

Mission of the Holy Spirit?

The Mission of the Holy Spirit is a collaborative effort of the Diocese of Southern Virginia and several Episcopal churches. Primarily, its vision is to offer spiritual, educational, and psychosocial services to at-risk, inner-city children, adolescents, and their families. Through the mission's programs, many individuals that struggle with social, economic and family dysfunction are able to find hope, set goals, and change their lives. These changes begin by connecting with the Gospel in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: puppet shows, story telling, or games with the children to Sunday evening worship, which is largely planned and conducted by the youth themselves.

This creed, developed and recited by the youth of inner-city Norfolk, reflects the desire of these children to live more positive, productive lives.

I am somebody.
I am a child of God.
I CAN make a difference.
I WILL make a change.

How has All Saints' helped?

➤ Our chief link to the Mission is our own Peggy Newman, Candidate for the Diaconate. She is passionate about the work of the Mission and has taught us a great deal about its work and opportunities for individual and collective service.

➤ We included ornaments for the Mission on our 2007 Angel Tree in an effort to provide games and craft supplies for their gatherings.

➤ We have sponsored Sunday evening trips to their gatherings. Charlotte Spruill, and Sally and Jan Tempest can tell you about their experiences there.

➤ The Outreach Commission is committed to finding ways in which All Saints' can be supportive of the Mission's work.

The following is excerpted from the Website's (<http://missionoftheholyspirit.org>) *Message from the Director*.

"While providing structured activities and a supportive environment is reflected in our tremendous progress to date, I have great concern about the continued viability and growth of these programs without increased, additional support. It is clear we are living in trying times and are challenged daily with issues like addiction, abuse, neglect, depression, hunger, and teenage pregnancy. Without developing more strong partnerships like those we have with several churches now, the hopelessness and hurt that plague the segment of society we serve will grow. The demand and lack of supply are weighing down our human and physical resources and we need your help.

Each congregation, community leader or business person that has ever asked how he/she/they can do more to make a difference, please contact us at 627-9271.

Again, thank you to all those who have shared our vision and provided the support to help us in this rewarding, yet challenging journey."

Keith Josey

The Mission of the Holy Spirit meets at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 1455 Norview Avenue in Norfolk.