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Hurricane Relief

Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida on Sunday, September 10, after cutting a devastating path through the Caribbean. This is the second devastating storm of the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, following Harvey which hit Texas two weeks earlier. Irma and Harvey, both Category 4 storms when they hit the US, set a record as the only two Atlantic hurricanes of this magnitude to make landfall in the continental US during the same year. Since then, there have been two more dangerous hurricanes. The Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have suffered unbelievable amounts of damage, from which it will take years to recover. Contributions to Episcopal Relief & Development’s Hurricane Relief Fund [https://support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief](https://support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief) will help support church and other local partners as they provide critical emergency assistance to those most in need in weeks and days ahead. Here is a link to guidelines for those who want to know more about donations in response to a disaster. [https://www.fema.gov/volunteer-donate-responsibly](https://www.fema.gov/volunteer-donate-responsibly)

Fun with the Seamen’s Church Institute

Love may make the world go ‘round, but the ships at sea make everything else go ‘round the world. Many Episcopalians have heard of the Seamen’s Church Institute and, perhaps, associate it with knitting for Christmas at Sea or donations to help chaplains. But there is more to the story. Here is a look at the background and work of SCI as well as at some of the ways SCI generates support.

The Seamen’s Church Institute (SCI) of New York & New Jersey was founded in 1834 by Charles Sherman Haight Sr. as an outreach project of the Episcopal Church. (You can read all about the founding in an article entitled *A History of Maritime Ministry in the United States* ([http://seamenschurch.org/article/a-history-of-maritime-ministry-in-the-united-states](http://seamenschurch.org/article/a-history-of-maritime-ministry-in-the-united-states)).) As all of this occurred in the Diocese of New York, The Rt. Rev. Andrew M. L. Dietsche, the present Bishop of New York, is the Honorary Chairman. SCI is still affiliated with the Episcopal Church and serves mariners through education, pastoral care, and legal advocacy. It is the largest, most comprehensive mariners’ agency in North America.

Seamen’s Church Institute has located its headquarters in Port Newark, NJ and operates seafarers’ centers in Paducah, KY and Houston, TX, as well. There are also ministries of
pastoral care on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and the Gulf of Mexico, in the San Francisco Bay area, in Philadelphia and South Jersey, and in Newport, Rhode Island.

The chaplains visit more than 2,400 vessels annually in the Port of New York and New Jersey and along American inland waterways. SCI provides free legal advice for merchant mariners worldwide and advocates for their rights to the United States government. SCI instructors provide professional development and educational programs for inland, coastal, and deep-sea mariners using simulator training facilities at SCI-Paducah and SCI-Houston. SCI's Christmas at Sea program provides more than 20,000 hand-knit gifts to mariners at the holidays. The mariners on the big container ships are often signed on for a six or nine-month contract, during which they are not permitted to leave the ship. The visiting chaplains provide a link to home and family, often by something as simple as enabling a cell phone call home.

So where is the fun? In July there was a Food Truck Festival at the Port Newark headquarters. Six (or so) food trucks came and provided lobster rolls, pulled pork, wood-oven pizza and more treats for the ticket holders. There were lawn games and a beer tasting from a local brewery. Yes, this was a fund-raiser!

Just recently, SCI held its annual Pilot Boat Cruise on the Hudson. Invited guests and donors boarded Pilot Boat 1 at the sea wall in Battery Park and were treated to a cruise past the Statue of Liberty to see the container port in NJ and then up the inlet to the newly elevated Bayonne Bridge. A delightful buffet dinner on board made for a lovely fall evening.
More photos are on the Province II website http://www.province2.org/diocesan-news-stories/fun-with-seamens-church-institute

From September 28 – October 1, some hardy souls will participate in the SCI Mountain Challenge. Taking place on land and water, the 2017 SCI Mountain Challenge parallels many of the hardships mariners confront on a daily basis: the elements (facing northern New England’s notoriously unpredictable weather), isolation (teams work self-sufficiently on the mountain and water race courses) and physically demanding work (participants ascend over 3,000 feet each day). In addition to the outdoor elements, this event also includes a “Philanthropy Challenge”, asking participants to raise funds and awareness for the Seamen’s Church Institute (SCI) and its mariner support services. (http://scimountainchallenge.com/)

The Maritime Training Benefit Luncheon in Houston had to be cancelled this year because of Hurricane Harvey. But coming sooner than you think is the 18th Annual River Bell Awards Luncheon on Thursday, December 7, 2017, in Paducah McCracken County Convention and Expo Center, Paducah, KY. Finally, the 40th Annual Silver Bell Awards Dinner was held on Thursday, June 8, 2017, at Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers, New York, NY (http://seamenschurch.org/sba2017). The 41st Silver Bells dinner will be on June 6th, 2018.

All of these Special Events are an important source of funding for the Seamen’s Church Institute's programs. If you would like to receive information or invitations to these events, please email SCI's Special Events Team (specialevents@seamenschurch.org) or telephone 212-349-9090.

You can have a lot of fun supporting the Seamen's Church Institute! Of course, all donations are important. The Christmas at Sea program is a way to reach out to individuals in a way that a monetary donation can’t. There are also opportunities to volunteer and sponsor. Check the SCI website to see ways that you or your congregation can be a part of this ministry (http://seamenschurch.org/ways).

**News from the Dioceses of Province II**

**From the Diocese of Albany**

**The New Dean of the Cathedral**

In this 131st year since the founding of the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, The Rev. Leander Samuel Harding was installed as 19th Dean on the 4th of June. Dr. Harding is a graduate of Trinity School of Ministry, Ambridge, PA. He received his B.A. in Religion and Literary Criticism from New College, Sarasota Florida, and an M.Div. from Andover

From the Diocese of Central New York

CNY Young Adult Service Corps Member Ben Hansknecht Departs for Mission Year in the Philippines

Just yesterday (9/6/2017), Ben Hansknecht of St. Peter’s Church in Cazenovia landed in the city of Manila in the Philippines. Thanks in part to donations from the people of St. Peter’s, the wider diocese and The Episcopal Church, Ben will serve a mission year in the Philippines as a member of the Episcopal Church’s Young Adult Service Corps.

The people of St. Peter’s bid Ben a fond farewell on Sept. 3rd and joined Bishop DeDe in blessing him for the year of ministry ahead.

Ben will be writing about his experience over the coming year, and his reflections will be shared on the diocesan website and in this newsletter. He sends his thanks to the people of Central New York for supporting his mission with donations and prayers.

From the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

A Student’s Reflection

One component of the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center’s (JNRC) Welcome the Stranger Campaign is to offer education experiences to American university students studying in Rome. The reflection in the article comes from one of the hundred or so students who took part in these educational experiences. Jessica DiBugno is a rising sophomore at St. John’s University in New York. Her reflection echoes the sentiments felt by students who visited the JNRC this summer.

I didn’t know what to expect from this. I thought maybe that it would be something like what I had done at Briarwood back home. I expected there to be homeless families, poor people, and isolation. I expected the Refugee Center to be placed somewhere far away from Rome. Instead, I found out that it was only one metro stop short of Termini, where thousands of people travel every day to travel to different cities and regions within Italy. How is it possible that just one
stop away, lies the stories of so many different people with so many different backgrounds, going through one of the most traumatic and difficult times in their lives? Read the whole story http://jnrc.it/a-students-reflection/

From the Diocese of Haiti

Haiti was spared a direct hit from hurricane Irma. But the frustrations and fears it has ignited for some in its path are as deep for some who were affected by last year’s devastating Hurricane Matthew. Read the Miami Herald story and see the accompanying video: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article172268857.html

From the Diocese of Long Island

Leandra Lambert named "Young Adult of the Year" at 2017 UBE National Conference

Leandra Lambert, postulant for holy orders from the Diocese of Long Island, was honored for her good faith, and service to the wider church and mission of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE).

The Young Adult of the Year award was presented to Miss Lambert by Darius Jenkins, National UBE Young Adult Representative during the UBE National Conference which took place July 23-26 outside of Philadelphia.

From the Diocese of New Jersey

This is Bishop Stokes' column from the September 1 edition of Good News in the Garden State

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy  Proverbs 31:8-9

Images and stories of the incredible devastation of Hurricane Harvey have dominated the news cycle for nearly a week. No doubt this will, understandably, continue to be the case. Harvey has delivered massive damage and destruction on the United States’ fourth largest city and its surrounding areas. The effects of this will impact that area, and the entire nation, for many years. Our prayers and financial support of relief efforts through Episcopal Relief and Development and other agencies is vitally important. I encourage everyone to be generous on both counts.

At the same time, we must recognize and remember that people in our own communities in the State of New Jersey live with crises and devastation every day. More than a million people in New Jersey live in poverty, more than 350,000 of them are children. Homeless, hunger, unemployment and the grind of poverty are part of their daily experience.

The Reverend Kathy Murray is leaving St. Mark’s, Keansburg after four years to become rector at Beckford Parish - Emmanuel and St. Andrew’s Parishes, in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. I am excited for Kathy who has been prayerful in discerning this call. I wish her the very best. Beckford Parish is getting a wonderful priest.
Beckford Parish’s gain, however, is the Diocese of New Jersey’s, and St. Mark’s, Keansburg’s loss. Like many of our congregations, St. Mark’s is struggling. Currently, about 15 persons make up their regular congregation on Sunday morning. They have "plate and pledge" income of under $25,000. They are not alone; we have several congregations who are struggling at similar levels.

But St. Mark’s also hosts a community outreach ministry that is vitally needed in Keansburg. St. Mark’s Center for Community Renewal serves 80 to 100 meals every day; almost 3,500 meals monthly. 4,000 individuals are served yearly by the St. Mark’s Food Pantry. A nurse from the Visiting Nurse Association is on site weekly to answer health questions and provide screenings. A licensed social worker is onsite regularly.

St. Mark’s Center for Community Renewal existed before the area was hit by Superstorm Sandy. Poverty and all that accompanies it was endemic. That monster storm only exacerbated the challenges. Grants from Episcopal Relief and Development were instrumental in meeting critical needs in that community.

Today people of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds come to St. Mark’s for help. The ministry even built a children’s play area in the main parish hall where meals are served. While Keansburg is experiencing a revival, there is still a significant pocket of poverty there with all poverty entails. Mother Kathy informed me that Keansburg had 14 overdose deaths in 2016. Middletown Township, with 6.6 times the population, also had 14.

I believe maintaining the church’s presence in Keansburg is essential. The Center has been able to write grants that have helped sustain the ministry financially. As we begin to determine how we will address the future of the church in that area, it is clear to me that we need a priest who is either a social worker, or who has a social worker’s heart who can serve the needs of the existing congregation, but who also understands that St. Mark’s Center for Community Renewal is the primary ministry in that place.

For now, on Sunday mornings, St. Mark’s will have the services of their stalwart deacon, Rosemarie Broderick and Supply Clergy. The leadership assure me that the ministry of the Center can be sustained because they have the help of a young mother named Theresa, a former Assistant Manager at a McDonald’s restaurant who has already been overseeing a lot of the ministry of the Center. There is also a core of volunteers and support from other churches - Episcopal and others - who keep the operation going.

I’m thankful for the willingness of these few to take on so much. Diocesan staff and I are going to work diligently to find someone to take the helm at St. Mark’s, Keansburg. It’s one many real challenges we face. What does it mean to be a diocese in today’s church? It means that St. Mark’s, Keansburg’s ministry is a ministry we all share together.

This Labor Day, let us remember those who are out of work and those who are the working poor and give thanks for all who labor for the common good.
Almighty God, who has so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. BCP, 261

Blessings and Peace,

The Right Reverend William H. (Chip) Stokes, D.D.
XII Bishop of New Jersey

From the Diocese of New York

Immigration is at the forefront of our national conversation. While much of the immigration policy debate centers around welcoming the stranger, there is an equally critical discussion to be had about the country’s duty to those who have chosen to make America their home and now face deportation. St. Luke in the Fields is hosting a workshop Sunday, September 17 at 1:30 pm for another thought provoking Conversation that Matters as our expert speakers discuss the latest developments in the struggle for refugee rights in this country.

While this workshop is past, others may be interested to find out more about how to hold a similar event and what came out of the event.

From the Diocese of Newark

March for Justice

We all have seen the images out of Charlottesville, and the hatred that seems to have moved out of the shadow and into the streets in the past several months. Yet, this darkness has always been there – simmering – waiting for an open door, and seems to have found one of late.

And yet as Christians, we know that there is no darkness that the light of Christ cannot overcome, no hate that is more powerful than God’s love. It is this truth, this hope that was carried out into the streets in Washington, DC on Monday, August 28 as part of the 1000 Ministers March for Justice. Read the article by the Rev. Diana Wilcox http://dioceseofnewark.org/content/hate-has-no-home-here-priest-reports-1000-ministers-march-justice

From the Diocese of Rochester

Rural and Migrant Ministry (copied from the Diocese of Rochester’s website)

The harvest season will soon be upon us, and thousands of farmworkers will work long hours to bring food to our tables. During the time leading up to the harvest, the staff and collaborators of
Rural & Migrant Ministry (RMM) have been hard at work to serve and educate both farmworkers and our allies in western New York.

We have sponsored programs for farmworkers and their children as well as programs for our allies. We are working with new summer interns and volunteers. We have advocated for farmworker rights in Albany and taken 30 children of farmworkers to Seneca Falls to learn how women from the area changed the world. While we feel good about the work that we have done, we know that there is still much to do to create a world where all of God’s people, especially farmworkers, experience the life that is meant for all of us.

RMM has many annual programs that we offer around the state. In March, we organize an “Alternative Spring Break” that we offer to college-age students. Instead of spending time on the beach, we lead students on a five-day immersion program into the life and reality of farmworkers. This past March, we hosted students from Hobart William Smith, Vassar, the College of Brockport, and Adelphi at our center in Lyons, New York. For five days, these young people learned about the lives and contributions of farmworkers, including hearing from the workers themselves. After the program ends, the students return home having made a commitment to work on behalf of farmworker rights.

Another annual event is our two-week-long summer program for middle-school-age children of farmworkers. This year we had thirty kids come to our Lyons campus and learn and have fun participating in a variety of activities. Besides the normal arts and crafts and games, the kids also learned participated in a poetry workshop, a drum circle, and music classes. Our two summer interns and a volunteer from Hobart William Smith made it all happen.

Most recently, we have formed a new steering committee for farmworkers. Rural & Migrant Ministry not only seeks to accompany farmworkers in their daily lives, but to elicit the input and wisdom of the same workers as we plan our ministries. Currently, ten workers meet monthly to plan and advise us. They also are choosing the projects that they want to be involved in this year (and that they want us to be involved in).

For 20 years, RMM has put a lot of effort into our youth programs. Locally, we work with a group of high school students (all children of farmworkers), who have formed a youth group called JOY: Justice Organization of Youth. Like the adult steering committee, the youth group is a self-directed program, meaning that the members of JOY meet and decide the topics and projects that they will focus on. JOY is committed to educating people about the important contributions of farmworkers, their parents, and about the injustices that still exist regarding treatment of farmworkers and immigrants.
Currently we are planning two more large-scale annual events. In October, we will hold our annual Dinner and Symposium in Rochester, which will bring together hundreds of allies to learn about farmworkers and immigrants, as well as offer their support to our work. The theme for this year’s dinner and symposium is, “Undocumented Students: Their Stories and Their Successes.” If you would like information on these events or about any of the other work of Rural & Migrant Ministry please call West or Gabriela at 315-871-4031.

As Cesar Chavez, the amazing farmworker and organizer, used to say, “Si se puede: Yes we can.” Yes, we can create a more just world for all.

**From the Diocese of the Virgin Islands**

The Diocese of the Virgin Islands was hit hard by Hurricane Irma, especially the islands of Tortola, St. John and St. Thomas. What hurricane Maria will do remains to be seen.

From the Diocese of Alabama, which has a companion relationship, comes the following news: Companion Diocese Commission Member Lee Hoerner sent a photo of the destruction of St Ursula’s on St. John (USVI). From conversations with residents there, she estimates a very long recovery/rebuilding period.

Bishop Sloan has also been in contact with Bishop Gumbs. Updates will be provided as information is received and plans are developed to best walk with our partners in their recovery and rebuilding. The Diocese of Alabama is publishing updates: [http://www.dioala.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3187810](http://www.dioala.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3187810)

**From the Diocese of Western New York**

**Bishop Franklin Is Back (and the ducks were ready)**

*Bishop Franklin, Diocesan News, Front Page • August 22nd, 2017*

Bishop Franklin returned from sabbatical on August 17. We was welcomed back to the Diocesan office with many ducks, including the Eaton Camp ducks, a large duck and duck socks, tie and cuff-links.

The Bishop’s duck collection now stands at 1065 ducks. His goal had been 1057 ducks because he is the 1057th Bishop in the Episcopal Church. Bishop Franklin says that he will set a new duck goal in the next few weeks.
While on sabbatical the Bishop spent a lot of time listening and visiting other dioceses and congregations who are doing new and interesting things. He also spent time with seminary deans, parish clergy and lay leaders.

Bishop Franklin spent time in New York City, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., as well as Spain and Italy.

The Bishop is now resuming his schedule of parish visits, meetings, planning and administration, as well as reading email.

Bishop Franklin said, “I am so grateful to the Diocese for making this sabbatical possible for me. People were very good about honoring my time away. I am excited to be back in Western New York and looking forward to all of the fall events and parish visits.”

Opportunities, Events and Resources

This is just a sample of the listing from the Province II website. The full complement is here: http://www.province2.org/opportunities–events.html

Applications are now accepted for the 2018 United Thank Offering grants: 10 grants of $2500 for young adults; and 10 grants of $2500 to seminarians. The focus of the grants is The Jesus Movement: Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care.

Find out more http://www.province2.org/opportunities/united-thank-offering-grants

The application process is now open for the Constable Fund Grants for the 2017-2018 cycle.

The Constable Fund provides grants to fund mission initiatives that were not provided for within the budget of the Episcopal Church, as approved by General Convention 2015. Deadline for applications is November 1.


2017 Chapman Dialogues: Conversations on Faith

Faith and Civility: Beyond the Golden Rule, November 12-14, Claggett Center. Registration Now Open. https://www.claggettcenter.org/events/19

Civility in the workplace, in our houses of worship, at home – where do faith and civility intersect? How do you move beyond the Golden Rule as our sole rule of thumb? Join Mr. Daniel Buccino, director of the Johns Hopkins Civility Initiative, and others to explore this most timely topic. Perhaps we can even begin to recognize the “us” in “them.” Visit chapmandialogues.org to learn about the Chapman Dialogues: Conversations on Faith series and this year’s in-depth look at Faith and Civility: Beyond the Golden Rule.

Learn more & register for free at [http://allourchildren.org/webinars](http://allourchildren.org/webinars).

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**FREE FALL WEBINARS**

- **September 26 - 2:30pm**
  - How Church-School Partnerships Can Build Beloved Community
- **October 24 - 2:30pm**
  - Best Practices for Building Community and Avoiding Toxic Charity
- **November 28 - 2:30pm**
  - You Don’t Have to Do it Alone: Growing a Partnership by Building on Local Resources

Learn more & Register free at: [allourchildren.org/webinars](http://allourchildren.org/webinars)

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Forward Movement is pleased to announce the **Discipleship Matters** conference for **2017**. Episcopalians will gather Oct. 16-18 at St. Thomas’ Church, Whitemarsh in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, for a conference focused on helping leaders create a culture of discipleship in their congregations. Read the ENS article: [http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2017/06/12/forward-movement-announces-major-discipleship-conference/](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2017/06/12/forward-movement-announces-major-discipleship-conference/) Find out more [http://renewalworks.org/events/](http://renewalworks.org/events/)