

A monthly offering from
★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Harvey: 2017-2018

It's hard to pinpoint a one-day anniversary for the historic flooding that Harvey caused. Many people are only now returning home and more remain displaced. As a church our ministry in our communities continues.

“The Church is uniquely equipped to do long term Harvey recovery, because when everyone else leaves, we're still here.”

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry during his tour of Harvey's destruction in Beaumont and Houston in January, 2018

One year ago Hurricane Harvey slammed into Texas earning nationwide news coverage that showed fishing boat rescues, flooded highways, underwater rooftops, and record breaking damage. For a moment in time all eyes and ears were focused on this historic disaster, and concern and compassion were converted into action. Neighborhood meal deliveries, truckloads of cleaning supplies, drop-offs of disposable diapers, muck-out teams, church fellowship hall shelters, and gift cards were freely offered to survivors without care for race, creed or politics.

With no sense of “us versus them” we did some of our finest work. Faith-

based organizations were leaders in the response to Harvey, and we still are.

Through grants from Episcopal Relief & Development and the diocesan Quin Foundation, your diocesan Hurricane Recovery team is reaching out to assist our most vulnerable sisters and brothers for whom conventional disaster recovery mechanisms are not effective. We do this by partnering with you, our churches, who are best positioned to learn the needs of your communities. At the heart of this diocesan program is extending dignity and deepening connections with our neighbors.

Please let us know if your church has a ministry idea for Harvey Outreach



Mackenzie Shinnick, 19, and Jonathan Allen, 18, from the Episcopal Diocese of the Gulf Coast help Harvey survivors in Texas rebuild.

that aligns with this mission.

Stay tuned for opportunities to assist in the long journey of Harvey recovery from near and from afar; through mission trips and through sponsorships. Together we can return many more families home in time for the 2018 holidays. The recovery timeline is long: “Let us not grow weary in doing good.”

Contacts: The Rev. Stacy Stringer, Director of Hurricane Recovery and Kécia Mallette, Harvey Program Manager, at edotHurricaneRecovery@epicenter.org.

August, 2018

V. We gasp, gracious God, as we see the hurricane preparedness alerts, and we wonder what made our hearts skip a beat.

R. **Remember us, O God.**

V. It happened—the much-needed rain became too much. It wouldn't leave—and it wouldn't stop. It hung around, this unwelcome visitor, Harvey.

R. **Remember us, O God.**

V. It wreaked havoc on people's lives, homes, businesses, property, possessions, and on our sense of safety, routine, and security.

R. **Remember us, O God.**

V. Harvey sent out waves of destruction, waves which kept coming for days, weeks, and months—so much was lost.

R. **Remember us, O God.**

V. And so much was found!

R. **May your light shine in our darkness, O Loving God.**

V. Neighbor helped neighbor. Strangers from near and far appeared and brought rescue, food, water, and hope.

R. **May your light shine in our darkness, O Loving God.**

V. Many experienced community in a new and empowering way.

R. **May your light shine in our darkness, O Loving God.**

V. Our sense of isolation was absorbed in receiving the gifts of others as well as in the giving of gifts ourselves. We helped one another cry.

R. **May your light shine in our darkness, O Loving God.**

V. As our recovery from Harvey is still ongoing, bless us with patient endurance in body, mind, and heart.

R. **May we find peace in Your Presence, Lord.**

V. As we approach the anniversary of the beginning of Harvey's destruction,

R. **May we find peace in Your Presence, Lord.**

V. We rejoice in hopeful gratitude of the volunteers, youth groups, churches, and so many others that are organizing rebuilding projects for this season.

R. **May we find peace in Your Presence, Lord.**

V. We ask your continued healing from the wounds and losses of Harvey's impact. May we be grounded in your love and strengthened by your power.

R. **May we find peace in Your Presence, Lord.**

Celebrant adds a concluding collect. Modify as needed locally, no attribution necessary.

A Litany for the Anniversary of Hurricane Harvey



Marcus Coons, Lawrence, Ohio, traveled to Texas with Reach Mission Teams this summer to assist homeowners affected by Harvey's floods. See link to story below.

To read more about St. Andrew's and Mosaic in Action see: <https://tinyurl.com/ydx97m4k>

To learn how Trinity, Baytown's new grant will help the community see: <https://tinyurl.com/y8d8bnmm>

For all information on Diocesan relief for Harvey survivors, as well as the litany in English and Spanish, visit: www.epicenter.org/harvey-recovery

To see how Holy Trinity, Dickinson is helping their neighbors, read: <https://tinyurl.com/ybdom73r>

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