

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 #40 | July 2016

Hi All,

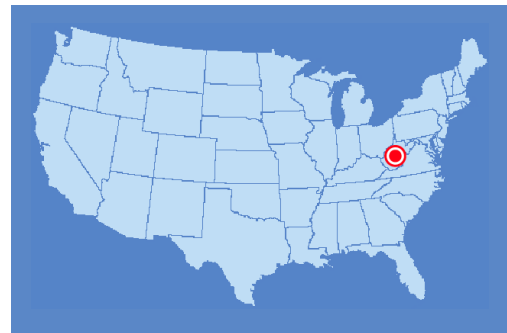
For many Episcopalians, the summer months can be tinged with anxiety. Different regions of the country are facing elevated risks for wildfires, hurricanes, floods, drought and other severe weather. In short, it's disaster season.

Fortunately, Episcopalians across the country are joining forces with their local governments and other organizations to increase their capacity to respond to disasters. In June, church leaders in the Pacific Northwest participated in [Cascadia Rising](#), an exercise to prepare for a major earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and this fall diocesan disaster coordinators are planning to participate in [The Great California Shake Out](#) and national [PrepareAthon](#).

You can get involved too! By building relationships with your local first responders, doing congregational disaster planning and [participating in preparedness events](#), you can help reduce your risk for disasters. We hope that you will consider taking part!

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!](#)

Karen Mackey, Communications Coordinator for the Diocese of Louisiana, recently gave a radio interview to discuss personal preparedness. [Give it a listen!](#)

The Revs. Charles Todd and Jim Parker, Diocesan Disaster Coordinators for the Diocese of Georgia, discuss disaster preparedness in their [diocesan newsletter](#).

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



Former Diocesan Disaster Coordinator for the Diocese of Olympia, Dave Baylor, participates in Cascadia Rising, a disaster exercise designed to simulate a major earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

West Virginia

Last month, severe flooding in West Virginia killed 24 people, damaged more than 1,200 homes and left more than 18,000 without power across the state. Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting the Diocese of West Virginia as they respond to needs in the community through temporary housing assistance and gift card ministries for those impacted.

Liturgy After Violence

In May 2014, seven young adults were killed during a shooting near the campus of the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). Several months later, St. Michael's University Church in nearby Isla Vista held a healing service for those affected by the violence. The effects of trauma after an act of violence remain long after the event, and it is important for communities and individuals to process and mourn the event at their own pace. [In our latest Resource Library piece](#), The Rev. Julie Morris shares her experiences creating a service of lamentation several months after the shootings.

Wildfire Webinar

Are you interested in hearing more about what you can do to prepare for wildfire season? Join us on July 14th for a webinar and discussion! For more information, contact [Lura Steele](#).

Episcopal Asset Map Survey

Big things are happening on the [Episcopal Asset](#)

Disaster Response:

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

The Diocese of West Virginia is responding to severe flooding that killed at least 24 and destroyed hundreds of homes through temporary housing assistance and gift card ministries to replace lost household goods.

Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

The Diocese of Mississippi is responding to Spring 2016 flooding through assistance to repair damaged homes and meet unmet needs.

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.

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.

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 so residents can learn 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.

Episcopal Church in South Carolina

The Episcopal Church in South Carolina is providing case management, financial assistance and pastoral care for people

[Map!](#) Currently, 96 of the 99 United States dioceses have signed on to the mapping project. We have transitioned to a new developer and are working on ways for the map to better meet the needs of users.

As part of this effort, we are collecting feedback about the Asset Map. Our short survey is available [here](#). We would love to hear about your mapping experiences!

affected by severe flooding in October 2015.

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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