



Outreach Ministries Fall 2016 Update

of



**SAINT JAMES
EPISCOPAL**

St. James Outreach Ministries

Adopt-A-Highway

This ministry gives our members an opportunity to keep our neighborhood clean and free of trash by cleaning up Piney Mountain Road 4 times a year.

Bag O' Beans Challenge

Our parishioners are challenged to bring in 1 lb. bags of dry beans to the Narthex to help provide for those in need. We have committed to 300 bags per month.

Christmas Angel Tree

Gives members of St. James a way to reach out in love and caring for the less fortunate in our area by ensuring that needy families are able to celebrate Christmas with dignity and joy.

5th Saturday Lunches

Daughters of the King (DOK) prepare lunches to be taken to Southside Community Center on months that have a 5th Saturday.

Boyd Cater • boydcater@wafres.org
(864) 414-5760

Feed Thy Neighbor

A cooperative ministry with other Episcopal churches in Greenville which prepares & serves hot breakfast every 2nd Saturday morning. Feed Thy Neighbor ministry centered at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Ben Freeman • bjfenterprise1@gmail.com
(864) 419-6590

Frazee Homework Ministry

St. James parishioners volunteer as academic tutors in this program for under-resourced children in the downtown Greenville area, assisting them in improving their reading and math skills.

Marie Hovland • tomar617@hotmail.com
(864) 901-4248

GAIHN and United Ministries

This ministry provides homeless families with safe, secure shelter while offering emergency assistance, strategies to obtain affordable housing, permanent employment, and other assistance.

George LaFaye • georgelafaye@gmail.com
(864) 423- 9705

Giving Tree

An opportunity to help those in need; set up on an as-needed basis in the Narthex, NOT just at Christmas. Tags on the tree indicate items that local families and children may need.

Pastoral Food Ministry

The Pastoral Food Ministry receives referrals from the staff and clergy of those who might benefit from a meal being brought to a parishioner's home to help ease transitions following unforeseen life events.

Dianne Posey • di@theposeys.net
(864) 234- 1438

Project Host

Project Host is a local soup kitchen and vocational training center for people in the food industry, which also provides a holistic response to poverty, through helping people receive food and case management.

Tina Boyd • youthminister@stjamesgreenville.org
(770) 361-8469

Stop Hunger Now

SHN's mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

John Kaup • john.kaup@furman.edu
(864) 607- 2985

St. James and the Vivanco Ministry in Quito

Each Sunday, during the “Prayers of the People,” the congregation of St. James prays by name for our “Missionaries in Ecuador: Roberto, Cameron, Graham, Liam, and Francis Vivanco.” Further, St. James budgets \$2400 annually to support the Vivanco family in their varied ministries in Quito, Ecuador. Cameron grew up in Durham, NC, earned a BA from the University of the South, completed a certificate in youth ministry, and was serving on the staff of the Church of the Advent in Spartanburg when she met Father Timothy Dombek, then Rector of St. James, and was introduced to our congregation. She and

Roberto, whom she married in 2006, have frequently spoken at St. James during the family’s furloughs in the Carolinas. This past April (2016) a group of St. James members, led by Pauline and Ron



Kelley, visited Quito for four full days to learn more about the ministry of the Vivancos and to consider ways that we as individuals and as a church might become more involved in their ministry. More recently, Tina Boyd and Burke Lipscomb travelled to Quito with a Diocesan group, which was more directly involved with hands-on activities with various churches.

Cameron Vivanco is a dedicated missionary and a skilled planner for itinerant groups such as ours. This short term mission emphasis is a major part of her responsibility, and between April and August 2016 she and Roberto hosted twelve such groups. Visitors are introduced to conditions of Third-World poverty and to the programs sponsored and financed by Youth

Members of St. James on this trip included Pauline Kelley, Ron Kelley, Monte Hudson, Kimberly Hudson, Laura Brown, Stan Gibson, Marjorie Davenport, Dena Veazey, Anne Shelley, and John Shelley.

World, a long-term missionary team divided into International Teams. It is also a 501(3c) organization incorporated in the United States. The larger mission of Youth World is a long-term vision: to increase the number of indigenous Christian youth workers in Ecuador and other places in the Third World. This will require education as well as the discipling of young men and women in the churches. Among the ministries directly supported by Youth World in Quito are group homes: Casa Gabriel which focuses on rescuing boys, ages 15-22, from life on the streets; and Casa Adalia, which provides a home for young women and their children seeking to escape sex-trafficking.

In the evenings during these short term mission ventures Cameron becomes an engaging facilitator as she leads the group in recalling what they have experienced and remembered from the activities of the day. Each day we were in Quito, we visited at least one Episcopal congregation whose membership consists, almost exclusively, of persons who are poor, though some are better off than others. Each of the four churches we visited gave us lovely welcomes, discussed their ministries, provided a simple meal or refreshments, presented us with small gifts, and invited us to visit, in small groups, the homes of four of their members.

A second major focus of Cameron and Roberto's ministry in Quito is "Education Equals Hope." Founded in 2003 to underwrite education expenses of students in desperate and difficult places, the program is administered through Episcopal Churches in Quito at an average rate of \$32.00 per month per child for education in public or private schools. According to law, public education is free and is mandatory through the ninth grade; but because public education is woefully underfunded, children from the poorest families cannot afford the uniforms, books, writing supplies, gym clothes, exam fees, and transportation often required for attendance. The contributions for "Education Equals Hope" are funneled through sponsoring churches who select recipients, provide a supporting community, especially for students whose parents have little or no education, monitor their progress in the schools, and scrupulously account for the expenditures. Students may also choose private schools, whose tuition and fees are typically very modest, \$35-40 per month. It is expected that students and families will remain in the life of the church if they continue to receive the stipends.

Our most heart-rending experiences in Quito were visits to the homes of families whose children were being supported in the schools. For most of us in the St. James group, this raised issues of voyeurism, but the essential humanity of our hosts prevented these visits from descending into inappropriate experiences. Despite our initial reticence these visits did

provide a glimpse of what Third World poverty can be like. I'm quite sure we could find similar living situations here in Greenville.

My first visit to one of these homes was most depressing. We were led there by a nine-year-old girl and her 3-year old brother. As with many of the poor in Quito, the hovel was on the side of a very steep hill. (Quito is a long, narrow city, nestled in a valley 26 miles long and three miles wide. As the population has grown, the poorest are often pushed out of the valley onto steep hills.) There were no chairs, no table, no inside doors. The floor was a moldy piece of carpet stretched over bare earth. There was a refrigerator, a small stove, and a sink. There was a bunk bed with a single on top (where the 9-year-old girl and her older brother slept) and a double on the bottom (for mom and dad and the three-year-old). The toilet was outside. Both parents

worked, the mother as a house maid, the father as a construction worker. There was an old television like most of us owned forty years ago. I asked the little girl what programs she liked to watch. "I watch only programs about God!" she said. I was surprised and



wondered if that was what she thought we wanted to hear, or if her parents were simply that strict, or if she were embarrassed to admit that the television did not work.

Another visit was to a larger, very clean home where we were served sodas and cookies. Here the real anguish was not dire poverty but the mother's recent discovery that her older son, age 16, had begun using drugs. There seemed to be an even greater fear that if her husband found out about the drugs, he would throw the boy out of the home.

Our group did not encounter in Quito an emergency that needed tending immediately, but the confrontation with Third World poverty for five days did bring an urgency as to how we should respond. The time in Peru, where we were tourists, allowed us to push the Quito experiences aside for a few days. But then we were home; and the memories of Quito flooded back: memories of Casa Gabrielle and Casa Adalia, Carmen Bajo, the young women from Emaus who pulled us onto the dance floor, the beautiful brown eyes

and bright smiles of the children, the tired and strained faces of the adults, most of whom were women. We can't erase what we have seen in Quito, and "seeing" calls for acting responsibly. What should we do? What can we do? What is the will of God in this situation?

Here are some possibilities:

- Travel to Ecuador with one of the short term ministry groups frequently hosted by Cameron and Roberto.
- Make a contribution to the living and ministry expenses of the Vivanco family (samsusa.org)
- Make a contribution to Education Equals Hope (educationequalshope.org).
- Make a contribution to one of the ministries of Youth World (youthworld.org).

Respectfully Submitted,
John C. Shelley
August 17, 2016

My Perspective on Ecuador—*Burke Lipscomb*

In Ecuador, I learned that God has no limits. He can love endlessly and can be seen anywhere and in anyone. I saw him in the beautiful environment and the happiness of the people. I've seen that God brings people together. He first brought a group of six different churches together as a team in a matter of a few days. Our team then bonded with the wonderful people of Cristo Librador very quickly through devotions and work in the Church. God can act in such small ways as a child carrying his weight in paint supplies across a room or as large as fixing a whole roof. I've learned the God is always there.

From the people I learned about true joy. They live with what we consider a little, yet they find more happiness in each other. They love talking more than working and the soccer games in the street are



half about scoring and half about enjoying the company of your teammates. I never met anyone who was super grumpy because they didn't win or didn't get something new. They made the most of every situation and found true happiness and enjoyment.

I learned that I loved Ecuador. The beauty of the land and of the people is something so genuine and I really would love to go back again. I learned more importantly that I am really good with children, they enjoy my goofiness and I enjoy their playfulness. I also learned I really want to have a future that involves taking care of God's Earth (so maybe like an environmental engineer). Most importantly I learned that it is always easy to be grumpy when you don't have something but it is so much more enjoyable to just appreciate what you do have and to enjoy the ability to serve and be served.



Upcoming Opportunities for Ministry Outreach

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

11:00 AM, St. James Ministries
Open House

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:30 AM, Feed Thy Neighbor Ministry

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

6:30 AM, Feed Thy Neighbor Ministry

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 AM, Daughters of the King, 5th
Saturday Lunch, Parish Life Center
Kitchen

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event
(20,000 meals) will take place in the
Parish Life Center. All ages are welcome
to participate.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:00 AM, Adopt A Highway cleaning of
Piney Mountain Road

ONGOING

Bag O' Bean Challenge, drop off 1 lb.
bags of dry beans to the Narthex