

# Lamplight

A Newsletter of the US Disaster Program



*"Be dressed, ready for service and keep your lamps burning."* — LUKE 12:35

Issue #16 | April 2013

## **A Note from Katie and Barb**

*Our hearts and prayers go out to those affected by the tragic explosions at Monday's Boston Marathon. Like you, we are scanning the news for information and scouring our prayer books for words that offer hope and comfort and acknowledge our fear and confusion in the wake of this horrific event.*

*As Sunday approaches, we recommend sending the following resource links to rectors and Christian formation directors as they plan ways to respond, especially with children. These resources can also be found in the [Resource Library](#) on our website.*

*[Working with Children After a Disaster: Tips for Parents and Teachers.](#) This one-page handout suggests age-appropriate ways to help children process, discuss and pray about a disaster. It can be used as a bulletin insert or sent home with children in religious education classes this weekend.*

*[Individual and Family Preparedness.](#) Also a one-pager, it details ways for families and individuals to make their own disaster preparedness plan, including information and items that should go into a preparedness kit.*

***Curricula for Ministering to Children, Youth and Teens After a Disaster.** This three-module resource provides age-appropriate lesson plans and activities for church school classes and youth group sessions immediately following a tragic event. While it focuses on communities directly impacted, religious educators can adapt the prayer experiences and discussion guides to help children and youth respond to tragic events in other communities. The modules are:*

*[Ministering to Children After a Disaster \(Grades K-5\)](#)  
[Ministering to Youth After a Disaster \(Grades 6-8\)](#)  
[Ministering to Teens After a Disaster \(Grades 9-12\)](#)*

## **Current Disaster Recovery Projects:**

### [HELP NOW!](#)

#### **Diocese of Easton**

The Diocese of Easton is hosting volunteer groups to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy and construct new ones where existing homes can not be repaired.

#### **Diocese of New York**

The Diocese of New York is working with volunteers and young people from Episcopal Service Corps to rebuild homes on Staten Island following Hurricane Sandy.

#### **Dioceses of New Jersey and Newark**

The Dioceses of New Jersey and Newark are working with parishes statewide to identify those falling through the cracks and creating parish-based programs to meet needs following Hurricane Sandy.

#### **Diocese of North Dakota**

All Saints Episcopal Church in Minot is coordinating with volunteers to rebuild flooded homes.

#### **Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana (ECSLA)**

Case managers are supporting affected communities as they adapt to the financial, emotional and social changes caused by the oil spill.

#### **Jericho Road**

A neighborhood-based home-building organization is working to revitalize Central City, a New Orleans neighborhood recovering from Hurricane Katrina and decades of

*Note: Please be sensitive to the needs of children before exposing them to details or images of this, or any, disaster. While encouraging prayer is always appropriate, let young people take the lead in indicating what they need in terms of information and discussion. Additionally, it's also important to let those who are directly impacted by a disaster take the lead in indicating what they need. Right now church leaders in Massachusetts are asking for your prayers.*

*These and other resources on responding to a disaster can be found online at <http://www.er-d.org/resourcelibrary>. For more information please contact Barb Ballenger at [bballenger@episcopalrelief.org](mailto:bballenger@episcopalrelief.org).*

*And also, please let us know how these resources are used in your communities. Your feedback is really important to us.*

Peace,  
Katie and Barb



disinvestment.

### **Diocese of Texas**

Calvary Episcopal Church is working with its ecumenical partners in Bastrop to rebuild homes destroyed by the fires in the fall of 2011.

### **Diocese of Bethlehem**

Trinity Episcopal Church in West Pittston is working with ecumenical partners in Northeast Pennsylvania to support neighbors affected by flooding as a result of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011.



U.S. Disaster Program

### **Contact Us:**

Katie Mears, Director  
[kmears@er-d.org](mailto:kmears@er-d.org)

Barbara Ballenger,  
Training Coordinator

[bballenger@episcopalrelief.org](mailto:bballenger@episcopalrelief.org)



Try it FREE today.