

January 14, 2010

Dear parish family,

This week our extended family is suffering. The earthquake in Haiti brought destruction and death to people already struggling. As we know, *every* person is a child of God and even more specifically, if you didn't know it, Haiti is the largest diocese in the Episcopal Church. Our family is suffering.

What can we do? First, we can pray. Pray for those who have died. Pray for those who have not yet been found, that they may be found safe and for those who are hurt that they may be healed. Pray for those who have lost much and that their lives may be rebuilt. Second, as God's people do, we who have can give to support those who need.

The Episcopal Church is already on the ground bringing support and funds to aid this overwhelming relief effort. Our bishop has asked each of us to do our part through Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) which has an organization and track record of being capable to help quickly and effectively.



Old Donation is a generous parish (which is why we are named "Old Donation"). This week and next we will receive your offerings of support for Haiti, even as we also extend our hands to support the deep needs of our mission work in Norfolk through the Mission of the Holy Spirit, (who will be with us this Sunday). I ask that your prayerfully reach deep and give sacrificially for both our work of the Mission of the Holy Spirit this Sunday and for relief in Haiti over the next two weeks. So far we respond with money only, though if opportunity and need for other goods develop we will ask again.

I thank God for the blessing of being part of you at such a time.

"Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ." (which is the law of love) Gal 6:2

In Christ's love,
Bob+

For more information about ERD's immediate response or to make a donation directly to ERD, follow this link: <http://www.er-d.org/HaitiEarthquakeResponse>