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SEND TO FRIEND



Lamplight

A Newsletter of the US Disaster Program



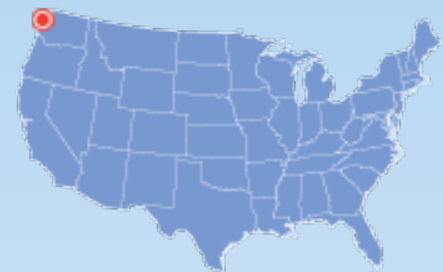
"Be dressed, ready for service and keep your lamps burning." — LUKE 12:35

Issue #12 | January/February, 2012

A Note from Katie

I was in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama last week, meeting with church leaders who have been involved with the tornado response ministries. It's an amazing effort, with different parishes all over the diocese using the gifts and strengths they have to reach out to their impacted neighbors. The responses look different in each of the communities, but they're all doing impressive work. They're still looking for volunteers, so if you can help, please [contact them](#). For other volunteer opportunities around the country, see the right side of the page below.

Earlier in January, I got to be in Houston with our Partners in Response team. This is a group of Episcopal experts in disaster response who are available to assist church leaders, congregations and dioceses newly impacted by disaster as they begin to plan for what comes next. The Partners in Response can help these communities assess their assets and needs, and create a vision for sustained recovery. They also help impacted



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SEATTLE, WA

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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.

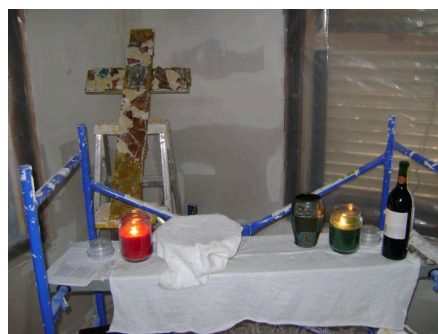
caregivers take care of themselves and their families, to be able to continue their ministry over the long-term. The Partners in Response team meets once a year for training and discussions about new trends in the field of disaster response. This year's meeting was held in mid-January in Houston, TX at the offices of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. The team has grown to include nine members from all over the country, and the topics covered at the conference ranged from how to support caregivers to how long-term disaster recovery functions. This year, members of this group have supported congregations in dioceses all over the country, including North Dakota, Vermont and Bethlehem, and helped the local partners envision new long term disaster response programs that will be up and running throughout the coming year.

As I look back on the past year, I hope you're as proud as I am of the work we've been able to accomplish together, and are excited by the possibilities in the coming year. I thank you for everything you do for this ministry and invite you to join us in this calling in the year ahead.

Peace,
Katie

Care for the Caregiver

After disasters, opportunities for ministries abound for congregations: whether it be meeting immediate food and water needs, assisting with clothing and shelter, helping people wrestle with questions about why such events occur, or in the long-term, supporting emotional and spiritual recovery. Such assistance does not come without a price. Clergy in major disaster areas experience 75-100% turnover following disasters. First, clergy rightly experience serving those in need as their calling, but too often clergy take on the role of "Superman," overextending themselves physically, emotionally and spiritually. The outcome ranges from exhaustion, burnout and loss of personal faith - impairing their ability to continue supporting the disaster victims or their congregations - to conflict with their congregations, marital or family problems, substance abuse and suicide.



Providing spiritual care after a disaster

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:

FEBRUARY 12-15, 2012

Conference for diocesan disaster coordinators on the West Coast

MARCH 5-8, 2012

Conference for diocesan disaster coordinators in Provinces I and II

MARCH 24, 2012

Disaster preparedness and response training in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina

MAY 2-5, 2012

Conference for diocesan disaster coordinators in the Midwest

MAY 20-23, 2012

Conference for diocesan disaster coordinators in Province III

JUNE 4-7, 2012

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

Current Emergency Relief Projects:

[HELP NOW!](#)

Flood Response

Diocese of Western Massachusetts - Williamstown, MA

Current Disaster Recovery Projects:

[HELP NOW!](#)

The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

All Saints Episcopal Church in Minot is winterizing flooded homes and creating the infrastructure to rebuild come spring.

For more tips on clergy care and caring for the caregiver, please see [Tips and Lessons: Self Care After a Disaster | US](#) in our online [resource library](#).

How Disaster Chaplaincy Changed my Ministry

By the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel

I use the skills I learned as a disaster chaplain every day. Pastorally speaking, every crisis is a disaster for the person who is sitting there in front of you. Some disasters happen on a community-wide or global scale and others are more personal.



Bishop Greg Rickel -
Diocese of Olympia

Disaster Chaplaincy is not something I always knew I wanted to do. I was surprised to find that I loved it. Shortly after my chaplaincy training, an American Airlines flight ran off the runway in Little Rock, AR. On the way to the hanger where they were originally sending me, I got the call that both a parishioner and dear friend were on the flight. I was re-routed to the hospital as their priest, and though both survived, it was life-changing for me. I have carried these stories into the work I do now as a bishop.

Read more about how disaster chaplaincy influenced Bishop Greg Rickel in [How Disaster Chaplaincy Changed my Ministry | Diocese of Olympia](#) in our online [resource library](#).

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 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

Alison Hare, Preparedness
Coordinator
ahare@er-d.org



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