

May 13, 2010

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” I Peter 4.10 (NIV)

St. James is known for its strong local and international outreach and mission work. By growing up in St. James, I have gained a passion to see marginalized people attain equal opportunities for productive livelihoods and greater social participation. Now, I have the privilege to represent St. James and our dioceses in a mission to Mexico with the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC).

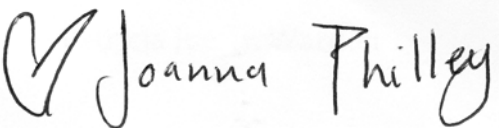
YASC provides an international internship for young adults whose goal is to facilitate and strengthen the local community of believers. YASC mission partners do not work in a top-down, crusader model, but rather as servants. We are seen as representatives of our home community, our home diocese and the Episcopal Church. This mode of ministry is important to me because I see that as how Christ came to us. I believe that the gifts God has given me will be used to help and bless others. I leave for Mexico City, Mexico in August for a year long mission. I will be working with the Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Carlos Touché-Porter, as a facilitator for the church’s community projects. However, none of this can happen without both spiritual and financial support.

YASC requires me to raise ten thousand dollars to support my mission work and the YASC programs in which I am directly involved. This makes me think of the Spanish architect Gaudi. He was once asked if it was difficult to ask for money for his cathedral, the Sagrada Família. His reply was something like “Certainly not, I am giving others a share in the blessing”. So I am inviting you to participate in my mission work, and share in its blessings, by making a financial donation. If you feel God is leading you to make a donation, you can write a check payable to St. James’ Church with a memo of YASC/Joanna

Equally important is that you commit to pray for me. Prayer will provide the wisdom, grace, security, and language ability that I need. I am excited about the possibilities of service and growth, and look forward to sharing with you during this next year.

Thank you for all your support through prayer, and financially as you are able.

In Christ’s Peace and Love,



Joanna Philley