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)
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- 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!

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!