

Report for 2009 Diocesan Council from
Episcopal Relief and Development Diocesan Coordinator

The Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is a volunteer position under the Canon for Community Ministries, the Rev. Canon Debra Metzgar Shew. The ministry description provided by ERD in New York includes the following:

- Attaining and maintaining a network of representatives, one from each parish in the diocese, ERD Parish Reps
- Maintaining the presence of ERD before the diocese through Episcopal media
- Visitation to each parish
- Staying informed regarding ERD
- Ensuring that ERD's work is known to bishop and diocesan organizations
- Submission of quarterly reports to ERD
- Thanking parishes throughout diocese for support
- Attendance at ERD's annual conference
- Submission of an annual report to Diocesan Council

Building on the foundation laid by the Venerable John Titus and the Rev. Tom Ader, past ERD Diocesan Coordinators, there is now a network of sixty-five ERD Parish Representatives across the diocese. For each ERD Parish Representative an orientation is on Episcopal Relief and Development and the Millennium Development Goals is conducted. Many ERD Parish Reps serve as the point person in their congregation for the Millennium Development Goals and global mission in our diocese.

Ms. Nan Ross and Mr. Bill Monk continue to keep ERD prominent in diocesan publications and on websites.

Since invitation into the Diocesan Coordinator position in January 2007, I have conducted parish visits with 87 churches in our diocese. (Some parishes have declined requests for a visitation.) This ministry is possible because my husband, John, flies me to parishes in our diocese that are outside of greater Atlanta.

A primary task of the Diocesan Coordinator is staying abreast of all aspects of ERD. That information is consequently shared and disseminated digitally through the network, at parish visitations, diocesan events and occasions. For example, ERD's work and materials were presented and displayed at the 2008 Diocesan Council and 2009 Ministry Fair. A visit with Bishop Alexander took place in October 2008.

Additionally, quarterly reports to ERD are submitted in a timely manner. Thank you notes are written to churches giving donations, as requested by ERD.

The 2009 ERD National Conference was held in Denver in April. As the representative from the Diocese of Atlanta, I learned about ERD's emergency preparedness plan. An update was given on ERD's disaster relief work in Pakistan since the earthquake. Diocesan Coordinators received instruction in sharing beneficiary stories and giving a "talk" in parishes. The highlight of the conference was a video presentation of the

devastation wrought by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and subsequent disaster relief from ERD and the Anglican Communion.

Episcopal Relief and Development addresses needs created by natural and manmade disasters at home and abroad. Recently ERD helped with recovery after flooding in Austell. It continues rebuilding work in New Orleans. It serves the extreme poor in the developing world with long-term development programs. Their Inspiration Fund continues to prevent malaria for many in Africa by providing treated mosquito nets and education. 92 cents of each donor dollar reaches those served by this organization.

Since ERD, the Millennium Development Goals and Global Mission are so closely interrelated, carrying out the responsibilities of ERD Diocesan Coordinator has afforded me the opportunity to collect and share information on MDGs and Global Mission at ERD parish visitations. This effort is built on foundations laid by The Rev. Debbie Shew, the diocesan MDG Task Force, Mr. Richard Hall, who is Global Mission Committee Chair, and members of that committee. Information collected is maintained on spreadsheets and shared with diocese. Ms. Muriel Diguette, an MDG Task Force member, is in the process of entering this raw data into a database for the diocese to be posted on the diocesan website in early 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Bruno Betsill
ERD Diocesan Coordinator
October 1, 2009