



The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

Camp Fire Update:
Nov. 20, 2018



St. John's Street Pastors helping move evacuees into shelters.

To donate: norcalepiscopal.org/disaster-relief

We are grateful for your prayers and concern as this disaster has unfolded. Thankfully, our church building in Paradise was not burned, and we anticipate that this will be a benefit to the larger community as the recovery phase begins. As we begin to shift from the immediate urgency of the disaster's first phase and move into the recovery phase, we

continue with our priorities. The response right now is being managed out of St. John's parish in Chico. We have daily calls with Episcopal Relief and Development, St. John's leadership, Pastor Ann Sullivan of St. Nicholas, Paradise, and Kati, Andrea, Sophie, and Bishop Barry from the Office of the Bishop. The priorities are:

- 1) Pastoral care for St. Nicholas and St. John's parishioners, and any who cross our path. This includes welcoming St. Nicholas into the life of St. John's: worship, service, community. Pastor Ann Sullivan now has an office in the St. John's library, where she can meet with St. Nicholas parishioners and provide pastoral counseling as needed. We are planning for prayers and chaplain support as parishioners are able to go back to the burned out home sites.
- 2) Support of shelters, most specifically the East Ave shelter right down the street from St. John's, and assisting with the Walmart shelter, providing gas cards and information as we get those evacuees into proper shelters.
- 3) Assisting as we are able in securing housing for those in need. In the first phase, this meant getting people into homes or shelters. As we move into recovery, we are not the first line of action and see our church collaborating with other agencies that are specifically designed for this phase.
- 4) Distributing gift cards and financial assistance both in this phase and as we move into recovery. The gift cards are being managed by St. John's staff and volunteers.
- 5) Hosting [Team Rubicon](#), an organization of highly skilled veterans who specialize in disaster response in the St. John's Parish Life Center. We anticipate that we will begin providing dinners for them in the weeks to come, and may put out a call for assistance with that effort.

Additionally, St. John's is a site for multiple self-help groups and other civic organizations. These are even more important as the crisis creates pressure on the community, and the parish is working hard to accommodate these added needs in the midst of the crisis.

Canon Andrea served as celebrant at St. John's this past Sunday, and provided pastoral care to the congregation - representing the diocese and wider church's care and prayerful response to the crisis.

2018 Grace Church Brooklyn Heights Advent Outreach

Donations can also be placed in the red/green envelopes on the table at the back of Grace Church: Make checks payable to Grace Church (memo line: California Wildfire Relief). Grace Church will send the checks to the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.