



September 5, 2019

Dear St. Mark's Families and Friends,

In response to Bishop Eaton's Hurricane Appeal, I want to offer some suggestions on how best to help and where to send your financial gifts.

First, please know that St. Mark's is sending a \$10,000 check from our parish ministry funds. We are so blessed at St. Mark's, and we are grateful to share from our collective bounty.

Second, please contribute personally by making your checks payable to St. Mark's Church and write "Hurricane Dorian Appeal" in the memo line. You can place your check in the offering plates over the weekend, mail them to the church or drop them off in the church office. We will send your gifts to Episcopal Charities for distribution to Bishop Boyd of our companion Diocese of the Bahamas who is able to direct the funds most appropriately.

Third, you can also contribute financially through credit card donations by accessing the [parish website](#) as follows:

- [St. Mark's Hurricane Dorian Relief Fund](#) - Click the "HERE" link and then enter the dollar amount of your gift and click "Go" to donate.

And fourth, please pray daily for our Bahamian family and for those who now serve them on the front lines. This is going to be a long period of recovery and further appeals will be made. At this time, we are NOT collecting any material goods through St. Mark's. Many other organizations are better able to collect and distribute material goods, so please support them with your St. Mark's generosity.

Thank you for shining your bright light of faith. We will keep you updated as further appeals take place not only for the Bahamas, but for others along the East Coast of the U.S. who may also need our assistance.

And remember, God has never promised that this life would be void of suffering. Through the cross, God in Christ endures our suffering to show us that we are never alone. God's hand is always in the response to suffering but never the cause of our suffering. Our grieving hearts and generous response is God working through us in love.

See you Sunday!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim +". The signature is stylized and includes a small plus sign.

The Rev. Jim Cook
St. Mark's Rector