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# 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 #32 | October/November 2015

Hi all!

This month we were especially impressed by how well dioceses are using social media to spread the news about disaster preparedness and response. Prior to disaster and amid tragedy, diocesan leaders are connecting with their members about how to be prepared and how to support their vulnerable neighbors in times of need.

Social media is great platform to connect with people in your diocese in order to distribute resources, to send out updates on evolving situations and to suggest the best ways of showing support.

Below we have included just a few examples. So many dioceses are doing a great job. Keep it up!



Join "Ready to Serve":

[Sign up here](#) to offer your services to your vulnerable neighbors after a disaster.

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

[Episcopal Diocese of Northern California](#)  
[Episcopal Diocese of Maryland](#)  
[Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina](#)

In Peace,

Katie, Lura, Sara and Tamara

## US Disaster Program Welcomes Tamara Plummer!

We are thrilled to announce that Tamara Plummer will be joining the US Disaster Program Team as Asset Map Coordinator. She will be working with dioceses that have signed on to the Asset Map project.



Episcopal Asset Map Coordinator,  
Tamara Plummer

*Tell us a little about yourself!*

Sure! I grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and The Episcopal Church. I've spent a lot of my professional life working in education as an event planner and coalition builder. Of course the most important thing about me, I'm a bassoonist and enjoy playing chamber music.

*What do you find most compelling about the Episcopal Asset Map?*

The Map allows lay people to engage with the Church and speak about their ministries. It's important to highlight this work so that the entire Church can see and celebrate these contributions. There are a lot of problems in the world, but the Map allows us to own our abundance rather than our

## Disaster Response:

### Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

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 Northern California

The Diocese of Northern California is responding to the needs of evacuees after deadly wildfires have displaced thousands of people and burned hundreds of homes, through a gift card ministry, housing assistance and spiritual care for affected persons.

### 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 Buff, Utah.

## 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 Colorado

The Diocese of Colorado is helping people recover following flooding that swept the state's Front Range in the fall of 2013 through direct assistance, long-term recovery groups and a "Year of Resilience."

### Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut is supporting Ben's Lighthouse, a ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church in Newtown, to promote the long-term mental health of the community's children, youth and families and to nurture a culture of non-violence and caring.

### Episcopal 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 cannot be repaired.

deficiencies and sets up new and interesting opportunities for collaboration.

*What are you looking forward to in this role?*

In addition to celebrating Church ministries, I get to connect with folks across the depth and breadth of The Episcopal Church.

*What is your superpower?*

I'm very good at helping people with very different backgrounds to become friends. In my personal and professional life, I facilitate community. I also can distill complex thoughts into simple statements, what some might call *cultural translation*. And playing bassoon, that's a definitely a superpower.

## Water Emergencies in the US

Ensuring access to safe and clean water is one of Episcopal Relief & Development's core global program areas. In the United States, it is often easy to take safe drinking water for granted; however, recently the US Disaster Program has partnered with the Navajoland Area Mission and the Diocese of Eastern Michigan to respond to water emergencies.

While the EPA was cleaning an abandoned mine in Colorado, three million gallons of contaminated water spilled into the Animas River, which impacted the wells downstream. The Episcopal Church in Navajoland is responding to those affected by providing water to the community near Buff, Utah. The water will be used to care for crops and livestock in order to lessen the economic devastation of the spill on local farmers.

After the city of Flint, MI, switched their water supply source from Lake Huron to the Flint River, levels of lead in city water reached unsafe levels. The Diocese of Eastern Michigan is working to distribute water filters and gallons of water to individuals who do not qualify for government-provided filters while the city works to secure a safe water supply.

## Tips & Lessons: Advice for Clergy After a Disaster

**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 tornados 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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The Rev. Bill Terry had been serving as Rector of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in New Orleans for about two years when Hurricane Katrina made landfall. For the past ten years, Fr. Terry has been working with members of his church and the broader community to help make sure that everyone affected by the storm recovers and finds their "new normal." Fr. Terry has not, however, solely focused on serving his own city; he has shared his disaster recovery experience with clergy across the country.

In this resource, Fr. Terry offers his advice to clergy who have just experienced a disaster. Tips include notes on pastoral care, liturgy, self-care and disaster response.

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