In This Issue

A Note from Katie
From Relief to Recovery in the Diocese of Alabama

NEWS

Do You Want to Volunteer for the Disasters this Spring? - Join Ready to Serve!
Offer your services to vulnerable communities after a disaster. Sign up online to be called upon to volunteer if a disaster affects your area.

We are building up our resource library!
Now you can go online to find tools and stories about preparedness planning and response.

A Note from Katie

One of the things that I love most about my job is connecting churches with volunteer opportunities. Episcopal churches all over the country, especially since Hurricane Katrina, have experienced how powerful it can be to travel to a disaster-impacted area, live in tight quarters with your fellow parishioners, and sweat more than you thought possible doing manual labor you just learned how to do. Those experiences have been transformative both to individuals (myself certainly included) and to the volunteering church communities. And now as the Katrina programs end, people are looking for new places to turn that energy.

It might seem that this spring's tragedies would mean plenty of volunteer work right away. The problem is that meaningful programs take time to set up and scale up. Please be patient. This spring's storms caused damage all over the country, especially in the Midwest and the South. Local churches did amazing work responding to the immediate needs - to house,
programming. Do you have a document that might help another community? Do you have a story to share? Please send them so that knowledge can be shared around the country! Email Alison at ahare@er-d.org.

**LINKS**

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Diocese of Mississippi
  Building blitz in [July](#)

- Diocese of Tennessee
  Home rebuild program in [Nashville](#) - contact Denice O'Neil

**Articles and information:**

- Diocese of Alabama
  Deacons Give Voice to Needs of [Tornado Survivors](#)

- Diocese of East Tennessee
  Disaster Relief Ministry [news](#)

**Current Emergency Relief Projects:**

- Diocese of West Missouri
  Tornado response

- [Poplar Bluff, MO](#)
  Flood response, Holy Cross Episcopal Church

- Hickman, KY
  Flood prevention, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

- [White Swan, WA](#)
  Fire response, Christ Episcopal Church

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In the two months since tornados ripped through the state, the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama has been busy. Days after the storms congregations were already helping their communities and neighbors with clean-up, debris removal, mass feedings and other immediate relief needs. The diocese and congregations provided emergency relief funds, volunteers, and other aid to people and families affected in over 17 communities.

St. Mathias Episcopal Church in Tuscaloosa became a volunteer coordination center as mostly untrained volunteers poured in from around the state. According to a story posted on the diocesan website, the center, run out of St. Mathias' parish hall, was staffed largely by St. Mathias' parishioners and operated by Compassionate Coalition, a group of area faith-
Since the tornados hit, Episcopal churches across the Diocese of Alabama have been galvanized into action, extending a hand to those in their communities who are most in need. St. Paul's Church in Greensboro is one such parish, and the
supporting community resilience.

**Jericho Road**  
A neighborhood-based home-building organization working to revitalize Central City, a New Orleans neighborhood recovering from Hurricane Katrina and decades of disinvestment.

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**Contact Us:**

To add your name to the "Ready to Serve" volunteer and skills roster:  
[volunteer@er-d.org](mailto:volunteer@er-d.org)

Katie Mears  
Program Manager  
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Alison Hare  
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The Diocese of Alabama is now receiving volunteers to work with their recovery program. If you are interested in volunteering in Alabama please contact the diocesan volunteer coordinator, David Whetstone at [whetstone@cableone.net](mailto:whetstone@cableone.net).

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