

Your Kingdom Come:

Parish reflection on the Millennium Development Goals



All Saints Parish (Episcopal)
1773 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02445
www.allsaintsbrookline.org

Your kingdom come....

...Discerning the call to help heal a broken world

The study and reflection process that took place in covenant groups last spring at All Saints is just the beginning. What we have learned about global poverty and how the Millennium Development Goals seek to reduce and eliminate it have opened a door for us – a way into deep and meaningful Christian ministry. The question is, what should that ministry look like?

As we begin the 2008-2009 program year, we continue to wonder how God wants our parish to engage the agenda of the MDGs. From the covenant group reports, it is clear that already several ideas have been offered. Our parish currently has a rich and vibrant mission ministry in Brookline and beyond. How can we grow that ministry area of our parish? What resources – both financial as well as time and talent – do we need to tap into? To “join with God and with each other in the restoration and reconciliation of the world,” as Ian Douglas states in his sermon, is a big and important undertaking!

God is calling us to careful and prayerful discernment about our shared ministry to the world's poorest people and to our ailing environment.

Be part of that conversation!

How? Come to a luncheon meeting

When? Sunday, October 5th, 11:45 am

Where? Parish Dining Room

Who? Open to parishioners of all ages

- ✓ Hear from folks who were in the covenant groups.
- ✓ Learn about our parish's mission & outreach ministry.
- ✓ Share your own ideas.
- ✓ Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**All Saints Parish, Brookline, MA
2008-2009**

The Millennium Development Goals & the Episcopal Church

In 2000, leaders from the United States and 190 other nations came together to develop a plan to cut extreme global poverty in half by 2015. To guide this critical work and measure its success, eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were created. At the 74th General Convention in 2003, the Episcopal Church formally endorsed the MDGs. In 2006, at the 75th Convention, the Church voted to make the MDGs a mission priority over the next three years.

The Millennium Development Goals are:



A letter from the Rector

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget; the homeless and destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Prayer for the Poor and Neglected, Book of Common Prayer, p. 826)

This past year All Saints Parish has been involved in the task of “remembering” the “poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget” through our focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We have been trying to respond compassionately to the human suffering which is far too prevalent in our world. Our response to these human needs is deeply rooted in our baptismal covenant “to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.” (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 305)

The Millennium Development Goals are a response of the leaders of the world’s nations, in cooperation with the United Nations, to eliminate the poverty that robs people of their human dignity and worth. Fulfilling the eight MDGs will accomplish more than lifting 500 million people out of extreme poverty. It will save 300 million people from hunger and malnutrition. Child health will improve, saving the lives of more than 30 million children under the age of five. The MDGs are ambitious, but they are attainable with the resources at our disposal.

At All Saints Parish we have taken some first steps to learn about the MDGs. Last fall, we heard descriptions of the goals during our Sunday morning services. Sermons related the MDGs to Christ’s teaching to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned (Matthew 25:37-40). In the spring, parishioners met in “covenant groups” to discuss how our parish could assist in implementing the MDGs. This fall we will plan how to make our involvement more effective and concrete.

Many thanks to the Stewardship and Mission & Outreach Committees for leading us in this important effort and to the 40 parishioners who participated in the covenant groups. Our work to achieve the MDGs truly is the work of God in our time, a practical and realistic way of expressing the love of Christ in our world.

- David A. Killian

A letter from the Co-chairs of the 2008 Stewardship Committee

“Your kingdom come...” We say these words every time we pray the Lord’s Prayer – the prayer Jesus himself taught to his disciples. But do we stop and think about what it would *really* mean if God’s kingdom flourished here on earth – if we had a world marked by peace, equity, and fulfillment for everyone? As Christians, how are we part of the process of making God’s kingdom more and more manifest?

In the summer of 2007, the Stewardship Committee at All Saints Parish began to consider these questions. That discussion led the committee to the Millennium Development Goals. We began to see clearly how the MDGs challenge us as Christians to bring about the world of peace and justice that is God’s kingdom. As we launched the 2007-2008 stewardship year, we invited the parish to study the MDGs more fully and to consider how we at All Saints might respond to them. The parish-wide MDG study became a shared responsibility of the Stewardship and the Mission & Outreach Committees.

During the 2008 Lent and Easter seasons, 40 parishioners formed four “covenant groups.” Each of the groups met at least three times. All four groups reported what they learned and made suggestions about responses our parish might make. Leaders and hosts included David Evett and Sue LeClaire, Cornell and Maija Gray, Christian Brocato and Jeff Hickey, and Tom Nutt-Powell and Sarah Leinbach.

The reports of the covenant groups are contained in this booklet. We think they show the depth of concern felt by group members as they learned about conditions in impoverished countries worldwide. As you will see, their recommendations show some consensus: that whatever we undertake as a parish should tie in with diocesan and national church mission activities, and that we expand our parish mission ministry into places where we already have meaningful contacts, such as Tanzania and Central America. Both the Stewardship Committee and the Mission & Outreach Committee are keeping these reports in mind as they make plans for the future. We hope that our MDG study will spur us as a parish to explore more deeply how to be Christ’s hands in the world today.

The study of the eight MDGs has been an extraordinary – indeed, unique – gift to our parish. “The vision embedded in the goals is one of abundant life, in which the hungry are fed, the ill are healed, the young educated, women and men treated equally, and where all have access to clean water and adequate sanitation, basic health care, and the promise of development that does not endanger the rest of creation,” as Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has said. It is a transforming dream that demands our passionate response and commitment. As we try to ascertain God’s will for us in helping to heal a broken world, the Stewardship and Mission & Outreach Committees would like to thank all those who have been part of this work, and pray that we will continue to accept its challenges.

– Marianne Evett and Jeff Hickey

Why Should Christians Care About the MDGs?

How is the Church's mission different from that of other charitable organizations?

The answer is that in one sense, there is little or no difference in some immediate results --- many organizations, including the Church help people in dire need. However, from the point of view of a Christian believer and church member, there is a big difference: when we learn about and respond to the needs of our poorest brothers and sisters, we discover God's purpose for ourselves and for the Church. We are acting as Christ's hands in the world, helping to bring about God's peace, justice, compassion.

I know of no better explanation of this mission than Ian T. Douglas' sermon on March 19, 2007. The following excerpts from that sermon summarize its main points.

— Marianne Evett

God's Mission and the Millennium Development Goals: The Rev. Ian T. Douglas *Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA*

What is the Church for? What is it that God wants the Anglican Communion to be about in the world today? [If we do not ask this bigger question first,] then we will never be able to solve our Anglican family difficulties. Keeping our eyes on God's mission is the only way forward.

What is mission?

Until the last decades of the 20th century, "mission" was a term linked to culturally insensitive proselytism and Western imperialism. The goal of mission was to extend the church, founding outposts of Western Christianity, its models and cultural world-view. That view has been changing, however, moving from extending the church to the idea of participating with God in bringing about God's *shalom*, God's *salaam*, God's kingdom of peace and justice for all. The Church, as the Body of Christ in the world, has a crucial role to play in the salvation work of God. The Church is called and uniquely empowered by the Holy Spirit to participate with God in God's mission of justice, compassion and reconciliation.

Although the Church has a unique and crucial role in God's plan of salvation, it does not, however, have exclusive rights on participation with God in God's mission. Thus many advocates of this view of mission especially see the possibility of cooperation with people of other faiths in God's universal mission.

The Biblical Call to God's Mission

Scripture is the story of God's mission, beginning with Genesis. At the very start of the Biblical story we learn that God is a God of the whole cosmos, who watches over and cares for all of creation. But no sooner had this universal, loving God created humankind, than we turned our backs on God. We became alienated from the love and power of God and we became alienated from each other. And so the "Catechism" in the back of the *Book of Common Prayer* describes sin as "the seeking of our own will instead of the will of God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other people, and with all creation." Sin is less about actions and more about a state of separation – separation from God, separation from each other, separation from all creation.

But God did not want humans to be alienated from God and from each other. The loving creator chose to rebuild the bonds of love that had been severed through human sin. The central element of God's mission, the *missio Dei*, is God's desire to restore to unity that which had become broken; to reconcile a divided world, to heal a hurting humanity.

Israel's role in God's mission was to serve as a centripetal force pulling all of humanity back into relationship with God. Abraham and Sarah's descendants thus were to be agents of reconciliation between God and an errant humanity. All the nations were to come to God through the Covenant.

The story of God's mission, however, does not end with God's covenant with Israel. As Christians we affirm that because of God's love for the world and desire to be united with all of humanity, God took one final decisive step. In the incarnation of Jesus Christ, God enters the world anew and takes the responsibility for God's mission directly upon himself. In the death and resurrection of Jesus the divisions between God and humanity are overcome, and the promise of reconciliation is made real.

Over and over again, Jesus demonstrates his solidarity with the poor, the sick, the outcasts and those at the periphery of society. The gospels are a living testimony to Jesus' life and ministry as the source of God's salvation for the world. Whereas Israel represented a calling in of humanity to union with God, Jesus turned the direction of God's mission around. Instead of a centripetal force, God's mission, realized in Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, becomes a centrifugal force, a going out. Jesus demonstrates in word and deed that the Reign of God, made real in the sending of God's son, must continue to expand, to move out to the ends of the earth.

Paul's mission theology is the full development of the Church as the Body of Christ in the world today. Participation in God's mission, effecting God's *shalom*, therefore is at the heart of the baptismal call. Baptism is our commission, co-mission, in God's mission to restore, to reconcile, to heal. The imperative is clear.

The MDGs and Mission

It is important to emphasize that these Millennium Development Goals, are just that, goals. They are not some kind of unified super-national, global, integrated United Nations Program to cure the ills of the world. Rather they are a vision, a vision of what can be, a vision of a restored, reconciled world, a vision of *shalom*. They thus serve as an invitation to get on with what God wants us to be about; to join with sisters in brothers in Christ, with people of other faiths, with wider global civil society to be about the repair of the world.

There are a variety of ways by which we can participate, as individuals, as parishes, as diocese in this *shalom* movement:

1. We can join the One Campaign, and specifically the One Episcopalian response to the Campaign, joining our voices in political advocacy to challenge our government to live up to our country's commitment to the MDGs.
2. We can give of our own money and resources to meet the goals. The Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and every Episcopalian has been invited to give 0.7% of our income to international relief and development, through parish, diocesan, or national programs such as the new \$3 million MDG Inspiration Fund
3. And we can educate ourselves about the reality and plight of the poor, through immediate relationships with sisters and brothers in Christ around the world.

So why should we Christians care about the Millennium Development Goals? We should care about the MDGs because God wants us to. We should care about the MDGs because they are one way by which we as Christians can join with God and with each other in the restoration and reconciliation of the world. We should care about the MDGs because they help us to be more faithful participants in God's mission to "restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

Reports of MDG Covenant Groups

Group I – Millennium Development Goals 1 & 8 – *Both goals focus on helping countries out of the vicious circle of circumstances that cause extreme poverty.*



Group Members

Susan Cleaver, Hugh Dunlap, David Evett, Anne Guenzel, Colin Johnstone, Sue LeClaire, Janelle Mills, Lynne Montross, Harold Petersen, Erica Topolski, Bob Young

Our Covenant Group has paid particular attention to Millennium Development Goals 1 and 8, having to do with the eradication of poverty world-wide and the growth of a global partnership for development. All of us have been informed and stimulated by the research we have done; the information we have acquired has certainly deepened our understanding of the problems the world faces and the resources available to address them. We were fortunate to have members of the group who could bring us very concrete experience with places where need is very great but successful work to address those needs is under way, members with professional expertise in economics, members who have been supporting relevant activities for some time, and members who were just willing to spend time finding and sharing material on the internet and elsewhere.

Fairly early in the process we found ourselves drawn to the relationship that the Diocese of Massachusetts has established with the Diocese of Tanga in Tanzania, and during our final discussion we reached a pretty firm consensus that as a group we would be pleased to see the parish decide to support one or more those activities.

We are intrigued if not yet fully informed about an emerging project of the Diocese of Massachusetts that would utilize the economic development potential of the VICOBA model (Village Community Banking). The project would train people in the target community to administer local savings and investment activities, and to make and monitor micro-loans to fund entrepreneurial enterprises). The project would also supply seed-money, with the hope that within a short time loan repayments and local savings would generate the additional capital to make the local organization self-sufficient. We understand that the diocese is considering a partnership with Pathfinder International, a 50-year-old health and community development organization whose international headquarters are in Waltham, and which already operates projects in 23 countries,

including Tanzania. The project would take special account of families suffering from HIV/AIDS. We want to know more about it, however, and about some of the other diocesan initiatives that offer possibilities to enhance economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time, we appreciate that sustaining existing relationships in Central America, or entering into new ones, would work better for developing the kind of person-to-person experiences our teenagers had in Nicaragua last year. We think that looking in both directions will be possible.

We did come up with a set of characteristics that we would like to see in any project the parish undertakes; the consensus on these was very strong.

1. The project should address the needs of a single place – ideally, a single town or village – rather than being scattered across a multitude of communities. Tight focus increases the likelihood of our contributions making a difference, facilitates accountability, and enhances the opportunities for face-to-face or at least voice-to-voice interactions.
2. The project should be sponsored by the Episcopal Church – better yet, our own diocese.
3. The project should be one in which we can work with other nearby parishes; cooperation will allow us to leverage our wider-world stewardship in both the financial and the time-and-talent aspects.
4. The project should clearly address one or more of the Millennium Development Goals, and be able to demonstrate real progress toward those goals within a short time.

Reports of MDG Covenant Groups (continued)

Group II – Millennium Development Goals 2 & 3 – *Since girls make up most of the children who do not attend school, these two goals are related to helping women fulfill their potential.*



Group Members:

Cornell Gray, Maija Gray, Becky Taylor, Kendrew Caporal, Sylvia Peabody, Anne Holloway, Lisa Parker, Lisa Henderson, David Evett, Liz Beattie, Liz Gilbert, Jim Daniell

We noted early on and throughout the work that these two items are inexorably entwined with poverty, healthcare, and general economic conditions. Parents and children will be motivated for primary education only if there is light at the end of tunnel in the form of a job. Gender equality not only relates back to education but also to more interesting areas such as micro-lending, which we assume Group 1 discussed. We assume that as all the groups meet and discussion continues that the mission of All Saints Parish will be revealed.

Putting aside the inter-relations between the various covenant groups, we spent a lot of time reviewing what was available on the web, breaking up research into geographic areas, and sharing with each other. We were struck by both the geographic scope and depth of the problems. No matter how we looked at the issues, we felt that for a small parish such as All Saints, we needed to find a focus point. We have come up with the following recommendations:

1. We decided to narrow our **focus on a single geographic area**. We started world-wide and then narrowed to both sub-Saharan Africa and Central America: Africa because of the depth of its poverty (it has 80 of the 100 world's poorest countries) and Central America because it is closer to us and therefore affords the potential for more person-to-person contact. While we did not resolve this choice, we felt that even picking one geographic area required even further focus. For example, if we focus on Africa we felt that picking a single country (Tanzania or Rwanda) or even a single town would be appropriate. At our most recent meeting, we wondered if God were speaking to us, as the front page of the Boston Globe that morning featured Paul Farmer and his work in Rwanda.

2. We discussed the idea of **focusing on a single type of need** (education, health care, etc.) and perhaps establish this as an All Saints Parish core for all activities. For example, if we were the “Education Church” we could also align local (Boston), regional (Northeast), and global (Tanzania) efforts across the parish. This was modeled on how St. Andrews in Wellesley organizes their activities.

3. We believe that **our efforts should be part of a larger, diocesan-wide program** to bring the full impact all our brothers and sisters to bear on the problems. This would start to help us all with the immense scope and depth of the issues because we felt that the impact would be more tangible. As Episcopalians, we are called to help make the world a better place and we want to do our part to “improve it inch by inch.” We would like to see all those little inches add up to something big. If we build a dispensary then we should also build a school, a micro-lending program, and an exchange program at the same time. This appears to be what we are doing in Tanzania based on Colin’s most recent visit.

4. We believe that **education is a central component of all programs**. The three-legged stool of health care, education, and economic development must be built and sustained. As a group, we felt that this was the key element of our discussions and should be the focus of our continued work.

We look forward to sharing our thoughts and hearing from the other Covenant Groups and would further recommend that we use the summer for a reflection period to discern God’s intention for us.

Reports of MDG Covenant Groups (continued)

Group III – Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 & 6 – *All three goals are related to improving the health, safety, and life span of those living in poverty.*



Group members

Christian Brocato, Mary Dunlap, Kari Hannibal, Jeff Hickey, Colin Johnstone, Amy Sharples, Jean and Peter Stringham, Laura Vennard

Our initial meeting focused on the history of the MDGs, including the targets and indicators specific to our goals. As we shared personal experiences, backgrounds and knowledge, we began to realize that many of the group members had personal or professional experiences that were in line with our specific MDGs, including missionary trips to third world countries in Africa and Central America, work with HIV/AIDS infants and children, and medical trips to other poor nations. Sharing these experiences allowed us to address the following questions:

- Why should we and All Saints Parish care?
- What do we already know?
- Do we truly care?
- Do we care enough that we are prepared to move to action as a parish?

As we continued to meet and began to think about the action that we might like to recommend to parish, we compiled criteria that we felt would be important to substantiate our planned suggested action.

Group 3 determined that our suggested action should attempt to accomplish as many of the following as possible:

- Appeal to all generations at All Saints Parish
- Allow for the creation of Parish relationships with other Anglican communities if possible
- Give the opportunity for a “mission trip” in 2009 for parishioners of all ages
- Commit to a project with both a “short term goal” with an immediate impact, as well as a “long term goal” in the form of a more extensive project

- Help others to see “the bigger world” through education and the sharing of information
- Work with people whom we trust from the Parish who have previously established relationships and partnerships with proven success
- Work in an area where parishioners have traveled to and can (and will) continue to travel to safely
- Offer individuals the opportunities to collect gifts, clothing and other needed items with the goal of sending them for distribution where needed

Case Study Approach

After discussing many of the programs, agencies and organizations that are already established, the group decided to take a “case study” approach. We invited Becky and Steve Taylor to discuss “El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza” (“Home of Love & Hope”), an Episcopal orphanage and school for boys and girls in Honduras (www.elhogar.org). Becky and Steve have had a relationship with El Hogar for a number of years and communicated to the group the good work being done there in a controlled and safe environment with established contacts, goals and objectives.

Becky and Steve gave the group a very thoughtful and informative presentation. We then discussed how possibly committing to El Hogar could respond to our goals, as well as the criteria we had established. Ultimately, we favored supporting and recommending El Hogar as a potential mission for the parish.

Addendum

This group’s consensus was that the MDGs are all interconnected. Any action to improve one area addressed by the MDGs will have a “spill over” effect in another area. We realized that our recommended action does not address all of the targets of our specific goals. In addition, we were well aware that the impact of our recommended action to commit to El Hogar could overlap with other MDG groups’ goals as well. We ultimately came to an understanding and belief that most other groups will come to similar conclusions as well.

Reports of MDG Covenant Groups (continued)

Group IV – Millennium Development Goal 7 – *Unless we do something about stabilizing the environment, the other goals cannot be met. We in developed countries need to think about how to help poor countries become technologically advanced while pursuing environmentally sound practices.*



Group members

Dylan Dalton, Lorraine Field, Michael Field, Jane Gillette, Ann Kneisel,
Sarah Leinbach, Charles Moo, Tom Nutt-Powell, Marcella Turner, Christina Ray

Actions are urged at three levels: **Local** (personal and parish), **Regional** (especially the Diocese and the larger community of faith), and **Global** (with particular links in ASP's mission efforts in Central America and Africa). All actions are informed by the fundamental reality that without a healthy, sustainable environment, the efforts to achieve the other MDGs will have no opportunity to be realized.

Local

We cannot ask others to do what we ourselves are not doing. We cannot change behaviors without knowing what ours are, and the consequences of those behaviors.

Therefore these actions...

- **Education** — Provide a continuing program of education on environmental stewardship, including film (such as *Renewal*), print (regular material in *Saints Alive!* and posted on the All Saints Parish website) and events.
- **Documentation** — All Saints Parish has provided leadership in reduction of fuel use (high efficiency equipment), and in offsetting its use of fuels. As a result, ASP was named Energy Star Congregation of the Year in 2004. A companion effort of documenting other ASP environmental impacts is needed. This effort focuses on materials and practices, with paper from office and social events (such as plates and cups) a clear focus. This can be done in the context of the LEED-Existing Building process being done by Michael Field.
- **Performance** — Monthly reporting on the *Carbon Footprint* (fuel, materials, practices) of the parish, with savings realized directed to ASP global mission efforts. Identify and use other *offsets* as possible. [Note: An *offset* is a financial instrument representing a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Selecting **green**

electricity via www.CleanEnergyChoice.org is one example. All Saints Parish offsets 100% of its electricity use via New England Wind.]

The three action elements suggested for the parish mirror those applicable to each parish household. The education program of the parish can be a source of information to parishioners to take these **green steps of faith** in their own lives – at home, at work, at school, at play.

Regional

We are part of larger communities, both geographic and faith. Our inter-relatedness provides both the prompt and the need to reach out and work with others. It is especially important to be able to tell our stories, as what others are doing and doing well gives hope and strength in doing the same ourselves. The regional actions match the three categories for local action. As Episcopalians we make particular reference to the leadership and actions of our diocese. We also recognize the need for collaboration in the broader community of faith, through such groups as the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Actions suggested include...

- **Education** — Provide a means of rapid information exchange by creating a web site that exists for congregations of all faiths to post information and stories. Related to this is providing outreach so that congregations know of the resource, and use it.
- **Documentation** — Provide means and methods for congregations to report on *Carbon Footprint* at least annually, with the same status as the reporting on budget and membership. This is readily done by our Diocese, and most likely by the equivalent judicatories of other denominations and faith traditions.
- **Performance** — Significant assistance at the judicatory level to efforts at the congregation level to make changes. Parallel efforts at the judicatory level.

Global

A sustainable environment is the platform on which all the other MDGs can be achieved. Implementing actions relative to health, hunger, poverty, education, and gender equality will always have environmental components. Thus the global focus for Goal 7 is to ensure that the actions relative to the other seven goals meet **Best Practice** standards of environmental stewardship. Where All Saints Parish has a direct connection with the action in another part of the world (Africa or Central America, for example) we can bring these criteria into play.

For example, installation of a water pump (meeting health, hunger, poverty objectives) needs to also be environmentally sound. Introduction of a means of electricity generation needs to ensure that it has little or no deleterious environmental impacts. Hydro-electric power can undermine good agriculture, for example.

Useful Web Sites for the MDGs

This is list to get you started – major sites from which you can follow the links.

General

United Nations website about the Millennium Development Goals lists UN partners in the fight to end poverty; provides links to statistics, reports, and ways to take action; and shows young people how to participate in the work of the MDGs.

www.un.org/millenniumgoals

United Nations *Cyber School Bus* website is designed for children & youth.

<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=9&iLang=en&iKeyword=about>

MDG Monitor website shows how countries are progressing in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

www.mdgmonitor.org

End Poverty 2015 website outlines what is being done around the world in support of the Millennium Development Goals

www.endpoverty2015.org

The ONE Campaign seeks to make poverty history by raising public awareness about the issues of global poverty, hunger, and disease; asking leaders to allocate more of the U.S. budget toward health care, education, clean water and food in poor countries; and lobbying for international debt cancellation, effective international assistance, fair trade, and an end to government corruption.

www.one.org

The Episcopal Church

Episcopal Relief & Development provides relief in times of disaster and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering.

<http://www.er-d.org/>

The *Diocese of El Camino Real* offers a good overview of the Episcopal Church's response to the MDGs

<http://www.edecr.org/MDGs.htm>

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation's mission is to direct the Church's attention globally, to make explicit the Christ center of the MDG movement in the Church, and to herald a call to conversion at every level of our common life.

<http://www.e4gr.org/index.html>

ONE Episcopalian Campaign is rallying Episcopalians to the cause of ending extreme poverty in our world and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE/>

Global Good is a resource for Episcopalians working together to support the MDGs. Theological context and practical resources are highlighted throughout the site.

www.globalgood.org

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Diocesan Mission Strategy outlines the ministry program of our diocese – Inviting, forming, sending, and serving – including work being done in response to the MDGs.

www.diomass.org/mission_strategy

Global Partnerships. As part of the Diocesan mission strategy, every church in the Diocese is challenged to develop a relationship with another congregation or organization within the Anglican Communion. These 3 websites provide information.

http://www.diomass.org/mission_strategy

http://www.diomass.org/mission/global_partnerships

<http://www.missiongoal.org/>

The Jubilee Ministry, in partnership with African provinces and dioceses, helps to repair the suffering inflicted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

http://www.diomass.org/mission/AIDS_in_Africa

Another faith-based website

Millennium Congregation coordinates a network of faith communities that are working to end extreme poverty by establishing Millennium Villages in Africa.

<http://www.millenniumcongregation.org/index.html>

Mission & Outreach at All Saints Parish: What can you do?

All Saints Parish actively supports several international mission projects that connect to the MDGs. In addition, other opportunities address many of the same issues locally.

What interests you? How might the Spirit be leading you?

International mission projects that relate to the MDGs

- ***Kizara Dispensary, Anglican Church of Tanzania:*** All Saints Parish is one of three partners contributing funds to complete the building of this dispensary in the Diocese of Tanga. The dispensary will be the primary point of medical treatment, counseling, and HIV/AIDS testing for more than 9000 people.
- ***Quezalagua, Nicaragua:*** Our parish is involved with Brookline's "Sister City" by funding important capital, medical, and economic development projects and sponsoring work teams.
- ***El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza, Honduras:*** This summer our parish will send a work team to this orphanage in the capital city of Tegucigalpa. In connection with the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras, *El Hogar* provides a loving home and education for abandoned, orphaned, and hopelessly poor children.

National mission projects

- Katrina relief: All Saints parishioners support our diocesan efforts to rebuild part of New Orleans and the Gulf coast. Our church has sent several mission teams to that area.

Local mission projects in the Boston area

- **Feeding people who are hungry**
 - ✓ ***Brookline Food Pantry:*** All Saints Parish gathers nonperishable food items and delivers them every Sunday. The Food Pantry distributes close to \$90,000 in food each year to Brookline residents.
 - ✓ ***Project Bread:*** All Saints parishioners take part in the annual *Walk for Hunger*.
 - ✓ ***St. John's Dinner:*** Four times each year, parishioners prepare and serve dinner for 150 homeless guests at this soup kitchen on Beacon Hill.
- **Helping those who are homeless**
 - ✓ ***Common Cathedral:*** Once each year, a team of parishioners worships on Boston Common with this congregation and feeds its homeless members.
 - ✓ ***Habitat for Humanity:*** Twice each year, teams from All Saints participate in "build days" in the city of Boston.

- **Supporting women and children**
 - ✓ ***Cross Roads Shelter:*** All Saints Parish provides back-to-school supplies and Christmas gifts to children in this transitional housing facility, as well kitchen supplies when families move into permanent homes.
 - ✓ ***B-SAFE:*** Parishioners serve lunch and host a field trip for one week of this summer program for children in Boston and Chelsea.

- **Visiting those who are sick or in prison**
 - ✓ ***Boston Pre-release Center:*** A group from All Saints Parish facilitates Bible study at this correctional facility in Roslindale. The center provides work, education, and counseling as its residents transition into the community.
 - ✓ ***Goddard House:*** Parishioners conduct monthly worship services and visit elderly residents in this Jamaica Plain nursing home and assisted living facility in Brookline.

- **Working for justice**
 - ✓ ***Greater Boston Interfaith Organization:*** Several parishioners are part of this interfaith community-organizing ministry. GBIO reaches out to the unemployed and underemployed, and advocates for affordable housing, quality schools, justice for janitors, good conditions for nursing home workers and residents, and health care for the working poor.

- **Being stewards of the environment**
 - ✓ ***Mass Interfaith Power & Light:*** All Saints Parish has a close connection to this non-profit organization that offers congregations of every religious tradition a comprehensive means of reducing energy consumption, lowering operating costs, and promoting clean, renewable energy in their physical plants.

Looking to do something, but not sure where to start? Are you interested in something that isn't listed? Let us know! We can share more information and help you get started with a project that works for you.

All Mission & Outreach projects at All Saints are lead by **a group of people or by one dedicated parishioner**. To get touch with project leaders, please contact a member of the Mission & Outreach committee or the committee's chairperson, Erica Topolski at etopolski@nbnet.nb.ca.

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)

All Saints Parish is a community *searching* to know and accept God's purpose for us, *uplifted* by worship together, *sustained* by a sense of Christ being in our midst, and *inspired* by the Holy Spirit to become more than we are, here and in the world.

We welcome all people who seek the love of God, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

For information about our ministry in Brookline and beyond, please visit our website www.allsaintsbrookline.org, or call the parish office at 617-738-1810.