across the Episcopal Church serve in long-term assignments as teachers, medical professionals, clergy, and other important capacities in 25 countries around the world? Or that Christ Church has seven mission groups that undertake short-term assignments in Sudan, Uganda, Honduras, the Holy Land, Utah, Virginia, and right here in the Washington, DC area?

For our parish, World Mission Sunday will provide an opportunity to learn more about the transformational experience that service in mission provides, to hear about where God is sending Christ Church members, and to explore ways to answer the call.

10 Easy Ways to Participate in Mission at Christ Church

1. Come to the next Friends of Mengo Hospital meeting to hear the latest news on our support for medical care for the people of Uganda. Contact Betsy Thompson, cookthompson@gmail.com with questions.
2. Join the Prayer Mission. Learn about and pray for the needs of people through out the world. To become a missionary without leaving the comfort of your home please contact Paul Curren, paulcurren@aol.com.
3. Pray each day that the good news of God's grace will be shared and heard throughout the world.
4. Pray to be open to the possibility of travel in the Holy Land on pilgrimage with the Rev. Ann Gillespie.
5. Join the Our Little Roses Mission Team this summer in work, play, and relationship building with the girls and staff at OLR.
6. Learn about the history of Native Americans in Virginia. The Pamunkey tribe of Virginia dates back 10,000 to 12,000 years. Located just northeast of Richmond makes for easy weekend accessibility. To learn more about this local family friendly mission opportunity contact Stacy George, dcstacey@aol.com.
7. Join GtR, Genesis to Revelations weekly bible study for the thirsty missionaries. Contact Kimberly Newman, knewman@OMM.com, for more information.
8. Open your heart and home to a child from Ukraine, for three or six weeks, during the summer months. Contact Kate Van Dyck, kvandyck@cox.net, for more information.
9. Become a prayer partner. Prayer partners set aside time each day to pray for the mission team members entrusted to them. For more information contact Michele Smith, msmith@cCALEX.org.
10. Pray for world peace, most especially for the people of Sudan and the Diocese of Renk. Join Nancy Knapp in her efforts to mobilize us all to be advocates for the dire situation of the people of Southern Sudan. Contact Nancy at nvknapp@aol.com.

Pray about joining a mission trip this year. You may want to contact the individual mission chairs or one of the committee listed here:

Paul Curren
Mission Committee Chair
paulcurren@aol.com

The Rev. Pierce Klemmt, Rector
pklemmt@cCALEX.org

Michele Smith
Director, Outreach & Mission
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The Millennium Development Goals

Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
Education for All
Equality for Women
Reduce Child Mortality
Improve Maternal Health
Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
Ensure Environmental Sustainability
Build a Global Partnership for Development