

The Mission of the Holy Spirit

The Mission Spirit

Spring 2014



Program Director's Note

"God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, or sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way. If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it."

-- Author Unknown

Dear Friends in Christ,

I greet you with glad tidings and thank you for all of your support throughout this year. The Mission of the Holy Spirit continues to impact the lives of many families here in Norfolk, Virginia. This is only possible because of contributions from partners like you. "Being the blessing" is what we are called to do in the world and when we live into this, lives are changed. One such life changed is a young man who dropped out of school several years ago, and through

the work of the Mission returned to school. He will join our four other seniors who are graduating this June. Also, with the support of Rev. David Davenport, we will baptize twelve new members into the body of Christ.

But, with joy we must endure sorrow. The Mission of the Holy Spirit is a ministry that strives to offer hope and healing for the hurts that bind so many of those in our communities. When you look at our ministry through the lens of trauma, you are better able to understand how we function so differently and why your assistance is so valuable. Recently, we have had to deal with the impact of multiple murders in Norfolk that directly touched our lives. The children from the Mission are greatly affected by trauma in many ways. Through our work at the Mission, these children can get the sense of safety and consistency that they need in their lives. Tough economic times continue to impact how we are able to provide quality services. As summer begins, many of our young people will be in need of new experiences that we will not be able to provide without your help. Each one of you holds the key to turning on that sparkle of joy that our families need. Please consider giving a gift that can help the Mission of the Holy Spirit effectively change lives. Thank you for all that you do!

Blessings,

Keith A. Josey
Lay Pastor



From the Chairman

Dear Friends of the Mission:

The kids at the Mission are finishing up another school year. Often these kids have setbacks in their lives. Their lives at home are not conducive to concentrating on studies or completing homework. But many of them take advantage of the programs the Mission offers, and because of that, they succeed.

Two of our girls have finished up their second year at VCU, with very nice grade point averages. We have a student at Norfolk State University who continues to do well. The Mission has helped these three through grants from the Father Starkey Fund and other assistance. They serve as role models for the younger kids, many of whom are doing well.

There is no one activity the Mission does that is the most helpful. Rather, it is the combination of things. Keith Josey refers to the Mission efforts as a holistic approach. The Mission provides tutoring during the week, which is very effective. Pastor Keith, with his counseling experience, conducts group sessions to help with anger management and other issues. The ODU nursing students work with the kids on the importance of nutrition, exercise and preventative health care. Keith invites parents to the church services. Volunteers from various churches provide food so that the kids are not as hungry as they might be. There is a substantial meal on Sundays after the church service, as well as a lighter dinner for the weeknight sessions.

Central to the Mission's activities is the 2 PM church service on Sundays. We invite you to come experience a form of the Episcopal service like you've never seen before! It is lively, with heart-felt singing, and a sermon delivered by one of the best preachers around -- Pastor Keith. Keith

Josey has a deep understanding of the Bible, and an ability to relate the Sunday scripture readings to the lives of the kids and anyone else who is there. His sermons are never boring. They give the kids tools to deal with their lives, and most importantly he gives them the hope that comes from knowing that God loves them and has a plan for them.

Those of us who volunteer with the Mission want to thank you for your financial support. We invite you to come on Sundays to see how these kids' lives are better through the work of the Mission. Please keep in mind that school will be out soon and we need your support now more than ever. The Mission needs to provide activities for the kids and to continue to give them guidance in the Way of our Lord.

God bless you all.

Hank Luhring

A Note from the Editor:

Hank Luhring has been involved as a volunteer with the Mission of the Holy Spirit for many years, serving on the Board of Directors, helping coordinate once-monthly Sunday suppers with Old Donation Church, mentoring young people, speaking to church groups about the Mission, providing IT support, and much, much more. He has been the Chairman of the Board for more than three years, and is stepping down as of June 30. All of us from the Mission give him heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude for his service.



Mission Members after Easter Sunday Worship



Health and Wellness

Nursing students from Old Dominion University teamed with the Mission again this spring to help our youngsters and their families with health education. Three teams of students assisted with programs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Tuesday nights, a team of nursing students tutored schoolchildren, helping them with reading, homework and study skills that helped them improve their grades in school.

On Wednesday nights, nursing students presented a short program on staying healthy—for example, choosing snacks that aren't loaded with fat, sodium and empty calories. Some form of exercise is included, whether it be a walk through the neighborhood, a game of ball in the field or a bit of Zumba dancing.

Focusing on older teens and adults, the Thursday night programs dealt with issues that plague the African-American community, such as obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. The ODU students helped with tutoring Thursday nights, too.

We are truly blessed to be able to partner with our wonderful ODU nursing students for health education, tutoring and mentoring.



Mothers' Day, 2014



Member Perspective:

April:

Who brought you to the Mission? Shari Parker.

Why do you keep coming to the Mission? The great people here, the kindness of Mr. Keith pulling me aside in my time of need, and the true presence of God.

How has the Mission changed your life? I have learned new ways of viewing the Bible. Mr. Keith gives you examples of the readings, which I like a lot.

Michael:

Who brought you to the Mission? My family.

Why do you keep coming to the Mission? I love Jesus, and my faith in the Lord.

How has the Mission changed your life? I pray every day. My spirit is changed for God.

Taija:

Who brought you to the Mission? Frances Williams.

Why do you keep coming to the Mission? I love this church. It is very helpful. I also love the service.

How has the Mission changed your life? Attitude, outlook on life, and I feel comfortable here as I have for many years☺

Tamica:

Who brought you to the Mission? My family.

Why do you keep coming to the Mission? Because I enjoy hearing the Word.

How has the Mission changed your life? It helped me become a better person.



Featured Volunteer: Walt Altice

Walt Altice was first brought to the Mission by a church friend from All Saints' Episcopal Church in 2008 who thought he would be interested in our work. When asked what brought him back a second time, he said, "I just knew there was a need for help, and at that particular time I thought I could use my talents as a video producer to help promote the Mission." He continues, "It has made me focus on what is needed to help out other people; they deserve to be in a better place."

Since then, he has produced 3 videos for the Mission, and helped with field trips, garage sales, health fairs and picnics. He helps coordinate a Sunday supper each month with Emmanuel Episcopal Church, attends the Diocese of Southern Virginia Annual Council to promote the Mission, and has served on the Board of Directors since 2009. One of the projects he is most proud of is publishing 2 books written by Father Bill Starkey; proceeds from the sale of the books were donated to the Mission to start the Fr. Starkey Fund, which gives financial assistance to college-bound Mission students.

Walt's next big Mission volunteer project: starting July 1, he will step up as the Chairman of the Board for the Mission. His goals for the Mission are: "I'd like to see increased attendance--there are kids in need that we haven't reached yet. I also want to encourage more churches to get involved in God's work through the Mission." He adds, "I'd like to thank Hank Luhring for

his continued and dedicated years of service to the Mission and on the Board. It will be hard to replace him because he does so many things so well."

When asked how the Mission has impacted members, he replied, "Greatly! The Mission gives people a sense of community and a source of well-being. It teaches kids about life and gives them a dream of what they can look forward to if they work hard. In just the short time that I've been here, I can see the difference. At first, not many kids were graduating from high school, and now kids are graduating and going on to college, trade schools and jobs. I think the Mission has given a lot of kids a sense of purpose and possibilities that maybe they weren't getting at home."

When asked if he had anything else to share with others about the Mission, he said, "Keith is the lifeblood of the Mission. Without a doubt we need to support him and the Mission. He gives so much of his own money, time and talent. Most importantly, he gives his heart. Kids come to him with a problem and he will do everything he can to help them out. That's the sign of a true Christian. I pray that God continues to bless him and the Mission."



Contact Us:

Office: 757-858-0010

Mail: 1445 Norview Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23513

E-mail: info@MissionoftheHolySpirit.org

Website: MissionoftheHolySpirit.org

Facebook:

facebook.com/MissionOfTheHolySpirit
YouTube