

Share:

-
-
-
-

 Like
  Share
  Share:
  Tweet

-
-
-
-



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 #9 | September, 2011

A Note from Katie

This year, it's not hard to remember why it's important to prepare for disasters. It's been a year of fires and floods, earthquakes and hurricanes, not only hitting places that expect them, but other regions as well. September is National Disaster Preparedness Month, and we ask that you think this month about whether you're ready. Are you ready as an individual? As a family? As a congregation? As a diocese? As a community?

We have tips and preparedness planning guides available on our [website](#) to help you plan. If your diocese is looking to begin to prepare, contact us for support and to be connected with other diocesan coordinators and committee members who can help.

Think especially this month about recruiting your fellow parishioners to sign up for the Ready to Serve database. This list is the first group to be contacted when a local disaster strikes, and



In this Issue:

NORTH DAKOTA

[Partners in Response Visit Flooded North Dakota](#)

WASHINGTON, DC

[Understanding Federal Disaster Declarations](#)

News:

September is National Preparedness Month

Anne Ditzler, Senior Program Director for the Episcopal Church Foundation wrote about [parish disaster preparedness](#) for Episcopal Community Foundation Vital Practices.

US Disaster Program Manager, Katie Mears on why disaster [preparedness](#)

nationally, it's who we as a Church turn to when it's time to rebuild.

Please let me know if there's any other tools we can create to help you and your community prepare.

Peace,
Katie

Partners in Response Visit Flooded North Dakota

By Deacon Elaine Clements

It turns out that, unlike the parched plains I expected, North Dakota is really green and wet! At the end of August I flew into Minot, ND with Archdeacon Russ Oechsel of the Diocese of Texas. Both of us were flying to North Dakota as team members of Episcopal Relief & Development's "Partners in Response" U.S. disaster ministry. Canon John Floberg, Canon Missioner and Diocesan Disaster Coordinator of the Diocese of North Dakota, spent five days with us, visiting churches in Minot, Bismarck and in Spirit Lake Nation - the Sioux reservation near the Canadian border.



Deacon Elaine Clements and Archdeacon Russ Oechsel listening to partners in ND

Earlier this spring, historic rainfalls and snow melt caused massive flooding of the Missouri River and a rise in the water table, exacerbating a chronic problem on the Sioux reservation of Spirit Lake. The lake is gobbling up everything, in spite of Herculean efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers, who are building huge dikes to try to contain the spread of water. Spirit Lake has grown from a tiny, contained body of water to something that looks like one of the Great Lakes. It has stranded homes, completely submerged others and taken vast acres of farmland - the economic engine of the area. This has led to a housing shortage, and now multiple families occupy most of the tiny reservation houses. In Bismarck and Minot, the wet spring and historic flooding resulted in damages to thousands of homes, some of which still were flooded nearly three months after the event itself.

During our visit, Russ, John and I met with vestries, interested congregation members, flood survivors, local COAD's (Community Organizations Active in Disaster), and other relief organizations. Our purpose was to help each individual Episcopal congregation

is an important first step for serving our neighbors after a disaster.

Episcopal Relief & Development's Nagulan Nesiah on the new [Disaster Risk Reduction and Management program](#) with the Church of Ceylon in Sri Lanka.

Preparedness Planning Guide is Now Online

Use this [Online Guide](#) to walk your congregation through the process of disaster preparedness planning.

Join "Ready to Serve"

Offer your services to your vulnerable neighbors after a disaster. [Sign up here](#) to be called upon to volunteer.

Building Up Our Resource Library

Use our [Online Resource Library](#) to find tools and stories about preparedness planning and response programming. Do you have a story to share? Please email Alison at ahare@er-d.org.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Diocese of Alabama
[Tornado](#) recovery

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

Upcoming Trainings:

FALL

Series of local parish Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and disaster preparedness trainings in the Diocese of Louisiana

SEPTEMBER 10 & 17

Parish-based disaster preparedness training with Johns Hopkins University in the Diocese of Maryland

NOVEMBER 7 - 9

Disaster preparedness training in the Diocese of West Texas

NOVEMBER 18 & 19

Parish-based disaster preparedness training with Johns Hopkins University in the Diocese of Easton

JANUARY 2012

Partners in Response training

FEBRUARY 2012

Disaster preparedness and response training in the Diocese of Hawaii

craft a plan to reach out not only to their own members, but with the help of funds from Episcopal Relief & Development, to also reach out to those impacted in the larger community, especially the most economically vulnerable.

Oftentimes after a disaster, there is so much apparent need that it is difficult for local congregations to focus and to discern where their resources can best help the broader community. The goal of the Partners in Response team is to work with each congregation to identify their unique desires, assets and abilities, and match those to unmet needs in the community. John, Russ and I successfully worked with all three affected congregations to craft response plans - each plan as different as the churches themselves. In the process, friendships were formed and communities of faith grew stronger, a process that will continue through their work with each other and with their neighbors.

Elaine is a Deacon in the Diocese of Louisiana, as well as the Diocesan Disaster Coordinator.

Understanding Federal Disaster Declarations

In the wake of the many tornadoes in the Southeast and flooding in the Midwest this spring, and Hurricane Irene in August, we've been hearing the term "federal disaster declaration" from the media. The question is, what exactly is a federal declaration and how does it affect us as individuals?



Hurricane Irene off the East Coast of the U.S.

When a state's needs overwhelm available resources, a federal disaster declaration can make it possible for states and individuals to receive assistance from the federal government. Depending on the extent of damages, there are different types of declarations possible which can influence the type of assistance available.

In the case of Hurricane Irene, New Jersey received a major declaration, whereas Virginia received an emergency declaration. That means that the residents of New Jersey are eligible to apply for Individual Assistance (usually used to rebuild homes and for temporary housing) while residents of Virginia are not eligible for this kind of federal assistance.

If you would like more information on federal disaster

MARCH 24, 2012

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

Current Emergency Relief Projects:

**Flood response
Diocese of Albany**

**Tornado response, All Saint's
Episcopal Church
Tupelo, MS**

**Tornado response, Diocese of
Western Massachusetts
Springfield, MA**

**Fire response, Christ Episcopal
Church
White Swan, WA**

**Tornado response
the Baptist
Diocese of West Missouri**

**Flood response
Diocese of Vermont**

[HELP NOW!](#)

Current Disaster Recovery Projects:

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

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.

Metropolitan Ministries

Providing a "financial emergency room" to help with the unmet needs of people affected by the April 2011 tornadoes in Chattanooga, TN. They provide pastoral care, referrals and direct assistance.

The Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana (ECSLA)

Supporting oil spill-affected communities as they adapt to the financial, emotional and social changes caused by the oil spill through case management and 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. Jericho Road planted

declarations, please view the following "[Fact Sheet: How Federal Disasters are Declared](#)" in our online resource library. If you would like more information on registering for a federal Individual Assistance grant, please stay tuned for our next issue of Lamplight and the article: "How To: Creating a Form Brigade."

an urban fruit orchard in late November as part of its continuing Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

St. Luke's Community House is now a Restore the Dream Center site and serves the neighborhood of West Nashville by supporting home reconstruction, providing case management services and care for the care-giver trainings.

[HELP NOW!](#)



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
hare@er-d.org



Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.

Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.