

Lamplight

A Newsletter of the US Disaster Program



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

A Note from the Team

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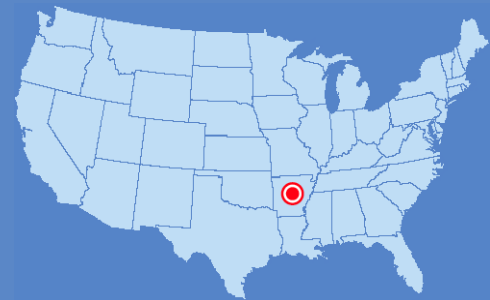
Hi folks!

Last month's winter storm gave much of the Northeast its first taste of severe winter weather. Many people rushed to secure last-minute provisions at their local supermarkets, and there was no shortage of grumpy commuters across the country as roads, public transportation and airports shut down.

It turns out this burst of precautionary activity was important. Five states reported 30+ inches of snowfall, and there have been dozens of storm-related casualties.

Pre-storm anxiety, perhaps best represented by empty supermarket shelves, can be helpful. It can focus people's attention on just-in-time preparedness activities that can ultimately save lives. However, we have the ability to reduce this worry even further by practicing preparedness on normal days.

From keeping extra snacks at home to having a system for contacting congregants about updates in church schedules, everyday preparedness can help result in less frenzy prior to severe weather. Check out Episcopal Relief & Development's [Individual and Family Preparedness Guide](#), the [Comprehensive Preparedness Planning Guide](#) for



Join "Ready to Serve":
[Sign up here](#) to offer your services to your vulnerable neighbors after a disaster.

A Season of Resilience is our new 5-week curriculum designed to encourage preparedness. [Check it out!](#)

Episcopal Relief & Development-supported Projects:

Disaster Response:

Episcopal Diocese of Dallas

On Dec. 26, 2015, several tornadoes ripped through Texas, destroying hundreds of buildings. The Diocese of Dallas is responding to local needs in Garland, TX, by providing gift cards to low-income families so that they may replace school uniforms and school supplies.

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

congregations, [CPG's Winter Checklist](#) for churches and [Ready.gov](#) for ideas on how you can help prepare for the unexpected.

In Peace,

Katie, Lura, Sara and Tamara



Empty supermarket shelves in Pennsylvania prior to last month's winter storm. Photo courtesy of Chris Tillman.

Tornado Program in Arkansas Supports Recovery

In late April 2014, several deadly tornadoes struck throughout the central and southern United States, and central Arkansas was hit especially hard. Through a partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development, the Diocese of Arkansas has been running a recovery program through the local Unmet Needs and Long Term Recovery Committees in Faulkner and Pulaski Counties, focusing on underserved populations such as the elderly, children, low/no-wage earners, undocumented and non-English-speaking populations in those areas. The Diocesan Disaster Recovery Team has been hard at work for many months with the LTRCs and the local county and city governments, doing case management for survivors as well as facilitating some difficult debris removal from affected areas.

The Diocese of Arkansas's Tornado Recovery Program is closing soon, but the long road to the 'new normal' continues. They recently shared with us a note from a member of the community who had been served by the program:

Due to lead contamination in the water system making city's water unusable, the Diocese of Eastern Michigan is supporting the residents of Flint, MI, by distributing water filters and gallons of water to those affected.

Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

The Diocese of Mississippi is responding to needs in Holly Springs, MS, after a tornado ripped through in late December 2015, destroying almost 90 homes and damaging many more.

The Episcopal Church in Navajoland

Due to a dam burst near the Animas River causing the water supply to become contaminated, The Episcopal Church in Navajoland is responding to those affected by providing water to the community near Bluff, UT, and to the farmers of the Navajo Nation near Upper Fruitland, NM.

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Due to flash flooding in July 2015 impacting more than 800 homes across the state, St. Peter's Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Southern Ohio are providing assistance in the rebuilding process for homes in Gallia County, Ohio, as well as providing spiritual and emotional care to impacted residents.

Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

After two fires consumed thousands of acres of land in October 2015, the Diocese of North Dakota is responding to housing needs in Cannon Ball, ND, as well as replacing school supplies destroyed during the fire.

Disaster Recovery:

Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas

The Diocese of Arkansas is providing financial, emotional and spiritual aid by identifying and caring for underserved populations affected by the April 2014 tornadoes.

Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Diocese of New Jersey is aiding vulnerable individuals and communities by providing direct assistance, partnering with various long term recovery groups and working with parish-based programs following Hurricane Sandy.

"Words cannot express our appreciation for what you have done for us and our family. God has His way of bringing people in to our lives. I don't question His will and plan, just love Him more. All good, all God through you. Thank you!"

We are grateful for our partners in Arkansas whose steadfast work over the past year and a half has made a difference in the lives of so many people. For information about how you can help respond to disasters in your own communities, sign up for [Ready to Serve](#) through our website, and to highlight what your church or ministry can do in times of need, take the survey for your church on the [Episcopal Asset Map](#).

Showcasing Our Assets and Our Stories

Episcopal Relief & Development's latest blog post features Asset Map Coordinator Tamara Plummer! Check out her thoughts on why the Asset Map is so crucial in the work of sharing our story through taking pride in the many ways we are living out Christ's call in the world. The blog also highlights several ministries of churches throughout the US and the innovative ways in which they are serving their communities. To learn more about the Asset Map and how you can join the conversation, [check out the post!](#)

Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

The Diocese of Oklahoma is working with congregations and long-term recovery groups around the state to meet the needs of vulnerable people following tornadoes in the spring of 2013.

Resources for Disaster Preparedness and Response:

Visit Episcopal Relief & Development's online [Resource Library](#) for numerous case studies and best practices in disaster response at the diocesan and congregational level.

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