

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...

Hurricane Dorian

Parishes prepare for the storm, and work to help those in need

Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to the calendar: email stthomasso@googlegroups.com

Episcopal Relief Fund

Pulling together to help those affected by the storm

A mandatory evacuation is in effect for the region of Georgia east of Interstate 95, affecting more than 200,000 residents, according to an NBC News report. More than 800,000 residents are affected by an evacuation order issued for South Carolina's coastal counties.

During anxious moments at Christ Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove FL, members were on the verge of tears as they watched eyewitness cellphone videos from Grand Bahama while the island was thrashed and submerged by Hurricane Dorian. Church members are determined to help the Bahamas recover. Christ Episcopal, whose former pastor was civil rights activist Theodore R. Gibson, and the nearby 123-year-old Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church, also founded by Bahamians, are leading a drive for relief supplies to be delivered to victims by seaplane. In less than a day, they had already collected stacks of canned food, bottled water, diapers and toiletries. "Hurricanes have made people more empathetic," Robinson said. "Irma hit hard. Then Maria, Michael. People understand what these more powerful hurricanes can do and they want to help. After Irma, other A.M.E. churches sent money and materials to us when we were hurting. Now it's our turn."

The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, which covers a third of North Carolina along the coast, is sharing information on its Hurricane Hub (ecdio.org/hurricane-hub.html), which was created last year as an emergency resource during Hurricanes Florence and Michael. The Diocese of Upper South Carolina is maintaining its own webpage filled with links and information to help residents prepare for the coming hurricane.

The dioceses in the path of Dorian's powerful wind and rain have been in contact with Episcopal Relief & Development for guidance in helping their communities respond to the storm and its aftermath. The agency also has reached out to its partners in the Bahamas to assist. Part of their readiness comes from many years of responding to hurricanes. Storm activity has been particularly intense in recent years, with powerful hurricanes hitting all along the coast and in the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico and Texas.

In the Diocese of Georgia, inland congregations are stepping up to assist as well, welcoming coastal residents who needed to evacuate their homes. "This includes St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Tifton, Georgia, that is hosting about 40 health-care workers who evacuated with their elderly patients from a nursing home in a low-lying coastal area," the Rev. Frank Logue, the diocese's canon to the ordinary, told Episcopal News Service in an email. "The patients are being housed in a Tifton care facility, and the nursing home employees are staying at the church." Southeast Florida Bishop Peter Eaton issued a statement over the weekend that noted how the storm's predicted track had moved away from the Florida coast but would still bring the threat of dangerous flooding to parts of the diocese. "It continues to be important to take all necessary precautions, to ensure the safety of people and to follow all official advisories and orders," Eaton said in his Aug. 31 message.

Bible passages are scrawled on some of the sheets of plywood covering the windows of Christ Church Frederica - St. Simons Island, Georgia, in advance of Hurricane Dorian, including Psalm 55: "I would hasten to escape from the stormy wind and tempest."



Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting Episcopal dioceses located in the path of Hurricane Dorian as they respond to the needs of impacted communities.

Dioceses along the eastern coast of the United States from the southernmost tip of Florida up through South Carolina are already preparing and anticipating the needs of affected communities. Episcopal Relief & Development plans to support the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida in their outreach to homeless and other vulnerable communities in Orlando, Titusville, Oveido, Ocala and surrounding areas with shelter, hurricane preparedness kits, water and nonperishable food ahead of the storm. Episcopal congregations have also opened their doors to help serve as a place of shelter for evacuees.

Episcopal Relief staff is conducting daily coordination calls with dioceses in the path of the storm. In addition, the organization is working through the Anglican Alliance to support the Anglican Diocese of the Bahamas & the Turks and Caicos as they wait out the storm and begin assessing the damage on Wednesday once the storm clears. The organization's Partners in Response and Resilience stand ready to respond in the coming weeks as the full extent of the slow-moving storm becomes clear.

"I am encouraged to see how dioceses in the U.S. and Caribbean have prepared and mobilized ahead of Hurricane Dorian," said Katie Mears, Senior Director for Episcopal Relief & Development's U.S. Disaster Program. "While the impact of the storm is not yet known, they are ready to provide support however needed."

Please continue to pray for those impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Donations to the Hurricane Relief Fund will help Episcopal Relief & Development's Church partners provide critical emergency assistance. To learn more about building a Season of Resilience and to download disaster preparedness resources, visit episcopalrelief.org/resilience.

– David Paulsen, Episcopal News Service.

God is good, and that won't change in the week to come. Stay safe out there and know that God goes with us wherever we go. Remember those in the Bahamas and all those who may still be in Dorian's path. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, The the LORD your God is with you wherever you go!" Joshua 1:9
Christ Church Frederica - St. Simons Island

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 8

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
 9:15am (GH) Sunday School Register
 9:15am (DO) Novel Theology
 9:15am (P) Adult Education
 9:30am (U) Nursery
 9:30am (GH) Children's Worship
 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
 11:45am (GH) Coffee and Fellowship
 5:00pm (grove) Picnic and Sing Along
 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, September 9

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, September 10

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 4:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 719
 5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
 5:30pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513
 7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
 8:00pm (U) KIS AA meeting

Wednesday, September 11

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 10:30am (C) Bible Study Group
 4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
 5:00pm (C, N) Episcopal Campus Ministry
 5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer
 8:00 (GH) South College Speakers AA

Thursday, September 12

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 10:00am (U) Newark Music Makers
 12:00pm (C) Property Committee
 3:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
 7:30pm (MR) St Gregory's Choir

Friday, September 13

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 12:00pm (C) Al-Anon
 6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, September 14

-available-

Sunday, September 15

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
 9:15am (P) Adult Education
 9:15am (U) Nursery
 9:30am (GH) Breakfast Club
 9:45am (U) Children's Worship
 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
 and Holy Baptism
 11am-4pm Newark Community Day
 11:45am (GH) Coffee and Fellowship
 5:30pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513
 7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

(C) Classroom	(MR) Music Room
(GH) Great Hall	(U) Undercroft
(N) Nave	(DO) Deacon's Office
(P) Parlor	(RO) Rector's Office