

MISSION 2015

Are you interested in Mission participation but not in a committee membership? You are encouraged to sign up in the Narthex and someone from the Committee will contact you or you can email Kathy Diehl at khdiehl@charter.net or Dick Welch at welch96@charter.net.

The Mission Committee will be embarking on a different approach to reaching out to our St Francis Community. During the month of February, the church school is focusing on a "healing" theme. As many of you know, we have our own Missionaries, Tom and Dianne Wilson, who are currently in their second year of a three year commitment to the Episcopal Church of El Salvador. In conjunction with the Church School efforts of healing, we are seeking donations of Vitamins, Tylenol and First Aid type items to be sent back to El Maizel, El Salvador with Tom & Dianne to share with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador. Please leave your donations on the Mission table in the back corner of the Narthex.

February 1992 ~ St Francis, in conjunction with the First Baptist Church of Holden, sent several members on a Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic to build a hospital for the community in La Romana. In 2001 the Good Samaritan Mission Council, a 501c3 non-profit, was formed. This mission has continued over years and today the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, through partnerships with UMass, is a thriving hospital serving the community.

Along the way, Karen Kappas, a member of the St Francis mission Committee, met the Chalis family. Emily Chalis, just a young girl when first met, had a dream of becoming a doctor and serving her community. Through the support of Karen, and financial support of St Francis, Emily has realized her dream and will be graduating from Medical School on February 26th!! Karen will be attending the graduation. The mission committee would be so honored if folks from St Francis would sign a card (that can be found on the mission table in the Narthex) for Karen to take to Emily and show our continued support and recognition of her accomplishment.

Blankets for Syrian Refugees... The Mission Committee has been greatly touched by the donations of warm blankets for Syrian refugees. In the summer and fall folks went to great care to gather clothing and linens to be sent to the besieged areas. As we all know the plight of these refugees continues. You all have given the Mission Committee hope and thanks for your donations. The blanket drive will officially end.... But if anyone comes across a no longer used blanket it can still be left in the Narthex!!