

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE

For over 40 years, our parish has supported dedicated people and organizations who, in the name of Christ, work in such areas as theological education, community development, housing, medical care, and church planting. We believe that support for and involvement in missions is our response to God's grace and love for us. God calls us to care for the spiritual, physical, and social needs of others and to join in the restoration of all people to God's self.

This year we were especially happy to have a visit from Ruth and Jim Padilla DeBorst, missionaries in Costa Rica and learn about their new Casa Nube project.

We also sponsored a wonderful program in March where we invited the community to watch the film "Voices of Re-entry" and then join a discussion with the film-maker and men who were formerly incarcerated and are now re-adjusting to life outside prison. The program was well attended, and many people commented that it was a powerful learning experience.

The Mission Fund is allocated a percentage (5.5%) of the parish's total overall pledge income. In 2023 we funded the following ministries:

- Good Shepherd Mission In Navajoland
- Borderland Ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande
- Abraco Negro ("Black Embrace")
- Community Health and Education for Rural Africa (CHERA)
- Ruth and Jim Padilla DeBorst, Costa Rica
- The Outdoor Church
- Lay Ministers Education in Lesotho
- Partakers Prison Ministry
- Nuevo Amanecer, East Boston, MA

After conversation with Cambridge Councilor Marc McGovern about the unhoused in our area, we also made a special donation to the Winter Warmth Drive to buy blankets.

You can read much more about the missions we support on the missions page of the parish web page: <https://www.stjamescambridge.org/mission-fund>. As always, we encourage parishioners who want to undertake missions activities to speak with us about support. We also welcome members who would like to serve on the Committee as well as those with ideas of how we can further the understanding and doing of God's mission locally and across the world.

Members:

Nancy McArdle (chair)

Mary Caulfield

Christiana Russ

Anne Shumway

Yvette Verdieu

Submitted by Nancy McArdle