



# CHURCHWORK

OUR VISION: The Diocese of Louisiana is one church, faithful to our Lord Jesus, united in mission, reaching out through service and proclamation to all for whom Christ died. We live in joyous expectation of God's transforming power, compassion and mercy in our lives. OUR MISSION: The Diocese of Louisiana is by grace, a vital community, reborn in the wake of tragedy, forging a new and prophetic environment of healing, trust and empowerment as servants of Jesus Christ

## Christ Church Cathedral bicentennial events lift spirits in New Orleans

Ann M. Ball, editor

The November bicentennial celebration events planned by Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans, brought a spirit of energy and togetherness to the city in need of both.

### Back to its roots at The Cabildo

In the brisk cold and brilliant sunlight of Nov. 17, Dean David duPlantier of Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans, stood in front of The Cabildo at Jackson Square welcoming worshippers inside to an 8 a.m. service of Morning Prayer, marking in time and place the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Protestant service in the Louisiana Purchase territory, and the founding of the Christ Church congregation.

The service, led by Dean duPlantier, followed the rite from the 1789 American Book of Common Prayer. Bishop Charles Jenkins, members of the cathedral, church friends, press and dignitaries attended the service on the Cabildo's sun-drenched second floor gallery. The Rev. Fred Devall read the lessons.

A collect for Philander Chase, the first rector of Christ Church, was read as part of the prayers.

Commenting on the observance of the bicentennial of Christ Church and Hurricane Katrina, Bishop Jenkins said, "Not only do we look back but we look forward to a 'new normal,' and we don't know what that new normal will be... It's a new founding, a new beginning, not very different from what Philander Chase faced 200 years ago."

"We walk in faith," the bishop continued, "building anew the Lord's work."

"The old norm of a church with locked doors – that church is carried away with your refrigerators," he quipped.

"We will be a new church – engaged," he said, "a church living for others – a church living for what lies ahead."

### A feast of music in the streets and nave

The reverent morning service, reflecting its Elizabethan heritage, was sandwiched between Creole heritage, a solemn then raucous second-line parade through the streets of the French Quarter on Nov. 16, and an incredible feast



Dean David duPlantier of Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans, welcomes the Rev. Fred Devall to The Cabildo for the bicentennial service of Morning Prayer on Nov. 17. [EDITOR PHOTO]



Bishop Charles Jenkins and Dean David duPlantier at The Cabildo. [BEN JENKINS PHOTO]

for the ears, "All The Saints," a Jazz composition commissioned by and performed at the cathedral the evening of Nov. 17.

The musical work was composed and directed by Irvin Mayfield. He and his 16-member New Orleans Jazz Orchestra poured out their souls and instruments in a two hour breath-taking, non-stop performance.

The standing-room-only Mardi-Gras-deep audience filled the nave of the cathedral and choir. The crowd spilled into the chapel where the event was shown live on screen. Fans stood outside on the steps of the cathedral for a chance to hear Mayfield and the NOJO's music. The people were mesmerized by the



"All The Saints" poster [EDITOR PHOTO]

composition symbolizing New Orleans' and Louisiana's rebirth at Christ Church Cathedral. Mayfield, in an introduction to his work, called it a "tool of healing here in New Orleans."

"We are going to take you on a journey," he said, one which begins with a "jazz funeral to the graveyard," followed by a celebratory procession from death to rebirth. The performance did exactly that.

On Friday, Nov. 18, the Rev. Canon John Peterson, former dean of St. George's College, Jerusalem and Secretary General of the Anglican Communion preached for a 5:30 p.m. Solemn Evensong at the cathedral. A reception followed in the parish hall featuring



Bishop Jenkins talks with Canon John Peterson.

photographs of the Holy Land by Tracey Lind, dean of Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio.

Bishop Jenkins celebrated the Sunday Eucharist on Nov. 20 and Canon Peterson preached. The bishop blessed new kneelers and a new Philander Chase processional cross made from silver donated by members of the congregation.

Commenting on the year-long celebration, Dean David duPlantier said, "I give God abundant thanks for so richly blessing the many events surrounding the Christ Church Cathedral bicentennial. We touched hearts and lives in our city and around the country, and exhibited the unique and special ministry of an urban Christian cathedral."



Irvin Mayfield tells his cathedral audience about composing "All The Saints." [EDITOR PHOTO]



Dean duPlantier sprinkles holy water on the crowds while Irvin Mayfield plays Li'l Liza Jane on the trumpet leading a second-line parade through the French Quarter Nov. 16 as part of Christ Church Cathedral's bicentennial celebration. [EDITOR PHOTO]





Volunteers hand out food, ice and bottled water during early relief efforts at Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans. Later distributions include clothes, cleaning supplies and other household goods.

## Cathedral's 200th year includes use as Distribution Center for relief supplies

William H. Forman Jr.  
Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

When Hurricane Katrina's 145 mile-per-hour winds slammed into the Mississippi Gulf Coast just east of New Orleans on Aug. 29, it looked like New Orleans had avoided catastrophe. But breaches in New Orleans' levees soon followed. As a result, 80 percent of the city's land area was flooded with six feet or more of water. The devastation added up to the greatest natural catastrophe in the United States' history.

According to Christ Church Cathedral member Kenn Elder, who remained in the cathedral during the hurricane, the street in back of the cathedral was flooded by Tuesday. The high water mark reached two feet inside the cathedral's parking lot on Carondelet Street.

After a lengthy mandatory evacuation time period, residents living in the area of the cathedral were finally permitted to return to their dwellings on Sept. 30. Those who returned were advised by state and city health officials not to drink tap water.

The cathedral's response was immediate. By the following Wednesday, purified water was being provided in the cathedral's front yard to anyone in need. By the end of the week, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene kits, food, school supplies, and toys were being provided daily from morning to night. Clothing was later added to the distribution list.

At the cathedral's Executive Committee meeting on Sept. 10 in Baton Rouge, the Very

Rev. David A. duPlantier, dean, announced plans for the return of the cathedral's ministry to the city. He appointed the Rev. Canon Steven M. Roberts, to organize a Distribution Center. As a former star long distance runner trained not to look back during a race, Roberts vigorously and capably moved forward with the project. His activities have been amazing to witness as have the efforts of numerous volunteers. Volunteers have come from other faiths and denominations. The cathedral's Distribution Center has truly been an ecumenical effort.

An estimated 25,000 people have received items from the Distribution Center since it opened. As one volunteer commented: "The response of those we are helping is as heart-warming as many of their stories are heart-breaking. Christ Church is representing the true spirit of Christian charity and is making a huge difference in people's lives; I have never been prouder of our cathedral community as we celebrate our bicentennial on Nov. 17 and begin our third century."

The Distribution Center's efforts bring to mind Jesus' words, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me." (Matthew 25:36-37)

The present cathedral building has withstood four major hurricanes: 1917, 1947, 1965, and 2005. The building's resilience, however, is no match for the congregation's spirit as they begin their third century.

volunteers on a tour of damaged Episcopal churches in New Orleans. Special guests included Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and his wife Phoebe, the Rt. Rev. George Packard, Bishop Suffragan for Chaplaincies in the U. S. armed forces, and a few other Episcopal priests from our area. As a volunteer media liaison for the parish I was invited to join the group along with another media specialist, Sarah Bartenstein from the Diocese of Virginia in Richmond, and representatives from the Episcopal News Service in New Orleans.

After successfully passing through a security checkpoint on Jefferson Highway a mile or two past the Ochsner Hospital campus in Jefferson Parish, our caravan made its first stop at Church of the Annunciation on South Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans.

Fr. Jerry Kramer, who now shares office space with us at St. Luke's was there to show us the devastation done by Katrina to his church: pews lifted from the floor by rising water, mildewed kneelers, a ruined baptismal font and a damaged organ.

Outside, broken branches and debris littered the church grounds and neighboring yards, while abandoned cars that had been completely submerged in the flood were scattered along the street's median.

At St. Paul's on Canal Boulevard near the

## It's not too late to enroll in the School for Ministry Class of 2007

"We are happy to announce that the class of 2007 of the diocesan School for Ministry will begin classes on the weekend of Jan. 13 and 14, 2006," said Harriet Murrell, the director of the school in a recent announcement.

"Fortunately the presenter, the Christ Church Cathedral staff, and the registered participants were agreeable to meeting during the summer months of 2006 to permit the class to finish only one month later than scheduled, in June 2007," Murrell added.

Because of the change in schedule, the application period will be extended until the end of December, 2005.

As usual, the initial session is an overnight

spirituality retreat with the first academic session scheduled to begin in February, 2006.

Murrell is emphasizing the importance of this successful diocesan offering during these times of challenge as more lay people are being asked to assume leadership roles in parochial and diocesan efforts following Hurricane Katrina's devastation.

"A foundation of Biblical knowledge and the Christian perspective on working in the world equips leaders to be true servants," she said.

For more information about the School for Ministry, visit the diocesan web site: [www.edola.org](http://www.edola.org).



Bishop Charles Jenkins shakes hands and embraces Bishop Lloyd Allen of Honduras who brought a \$5,000 check from his diocese to the people of Louisiana for hurricane relief.

## Bishop Lloyd Allen of Honduras visits Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina

The Rt. Rev. Lloyd Allen, bishop of Honduras, came to the Diocese of Louisiana in late September to give support from our Partner In Mission companion diocese.

Although the Diocese of Honduras is one of the poorest in the Western Hemisphere and is still recovering from its own devastation from Hurricane Mitch several years ago, his diocese presented the people of Louisiana with a check for \$5,000 for hurricane relief work in our diocese.

Allen toured some of the ravaged areas of the Northshore then rolled up his sleeves and helped with the relief work in Slidell.

Upon his return to Honduras, Allen ordained an historic 20 candidates to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Oct. 28-29.

The Rev. Joe Rhodes, rector of Holy Spirit, Baton Rouge, and his wife Tina, both members of the diocesan Partners in Mission Committee, attended the event as representatives of the Diocese of Louisiana.

## FROM THE EDITOR: Apologies to writer Margaret Lawhon Schott

Dear Readers,

I owe a humble apology to journalist Margaret Lawhon Schott who was kind enough to write a wonderful article about the visit of Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold to our diocese following Hurricane Katrina which ran as a front page story in the Nov. Churchwork.

There was miscommunication between us about the use of her story which I took the liberty to edit without her express permission. In the course of that editing, several typos were made which did not get corrected, also my error. To compound my fall from grace, I also fractured her name in the attribute!

That was truly disgraceful and I truly repent. My only consolation is to blame it on October Katrina fatigue. In a good faith effort to make amends, Churchwork herewith reprints Margaret's excellent article in its entirety.

Most sincerely,

Ann Ball, Churchwork editor

## Bishops tour damaged churches in New Orleans

Margaret Lawhon Schott  
St. Luke's, Baton Rouge

On Tuesday, Sept. 20, Bishop Charles Jenkins led a group of church officials and

walked around the reception area downstairs and here again, the smell of mildew and rot only were made worse by the stifling heat. On a day filled with such shocking images, no longer separated from you by a TV screen or radio announcer, one experience stood out for me and will do so for a long time. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Dorgenois Street, a traditionally black congregation, the water seemed to have risen only about a foot, trees had fallen away from the building and the church's piano was not damaged. Here was a lot to be thankful for. As we entered the church, the odor hit us like a wall, and with the windows closed, it felt like a sauna.

The senior warden, Elvia James, led us in, and as we were wandering around and realizing the church was basically alright, all of a sudden we heard Bishop Jenkins' voice above the conversations saying, "The Lord be with you." He was at the altar, calling us to prayer in the midst of a moment of overwhelming emotion. The bishop prayed a prayer of thanksgiving, then asked the senior warden to help him look in the tabernacle for any consecrated hosts left there before the storm. Led by Bishop Jenkins and his wife Louise, many in the group received the host from the presiding bishop, and along with it an incredible understanding of "the Lord being with us" in the midst of every storm.

Miraculously, only a few minutes away from St. Paul's near the edge of Lake Pontchartrain, the Chapel of the Holy Comforter sustained only minimal roof damage and is surrounded by green grass and only a few broken trees and bushes! Fr. Roger Allen, Holy Comforter's chaplain and one of our drivers on Tuesday, rejoiced over his chapel's lack of damage while mourning for so many other losses in the city, including that of his own house. Fr. Allen told us he sheds tears each time he returns to New Orleans on a salvage mission. Many of us found ourselves in tears, as well.

On St. Charles Avenue at the cathedral, we found clean-up crews on the job, and thankfully a structure that appears to be dry and in tact. Some members of the diocesan office staff made a quick trip to the diocesan office to retrieve personal items from their desks. I





Passersby can't miss the sign in front of the Chapel of the Holy Comforter on the Lakefront in New Orleans letting the community know that the chapel is open for "comfort." The chapel is now a neighbor to New Orleans' FEMA and Corps of Engineers' offices.



Betsy Roak presents a pineapple, symbol of hospitality, to Chaplain Roger Allen of Holy Comforter as Betsy's husband Jake looks on. The couple drove this trailer from Pennsylvania and presented it to Allen as a gift from donors in their community for use at the chapel. [EDITOR PHOTOS]

## Holy Comforter, New Orleans, an oasis in the "desert" of Gentilly/Lakeview

Ann M. Ball, editor

The Rev. Roger Allen, chaplain at the Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans, stood in the temporary offices of the diocese at St. James, Baton Rouge, and told a Los Angeles Times reporter who had come to New Orleans to do a story on Elysian Fields Avenue.

Elysian Fields is a venerable boulevard running from the Mississippi River through Gentilly to the Lakefront with shops, schools, churches, parks and hundreds of homes on its five- or so mile stretch. Its northern terminus is next to the Chapel of the Holy Comforter. Allen said the reporter found only three families living along the entire length of the avenue.

Gentilly, Gentilly Woods, Lakeview, Mid-City, Central City, the Ninth Ward, the Lower Ninth Ward – neighborhood after neighborhood – appear as ghost towns with no lights, deserted streets, deserted cars, abandoned damaged houses, battered trees, tons of debris and that eerie lack of "city" bustle.

But slowly, the people are returning to reclaim their homes. And Holy Comforter is there to help them, blessed by its position so near the lake that it sits on a natural ridge of

high ground thus relatively damage free.

Although without electrical power for weeks, the chapel was open and able to offer "a clean place of refuge; a place of holy comfort" the chaplain said, with bottled water, snacks, health kits, dust masks, and other items – supplies that Allen secured from the Rev. Victor Sheldon, the cathedral and other churches in the diocese.

The chapel ran on generator power. Allen boasted that the chapel's organist Dr. James Hammann was able to hook up the organ to the generator on Sundays so that singing was accompanied by the familiar sounds of organ music. The first Sunday after Katrina only four people were able to attend. The next Sunday, 17, then 25. Electric power returned on Nov. 21.

### New partnerships forming

The chapel has new neighbors. The New Orleans FEMA headquarters, which is handling the debris removal for the city, has set up operations next door. The site is also home for the Corps of Engineers and for two environmental contractors.

The diocese foresees the chapel as an integral part of the rebuilding process for the eastern

part of the city. It will be one of five major "compassion centers" in its ERD-funded urban ministry program. (See other articles in this issue.)

Having governmental agencies next door strengthens the chapel's networking capabilities in the partnership of rebuilding, which has already begun through collaborative efforts of city, school and church officials in New Orleans.

Holy Comforter took part in a widespread neighborhood clean-up effort Dec. 3 sponsored by the Gentilly Neighborhood Association with funding from the New Orleans Fairgrounds, supplies and volunteers garnered from our diocesan Office of Disaster Response, coordination through the office of Councilwoman Cynthia Morrell, and a host of other civic and church supporters. Holy Comforter served as a staging area and St. James, Baton Rouge, provided a mid-day meal to the volunteers.

The University of New Orleans and the Chapel of the Holy Comforter with the assistance of the diocesan Office of Disaster Response are working cooperatively to assist in the reopening of the university in January.

The chapel may provide needed day care space as the university reorganizes its areas for the spring semester.

The chapel will sponsor a community-wide service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. City and university officials have been invited to read lessons during the service.

### A place to call home

The chapel was high and dry after Katrina but Chaplain Allen's home in Lakeview was not so lucky. It filled with eight feet of water when the 17th Street Canal levee failed.

The Allens had evacuated to Sewanee, Tennessee, before the storm. Allen's wife remained there with friends while her husband returned to work in New Orleans albeit without a place to live on a permanent basis.

Serendipitously, vacationers Jake and Betsy Roak of Philadelphia were visiting St. Luke's, Birmingham, Alabama, and heard of Chaplain Allen's homelessness from a mutual friend. They were able to contact Allen and determine that what he really needed was a trailer so that he and his wife could be reunited.

When the Roaks returned home to Pennsylvania they immediately called their family and friends, some as far away as Maine, to raise the necessary funds to buy the trailer.

"Even our grandchildren got involved in the process," Betsy Roak said. "They held a garage sale and raised \$350 which we earmarked for gas for the trip."

"We were devastated by what the hurricane had done," she said. "People need a chance to start over. People need a chance to come and clean their homes."

The trailer is a gift to the chapel and will be used by the Allens until more permanent quarters are found. Then others will be able to use the trailer as a temporary home while they fix their own damaged property.

The Roaks, both educators, had never driven a trailer before. Jake is retired, but Betsy took personal leave from her work to accompany her husband on the long drive to deliver the trailer to Louisiana. They spent the first night in a WalMart parking lot since they'd heard WalMart would let people park trailers there – and, Jake said, "because I wouldn't have to back up."

The trailer arrived at Holy Comforter on Nov. 15 to the grateful smiles of Chaplain Allen. Jake gave Allen a thorough tour of the trailer showing him its features and operational functions.

"This is a wonderful gift from wonderful people," Allen said.

Trailer donors included: Fritz Kemper, Carol Tyler, Beth Hazard, Morris Cheston, Frank Reed, H. Harris, A. Bedell, Lan McCall, Curt Mullendorf, T. Taylor, Edie Parnon, Dee Dee Stewart, M. Lloyd, Jake and Betsy Roak, their children and grandchildren from age 15 months to 12 years.

## Grace Church New Orleans worships outdoors while clean-up is underway



The faithful gather for Sunday worship in front of Grace, New Orleans, with their rector, the Rev. Walter Baer, officiating. [B. HAGER PHOTO]

Grace Church on Canal Street in New Orleans was another of the heavily damaged churches in the city. Volunteers from around the country have come to help church members clean out the church, offices, parish hall, day care center and rectory which had about four to five feet of water. The church did not have flood insurance so the parishioners are doing the work themselves with the help of volunteers – in particular from St. Thomas, Monroe, Louisiana, and All Souls, Richmond, Virginia. Rector Walter Baer reported that the congregation numbered about 300 before Katrina and now was less than 100 still resident in the city following the evacuation. "If you're here at night, it's like living in the country," he said.

The large church has been emptied and is being cleaned. The day care center classrooms and office walls have been gutted. The congregation soon will finish the chapel area for a worship space. The parish hall and kitchen are also being cleaned for more immediate use.



The Rev. James Cooper of Trinity Church, New York (back, left) visits stalwart members of Grace: (front) Betty Zachary, Martha Steward, Erica Sutton, Sara Wilson, Senior Warden David Asteberry, Kathy Smith, (back) Lonell Wright, James Whittington and the Rev. Walter Baer. [EDITOR PHOTO]



# CHANGES IN DIOCESAN OFFICES

## Archdeacon McManis served as ODR interim

Archdeacon Dennis McManis of the Diocese of Southwest Florida came to Louisiana, Oct. 10, to serve as interim director of the diocesan Office of Disaster Response. His work will continue of ODR with the arrival of Dr. Courtney Cowart. McManis describes his work in the office's weekly newsletter which appears regularly on the diocesan web site, [www.edola.org](http://www.edola.org). The following is an overview of the work of the ODR.

Archdeacon Dennis McManis  
Diocesan Office of Disaster Response

I am happy to report much has taken place behind the scenes to position our diocese in a way that can efficiently and effectively respond to the needs of our communities as they re-enter their cities and towns and begin the long process of recovery.

When I arrived, I found a staff of very dedicated professionals who were performing remarkably well in a very difficult environment. With offers of help streaming in from the four corners of our country and non-stop calls for help coming into the office, they had managed to effectively react to these demands. In the past weeks we have worked on organizing our areas of responsibility and honing team

skills to support one another.

Let me introduce our ODR team. John Ozier is our case manager and his area of responsibility is to conduct "needs assessments" with each parish and to identify existing programs available to our parishes as a source of information to help those who are not in a position to research it themselves.

Carole Wright is our FEMA/VOAD/Red Cross liaison. Her area of responsibility is to be our communication link, not only keeping us abreast of the available programs, but to also be our representative to help us access FEMA resources where they are needed.

Kent Ray is our executive assistant being the gatekeeper for incoming calls to make sure they get to the appropriate person and to manage our database allowing us to all have access to current information in a constantly changing environment.

Ben Jenkins is helping us tell our story by not only being the editor of our newsletter, but by being in the field capturing the events of our efforts in this evolving saga. I have left two people who have been so instrumental to our achievements to the last, not because they have lesser responsibilities; on the contrary, they have been so instrumental in what we

have accomplished and how we are positioned for the future.

First we have Eric Murrell. His unselfish service has truly been an inspiration to all of us. Whether it is driving a truck from a distribution center or running an errand for a priest, his answer has always been a biblical one, "Here I am Lord, send me."

And there is a special person who has truly been a servant of the Lord, Holly Heine. She, often at a sacrifice to her family, has been the glue that has held everything together.

She is the volunteer coordinator; but her primary responsibility is resource management, which is an all encompassing area of responsibility.

Every offer of help, be it material resources or volunteerism, comes to her. She then matches these offers to the identified areas of need. This is an ever changing landscape and her compassion and dedication is the difference between simply answering a call and fulfilling a need.

When many were re-entering the city of New Orleans, they found an oasis at our cathedral. Through Canon Steven Roberts' inexhaustible efforts and the energy of countless good-hearted volunteers and the coordination of this office, we created a major resource center that served the needs of over 1,000 people a day in its early weeks of operation.

We have two delivery trucks that are constantly on the road between New Orleans and warehouses in Baton Rouge that supply the cathedral and other places. We are making a difference.

I recall fondly one day Ben Jenkins and I were in the city. We stopped by the cathedral



ODR's Archdeacon Dennis McManis [EDITOR PHOTO]

## How your diocesan Office of Disaster Response meets people's needs

The diocesan Office of Disaster Response has the ongoing task of coordinating the relief effort to those parishes affected by the hurricane so that they might help those in their community. The office telephone is 1.225.387.5141 ext. 224. Below are ways the ODR is assisting those who need help and those who wish to help.

- 1) Establish contact with each church in order to assess their damage and their needs.
- 2) Receive and process all offers of money, goods, volunteers, housing, employment, church partnering and general support.
- 3) Coordinate the disbursement of all acquired goods and services throughout the diocese as needed.
- 4) Facilitate the pairing of parishes affected by the hurricanes with "partner" churches or dioceses from around the United States so they may directly receive support.
- 5) Alert the public in the hurricane-stricken communities through the media about the capacity and services being provided by the churches in those communities.

### Church Partners

Many churches are looking to partner with a church in the Diocese of Louisiana. Partnerships can include financial assistance, goods and equipment, volunteers or any type of support a church could need in a time of rebuilding.

John Ozier is the ODR contact person for these partnerships. He can be reached at [jozier@stjamesbr.org](mailto:jozier@stjamesbr.org).

### Relocation Possibilities

There are multiple offers being extended to individuals and families for housing, employment and general sponsorship from around the U.S. and Canada.

If you or someone you know might be interested in this offer, email John Ozier at the email address above or email: Holly Heine: [hheine@stjamesbr.org](mailto:hheine@stjamesbr.org). Or contact: Episcopal Migration Ministries: 1.800.334.7626, email: [emm@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:emm@episcopalchurch.org).

### Parish volunteer coordinators

Due to the high volume of volunteers, the ODR requests that one person from each congregation organize all of the volunteer efforts of that congregation. When the volunteers' capabilities and schedules are assessed, the

ODR office asks that the coordinator for that church contact Holly Heine. Local volunteers are needed.

### Around the diocese

In the short span of its existence the ODR has been able to coordinate efforts between those who need aid and those who have offered it.

In the heavily devastated Lakeview area of New Orleans, St. Paul's and Holy Comforter have been able to offer pastoral care and relief supplies.

Christ Church, Slidell, set up a relief center and distributed truckloads of supplies from California and New York and elsewhere.

St. Andrew's, Bayou DuLarge received a truck full of relief supplies from St. Andrew's School in Delaware. The supplies received included a generator, food, water and various cleaning and hygiene products. Volunteers from St. Luke's in Baton Rouge also came to assist in the cleaning efforts.

A chain saw crew was organized out of Plaquemine to go to St. Martin's in Metairie to help families there remove the many fallen trees and branches.

This is just a sample of the type of aid and support that has come in from around the diocese and around the nation.

The work continues and the ODR office is ready to help in any way possible.



Kent Ray, executive assistant



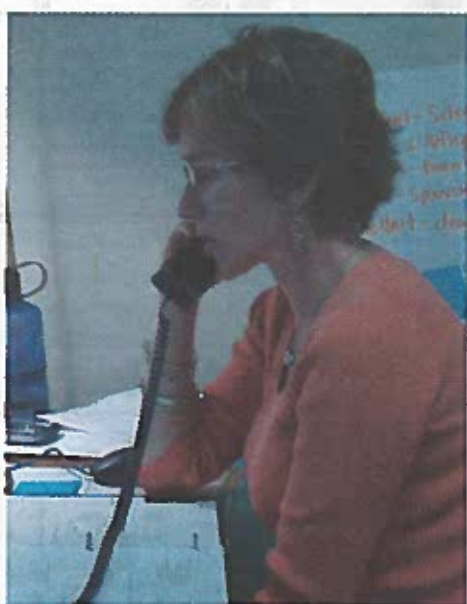
John Ozier, case manager [EDITOR PHOTOS]



Carole Wright, government agency liaison



Eric Murrell, field manager



Holly Heine, volunteer coordinator

only to find that pallets of water had broken and a few people were off-loading a truck literally a few bottles at a time. We jumped in to help and almost magically, an elderly man was by my side to help.

He told me, "This church has been here for me when I didn't know how I was going to survive...I couldn't just stand by and watch you struggle to off-load this truck...I'm here to help."

### Mobile Unit Ministry

There is also the Mobile Unit Ministry, established by St. Luke's Baton Rouge, which is dispatched to areas of need to give basic provisions and pastoral care to the hurting. Yes, much has been accomplished to establish ourselves, but more importantly to position the Episcopal Church to be the place of comfort and healing in each community as people return to their homes.

We have several programs and partnerships in process to expand our response that will be announced in the weeks to come.

For now I would like to project one message -- through your good Christian stewardship and your capable ODR staff, we are making a difference!