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SEND TO FRIEND



Lamplight

A Newsletter of the US Disaster Program



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

Issue #13 | March/April, 2012

A Note from Katie

At this time of year I am always struck by the connections between life, death, re-birth and resurrection. Coming out of winter (even the brief winter we had here in New York) into a beautiful spring, new life is everywhere. It reminds me of the movement from the loss and darkness of Good Friday to the joy and possibility of Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

From Friday to Sunday we only have to sit in that darkness for one short day, before the story shifts radically and the Pascal light is with us again. But with disasters I remember that timeline isn't quite so clear. Survivors don't move overnight from darkness into light, even 40 days of Lent aren't enough for many of them. Sometimes that shift can take months and years.

As I was sitting at the Vigil on Saturday night, I prayed for all of those impacted by the suffering in the world to know that change is possible. It's not always as neat as one day between death and resurrection, but Easter will come, spring will come. I pray that they feel that hope, and I pray that those of us



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News:

Fire Recovery in Texas

A coordinated effort to help Bastrop County families recover from last September's wildfires has begun. Read more from the Diocese of Texas [here](#).

Join "Ready to Serve"

Offer your services to your vulnerable neighbors after a disaster. [Sign up here](#) to be called upon to volunteer.

outside that loss can work to shine that light of possibility.
Peace,
Katie

Coordinating Donations

by Mindy Chambers, who is currently a member at St. Benedict's in Lacey, WA.

In December 2007, as record-high floodwaters in southwest Washington began to recede, it became clear that the needs of those affected would quickly overwhelm the ability of any one organization to respond. Following the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA recorded over 10,000 applications for assistance across 10 countries, eventually resulting in almost \$18 million of federal assistance to families and individuals. Hundreds of homes were uninhabitable, and many people found themselves in shelters or staying with friends. Many had only what they had escaped with as the water rose.



Bottled water collected for families impacted by flooding in Olympia, WA

The sudden disaster was such a major news event in our area that hundreds of organizations and thousands of people responded on their own. Our church, St. John's in Olympia, was not affected by the floods, but we were located close to communities who were, and we had unused space. This meant we were in a prime location to get involved. In addition, several members of our congregation had been involved in recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina and were eager to help. In the first few days after the floods, we noticed that people wanted to make donations, but it was hard to figure out what was needed and where it should be delivered. With this in mind, we decided that our congregation could meet this need of the greater community by using our church as a drop-off and transport center for donated supplies.

[Click here to learn more about St. John's recovery efforts and the lessons they learned in the process.](#)

Volunteer Opportunities:

Diocese of [Alabama](#)

Tornado recovery

Diocese of [Louisiana](#)

Home rebuild program

Diocese of [North Dakota](#)

Flood recovery and home rebuild program in Minot

Diocese of [Texas](#)

Home rebuild program in Bastrop

Upcoming Trainings:

APRIL 21, 2012

Disaster preparedness and response training in the Diocese of Oregon

MAY 2-5, 2012

Conference for diocesan disaster coordinators in the Midwest in Eureka, MO

MAY 20-23, 2012

Conference for diocesan disaster coordinators in the Mid-Atlantic in Baltimore, MD

JUNE 4-7, 2012

Conference for diocesan disaster coordinators in the Southeast and Gulf Coast in Atlanta, GA

Current Disaster Recovery Projects:

[HELP NOW!](#)

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts-

[St. John's Episcopal Church in Williamstown is working with ecumenical partners to respond to Irene related flooding.](#)

The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

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

The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

Working with the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe, a case manager connects residents impacted by gradually rising flood waters to churches, non-profit and government services.

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

Local programs and parishes are

A Lesson in Knowing Your Assets

by The Rev. Annette Chappell,

the Rector of the Church of the Redemption in Locust Point in Baltimore, MD.

On a clear November morning in 2011, a contractor working on the bridge project in the Locust Point neighborhood hit the 12-inch gas main. The almost two thousand neighborhood residents would be without heat until the damage was repaired. For Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) this meant that they would have to seal off the broken main, go into every house and business in the neighborhood to turn off the gas at the meter, purge the gas lines, connect to a different main, test the lines again to make sure there weren't leaks, and return to each house and business to turn back on the gas, light all of the pilots, and check for indoor leaks. It was going to be a lot of work, a lot of going up and down basement steps, and long days without heat.

By midnight three days after the main had been hit, nearly every house and business in Locust Point had been safely reconnected. The local utility company got the job done swiftly and safely! Church of the Redemption played an important role in that process.

[Click here to hear how Church of the Redeemer utilized their existing assets to support their neighbors.](#)



The Rev. Annette Chappell, Rector of the Church of the Redemption in Locust Point

helping to provide long-term rebuilding and recovery assistance for the unmet needs of families affected by tornadoes in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Cullman, Sawyerville, Madison County and Dekalb County.

The 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 disinvestment.

Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont is working through a network of churches to support families affected by the floods resulting from Tropical Storm Irene.

Episcopal 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.



U.S. Disaster Program

Contact Us:

Add your name to the "Ready to Serve" volunteer and skills roster at volunteer@er-d.org

Katie Mears, Program Manager
kmears@er-d.org



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