



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

"A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ"

Newsletter

August 20 & 27, 2017

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The August 2016 Floods: One Year Later

I know I gave you an update in June about our flood recovery response, but now that our program is officially closing on August 31st, I thought it would be helpful to see the program in its totality and give thanks to each you who supported the flood recovery program.

In response to the August 2016 floods, Grace Church and our diocese quickly organized a systematic response to help serve those affected. Our response included shelter work at Celtic Studios, emergency response, and the organization of volunteer teams from both within and beyond Louisiana. We also provided emergency housing assistance and counseling services to ensure that we were caring for the mental and spiritual health of those affected. Jackson Hall and then Market Hall were set up as a one stop shop for donations and relief supplies so people could quickly find cleaning and mold abatement supplies, diapers, and formula. We also worked with various local churches to organize meals to deliver to those gutting their homes or living in temporary locations such as the Best Western and Hotel Francis.

Our response grew into a formalized long-term flood recovery effort that continued over the course of the next year. The diocese team wrote several grants to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) for both the initial emergency response and long-term recovery. The ERD grants totaled \$540,000 and helped to serve over 167 families, consisting of over 446 individuals. The grants served to help individuals rebuild their homes from insulation to flooring, the replacement of lost appliances and furniture, to the replacement of lost income. Our goal was to help families get one step closer to recovery and a new sense of normal. Through word of mouth and referrals we began to meet numerous clients from St. Francisville to Baton Rouge, Denham Springs to St. Amant, all struggling to rebuild and recover. In St. Amant, we met multiple members of one family all living on the same street. Each family member from the mother to her two sons and grandson received over four feet of water in each of their homes. Through the ERD grant programs, we aided each family with their different needs. One of them received new furniture to replace what was lost, the other used their small grant funding to replace their air conditioning unit that was fried by the flood waters. Another used their grant award to purchase sheetrock, insulation, mud tape and nails. While many of the stories we heard through our interviews and client meetings were similar, the flexibility of ERD's grant program objectives allowed us to meet each individual need.

Bishop Thompson also contributed generously to the flood recovery efforts through the Bishop Fund Grants providing \$120,000 for recovery. These grants assisted families with emergency housing, rental assistance, furniture and appliance replacement, household start up income and as well as lost income replacement. The generosity of our Bishop helped many families to keep their homes or provide a new rental home for their family. One such family who received assistance from the Bishop's Fund was a young single mother and her 5-year-old son who were struggling to find a reliable contractor to finish her home. The client had inherited the home from her father who had passed away but could not find a contractor within her price range that would complete the work. At the time we met her, the client had found a contractor who failed to rip out parts of the ceiling that had received water damage and thus began to mold. This caused the mold to spread to the walls that he had just replaced forcing

our client to start all over. Through the Bishop's fund, we helped this young mother and her son by helping to pay for a reliable, honest contractor who redid the previous work and completed the work in a timely manner for a reasonable price. She soon moved back into her home within a few months of hiring the new contractor and could finally provide a sense of normalcy and routine for her young son.

Volunteers joined the effort by registering on the diocese website created by the intrepid Karen Mackey. Christ Cathedral New Orleans, the Church of the Annunciation New Orleans, St. Luke's Baton Rouge, and Grace Church graciously opened their doors to provide non-local volunteers with a place to rest their head after serving. These church congregations also served the volunteers through donating lunches and suppers.

The volunteer response was awe-inspiring and included numerous volunteer teams from within the borders of our great state; many of our diocese church communities as well as outside organizations such as University of New Orleans and Together Baton Rouge sent teams to muck, gut, and serve in the flooded areas. Teams also traveled from beyond our state borders, hailing from places such as Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, St. John's Episcopal Church in Murray, Kentucky, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Gulfport, Mississippi, St. Michael's in Battleboro, Vermont, Grace Church Cathedral in Charleston, South Carolina, Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Christ Episcopal Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Emmanuel Episcopal Church in San Angelo, Texas, Trinity Wall Street in New York, New York, St. Francis of Assisi in Indian Springs, Alabama and the Diocese of Missouri in St. Louis, Missouri. Since the flooding, our diocese has supported over two hundred volunteers to serve and minister to their neighbors. The team from Franklin & Marshall College included 22 college age students serving in their Catastrophic Relief Alliance club. They have traveled to Louisiana five times previously to serve in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Their trip back to Louisiana in January was the first time they served in the Baton Rouge capital area. The 22 students along with their 3 intrepid adult advisors worked in three homes to insulate, sheetrock, mud and tape the homes. The homeowners were in awe of the work ethic and skills of the students. Upon their return to Lancaster, we received a thank you note along with a request to help them find a similar location in the future - they just couldn't get enough of Baton Rouge, its people and serving those most in need.

The flood program was also supported by churches and dioceses across the country. The Episcopal Diocese of Texas donated a four-stall shower trailer that served volunteer groups staying at St. Luke's and Grace Church. The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama also donated a two-stall shower trailer that served volunteers staying at Grace Church. Both these shower trailers washed away the hard work and sweat of 73 volunteers in 2017 alone. The Diocese of Mississippi and St. Peter's by the Sea in Gulfport, Mississippi donated two tool trailers complete with tools to help the gutting and rebuilding process. Volunteers from all over the country used tools from these two generous places to gut and rebuild homes.

The works and recovery efforts could not have been accomplished without the help of numerous people within our diocese. Christopher Speed, Cannon Shannon Manning and Deacon Elaine Clements provided invaluable support through their guidance and availability in serving the recovery process. And finally, we could not have done any of this without the support of our Bishop, Morris K. Thompson, and the team at Episcopal Relief and Development. We also know that none of this could have been possible without the love, support and prayers of our home congregation here at Grace Church. While the recovery process may not have been as visible to us as it was to others - our congregation, you, continued to support the efforts through meals, donations, volunteering to muck and gut, paint and tape sheetrock, to most importantly providing prayers for volunteers, clergy and staff and those affected. We give praise and thanks for all those who served the recovery efforts and pray for all families and people affected by the flood waters. May God continue to watch over them and guide them. Amen! — Meg Kendrick

*Intercessory prayers
are asked for Grace
Church members
who are ill:*

Matt Armstrong,
David Barnes,
Jamey Daniel,
Daisye Howell,
Lucile Lawrason,
Barbara Mitchell,
Tom Morris, Eric
Nelson, Sara Nel-
son, Robert Rein-
hardt, Dahn
Savell, Kay Teng-
ler, Eleanor
Thomas, Glenn
Thomas, Wen-
dell Wade, David
Walker, Jake ray,
Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Louise Maryman-
Aug. 20; Karina
Mulkey, Jamie
Farmer-Aug. 21;
Sophie Treppen-
dahl-Aug. 22; Eliza
Barrow-Aug. 23;
Turner McClen-
don, Arlene
Hughes-Aug. 24;
Ivey Kendrick IV,
Thomas LaCroix-
Aug. 26; George
Silbernagel-Aug.
27; Charlie Schnei-
der, Bobby Wilson-
Aug. 28; Suzie Sil-
bernagel-Aug. 29;
Susan Willis-Aug.
30; Mary Jane Op-
perman-Aug. 31.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Eric & Sara Nelson
-Aug. 20; Billy
&Helen Williams-
Aug. 23; George
&Suzie Silbernagel-
Aug. 25; Charlie &
Anne Schneider -
Sept. 1; Bruce &
Carol Stamey-
September 2.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Micaela Kell Bennett, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Mac Bullock, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cecil Kelly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Paul McGuff, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Kathy Drew Matter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, David Merritt, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Dorothy Anne Millikin, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Cecelia Polito, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Toups, Denham Turner, Darold Whitmer, Rufus Yerger.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Ben Colia, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragsa, Christopher Willis, Matthew Young, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped.

Children's Church has begun again on Sundays during the late service. We look forward to another great year. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who have agreed to lead Children's Church!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have stepped up to help with Youth Group while Meg is out on maternity leave. The youth are really excited to have you join them and to be able to keep growing their faith!

Dinners are needed for youth group for September through December. The sign up sheet is in the narthex of the church. Please help to support this great ministry of Grace Church! If you would like to sign up with someone that would be great. Also, Leslie Daniel has offered to pick up meals if you would be willing to support youth group dinners through a monetary donation. Speak to Leslie for more information. Thank you & Blessings! Meg

The Feast of St. Mary's will be celebrated by Fr. Kang on Saturday, August 19 at 9am in St. Mary's Chapel on Hwy. 66. Please invite friends to join you. Light refreshments will be enjoyed after the service.

The Vestry has moved their August meeting to August 22, when the Rector will be back.

Our Nursing Home Team would like to have more volunteers to come with them on Thursdays to sing, and have a short service with the residents. Please contact Maria Gerry or Sharon Gauthier for more information.

The West Feliciana area churches will be celebrating an ecumenical back-to-school service of worship and prayer in the West Feliciana High School auditorium on Monday, August 28th at 6:30 pm. Please join us for this time of Christian fellowship and prayer for all the students, teachers, administrators and families in our parish. Fr. Peter Kang, Ph.D.

The Fall Bible study, *Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy*, by Father Richard Rohr, will begin on Wednesday, September 6th at 9am in Bishop Jackson Hall. Mark your calendars now for the six week study. If you have questions, please call Coco Treppendahl. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

St. John's will have a celebration of the Eucharist this Sunday, August 20th at 7:30am celebrated by Fr. Kang.

EFM Class at St. Patrick's in Zachary: Would you like to learn more about scripture, church history, our traditions, and the churches theology? If you answered yes then you should consider Education for Ministry (EFM). EFM a 4 year long course, which is offered locally and sponsored by Sewanee. The course is intended to educate lay people in order to empower them for ministry. It is really a pretty simple idea, as members of the church and body of Christ, lay people are called to engage in the work of God. EFM is intended to provide a "theological education which supports lay people in their faith and also teaches them to express that faith in day-to-day events." More information about the program can be found on EFM website, <http://efm.sewanee.edu> And, if you would like to learn more about the Deanery EFM group contact Fr. Ashley Freeman at St. Patrick's. (Ashley@StPatsLA.org) or 225 654-4091

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P.O. Box 28
St. Francisville LA 70775

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St. Francisville LA 70775

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday August 20, 2017

Acolytes: Karina Mulkey, Madison Pollet,
Clara Jane Hughes, Wyatt Olsen
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Carol Stamey
10am: Rucker Leake, Drew Nordgren
Ushers: Joe Savell, **volunteer needed**
Lectors: Rucker Leake, Heather Howle
Vestry Rep: Dare Didier
Altar Guild Team 3
Altar flowers: Johnny & Sheryl Wynters
Sanctuary Candle: Tom and Jeanne Morris
Coffee Hour: Christian and Jaime DeJean
Babysitters: Shayn Rayford, Madison Pollet

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Acolytes: Elizabeth Hughes, Paul Opperman,
Lilly Higgins, Ella Corinne Howle
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Lucie Butler
10am: Mark Mulkey, Maria Gerry
Ushers: Dwight Singer, Robert Singer
Lectors: Rachel Howell, Ellen Klein
Vestry Rep: Zed Howell
Altar Guild Team 4
Altar flowers: Belton and Dare Didier
Sanctuary candle: Colleen Hill
Coffee Hour: Christian and Jaime DeJean
Babysitters: Shelby Griffin, Julia DeJean

August 20, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
(Grace & St. John's)
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

August 27, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, August 23

5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, August 24

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, August 25

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, August 27

7:30am - Eucharist
9:15am - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, August 30

5:15pm - Eucharist
5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, August 31

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, September 1

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study