

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

Issue #39 | June 2016

Hi All,

Over the last few months, the United States has faced natural disasters, including tornadoes and severe floods, seeming to come one after another. In particular, Louisiana was hit hard by floods a few months ago, and Texas has been hit several times during April and May by flooding, with many parts of the state seeing their wettest month on record. Our partners have been responding to these events in several Texas towns through gift card ministries for immediate needs, spiritual and emotional care and other assistance.

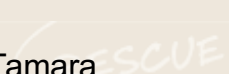
Please join us in prayer for those affected by flooding, tornadoes and other recent disasters:

On the Occasion of a Disaster

Compassionate God... Draw near to us in this time of sorrow and anguish, comfort those who mourn, strengthen those who are weary, encourage those in despair, and lead us all to fullness of life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

- Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints (Church Publishing: New York), page 733

In Peace,

Katie, Lura, Sara and Tamara 



**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 five-week curriculum
designed to encourage
preparedness. [Check it out!](#)**

**Nicole Krug of the Diocese of
Arizona explains
that [Preparedness is Always
in Season](#) in her diocesan
newsletter.**

**Episcopal Relief &
Development-supported
Projects:**

Disaster Response:

Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Diocese of Texas is providing housing support and spiritual and emotional care in Houston after severe flooding in April 2016 led to widespread evacuations and damaged more than 1,100 homes.

Zika Virus in the US



Zika virus has emerged in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, and many people around The Episcopal Church in the United States are asking how it impacts our local mission and ministry.

Episcopal Relief & Development has been working with a circle of advisers to consider the threat of Zika virus in the continental United States. Composed of the organization's US Disaster staff, Diocesan Disaster Coordinators and public health experts, the group worked together to create informational materials with tips and recommendations for Episcopal congregations and other church-related institutions.

We would especially like to thank those who contributed to the project:

- *Keith Adams (New Jersey)*
- *John D. Clements, PhD (Louisiana)*
- *James Cockey, MD (Easton)*
- *Mike Corey (Connecticut)*
- *Elizabeth Jordan, RN, PhD (Massachusetts)*
- *Tim Kingsley (Minnesota)*
- *The Rev. Karl Lusk (Kentucky)*
- *Tony Powell (Lexington)*
- *Dick Raub (Oregon)*
- *Ed Robertson (Central Pennsylvania)*
- *The Rev. Deacon Mike Sircy (Southwest Florida)*
- *Sharon Tillman (Maryland)*

Read more about the key takeaways and what you can do [here](#).

7 Steps to Hurricane Prep

Summer is upon us, and for many people that means excitement around summer camps, outdoor activities and warm weather. In much of the US, the beginning of summer also signals the beginning of hurricane season. The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast has

Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Diocese of Texas is responding through spiritual care, temporary housing assistance and replacing a school computer lab in Deweyville after significant rainfall in March 2016 flooded the town and heavily damaged several schools.

Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

After record storms resulted in widespread flooding and evacuations in March 2016, the Diocese of Louisiana is responding to needs through gift card assistance, housing assistance and a local Meals-on-Wheels program.

Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana

After severe flash flooding in March 2016 caused property damage and led to widespread evacuations, the Diocese of Western Louisiana is responding to physical, emotional and spiritual needs through housing assistance and spiritual care.

Disaster Recovery:

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan is responding to the long-term effects of lead contamination in the water system in Flint by providing nutrient-rich foods that can help mitigate the effects of lead poisoning and cooking classes to teach residents how to best use these ingredients.

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.

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 2013, 2015 and 2016.

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.

Contact Us:

brought together a list of [seven easy ways](#) that you can help prepare your congregations for hurricane season this year. Small steps like these can make a big difference in a disaster!

7 Ways for Congregational Leaders to Prepare for Hurricane Season

May 24, 2016 | David Brady, Diocesan Disaster Coordinator

In January, representatives from over thirty congregations gathered at Christ Church, Pensacola to learn about how the Episcopal Church can prepare for and respond to disasters. With hurricane season just around the corner, now is a great time to review some of those lessons learned.

Below are seven ways that congregational leaders can prepare for disasters. Try them out in your congregation, and let me know what you think.

1. **Promote individual and family preparedness**

A Season of Resilience is a series of worship sheet inserts that walks congregants through building an emergency kit. The inserts also have a list of free or low-cost activities that individuals can do to help better prepare for disasters.

<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/uploads/EducationFileModel/159/file/SoR-fullpage.pdf>

2. **Check-in with essential ministries**

Groups like the Lay Eucharistic Ministers, food pantry volunteers, Alcoholics Anonymous, and new mothers groups have relationships with people who may be particularly vulnerable if a disaster strikes. Check-in with the leaders of these groups to see if they have a plan to check on members and to restore their ministries.

3. **Fill out your church's pin on The Episcopal Asset Map**

The Episcopal Asset Map [hyperlink: <http://edgc.episcopalassetmap.org/>] is a great way for to publicize and celebrate your ministries and worship services. It also provides invaluable information about your church's ministries that may be scaled up in the event of a disaster. [Click here for the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast Asset Map](#)

Katie Mears,
Program Director
kmears@episcopalrelief.org

Lura Steele,
Training Coordinator
lsteel@episcopalrelief.org

Sara Lowery,
Program Associate
slowery@episcopalrelief.org

Tamara Plummer,
Asset Map Coordinator
tplummer@episcopalrelief.org



Leveraging Local Partnerships in Flint, Michigan

In Episcopal Relief & Development's latest blog post, Communications Officer Faith Rowold reflects on the work of our partners in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan in response to the Flint water crisis. In Flint, several local organizations are using an asset-based approach that works to address long-term needs by leveraging and strengthening the partnerships that already exist in the community.

[Read more about their response here!](#)

[Website](#) [What We Do](#) [Who We Are](#) [What You Can Do](#) [Press and Resources](#)



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usdisaster@episcopalrelief.org
<http://www.episcopalrelief.org>

