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E-SPIRIT

The e-newsletter of the
Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri

June 28, 2010

Hugh Welsh, Editor

ERD Supporting Gulf Coast Communities



On April 20, 2010, an offshore oil rig exploded and sank, killing 11 people and causing a massive oil spill that is threatening states along the Gulf Coast. Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with Episcopal Community Services of Louisiana (ECSLA) and their

partner Bayou Grace Community Services to reach affected coastal communities in Louisiana's five bayou parish of Terrebonne.

There has not yet been an emergency food stamp program established in the Terrebonne region, southwest of New Orleans. Due to the 10-day waiting period for the standard food stamp program, families cannot get critical assistance when they find themselves in need. In addition, many families do not have the necessary information to make informed decisions about taking out loans or accepting financial settlements related to the spill.

"We're working to leverage our existing ministries and connections in the region to reach people who are falling through the cracks," said Katie Mears, Episcopal Relief & Development's Program Manager for USA Disaster Preparedness and Response. "This is happening because they can't access sufficient resources, whether because of transportation challenges, lack of information or uncertainty about the different avenues they might pursue for assistance."

"By helping to meet basic needs for food, providing information and pastoral care and offering guidance to address legal questions, we'll be able to assist families and communities in the face of ongoing anxiety and financial hardship," said Mears. "It will be extremely effective to tap into the existing network of churches and community centers in the area, because leaders connected with these sites already have a good understanding of the people in need in their communities."

To learn more about Episcopal Relief & Development's work or make a donation, please visit www.er-d.org.

A Call for Volunteers



Parishioners at St. Paul's in Maryville are cooperating with Habitat for Humanity to build a home at N. Laura and E. Second St. in Maryville. Habitat for Humanity builds homes for low-income families who subsequently buy the home at a reduced rate. Volunteers are needed 8:30

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Submissions for the E-Spirit should be emailed to:
westmo_spirit@swbell.net

New diocesan Web site



The diocesan Web site recently underwent a redesign. Check it out at www.diowestmo.org or www.episcopalwestmo.org.

a.m. to mid-afternoon every Saturday, except Independence Day. The goal is to have the home constructed before school starts in the fall. If you'd like to help, please call Joan Schneider, 660-541-5773.

Group Workcamp



Nearly two dozen youth and adults from Christ Church in Springfield will be a part of a Group Workcamp July 3 to 10 in Hamilton, Ohio. Participants are asked to do everything from repair sagging porches to rebuild unsafe steps and wheelchair ramps to paint homes. Also, last year Group Workcamps collected more than 156,000 food items to give to local pantries across the United States. If you would like to email a camper, please visit the following Web site: www.groupworkcamps.com

Missionpalooza 2010



This year's Missionpalooza, themed Mystery Revealed-Proclaimed-Lived, will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 13 and conclude following the 10:30 a.m. service Sunday, July 18 at St. Paul's Church, 11 E. 40th St. in Kansas City. Intended for students entering grades 8 through 12 this fall, Missionpalooza trains teenagers to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. For five days, youth from Kansas, Missouri and elsewhere come together for mission, fellowship and worship both inside and outside the walls of the Church. Students spend their nights at St. Paul's and their days in the urban mission field heeding Christ's call to feed the hungry, visit the sick and comfort those in need. Evenings include fun activities such as games, music, movie night, outdoor barbecue and a trip to either Worlds of Fun or an alternative Saturday afternoon outing. Cost is \$160. [Click here](#) for more information or call Kim Snodgrass at 417-793-0780.

Cursillo Retreat



A Cursillo weekend retreat will be held Thursday, July 22 to Sunday, July 25 at St. Mary's College in Leavenworth, Kan. Cursillo is an opportunity for spiritual awakening and focuses on living a life of accountability in accordance with the Baptismal Covenant. The retreat is open to anyone who wants to renew and deepen his or her relationship with Christ.

The lay rector for the weekend will be Rachel Swaney from St. Michael's in Independence. The spiritual advisor is the Rev. Tom Wilson from St. Andrew's in Derby, Kan. For more information, please contact St. Michael's at 816-373-5333. Applications are available by clicking the following link: <http://stmichaelschurch.org/pages/cursillo.html>

"Peace for the Holy Land: A Christian View"



David Wildman, executive secretary for human rights and racial justice at the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church in New York City, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at Broadway United Methodist Church, 406 W. 74th St. in Kansas City. Wildman is also the co-author of *Ending the U.S. War in Afghanistan: A Primer*. The event is free and open to the public.

Pilgrimage to Washington, DC



This year's pilgrimage, themed "Exploring Our Anglican Roots - Part II," will be held Saturday, July 31 to Saturday, Aug. 7. The pilgrimage offers an opportunity for youth grades 9 to 12 to visit the historic "rootedness" in our faith by exploring the real events and people God has worked through to make our country what it is - and us who we are - today. This is much more than a site-seeing trip. Cost is \$425 per person, which includes transportation, lodging, breakfast and dinner each day, admission and tour tickets. On the agenda are trips to the National Cathedral, Washington Mall monuments and museums, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, Harper's Ferry and the capitol building. Registration fees are

due no later than July 1. [Click here](#) for more information or call Kim Snodgrass at 417-793-0780.

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