

**The Volunteer Spirit**  
**By Dru Anderson, Vestry Member**  
**May 27, 2010**

***How can I help?*** This has been the universal response from countless St. George's parishioners and friends in the aftermath of the flood. Over the past several weeks, the entire St. George's family has come together in amazing ways. Our volunteers have unselfishly offered their time and energy to not only meet the critical needs of our own church and members, but to also reach out to others in the greater Nashville community. Armed with brooms, mops and buckets, we have prayed together, supported each other, laughed together, and, above all, demonstrated incredible compassion and grace. Each time the church has asked for help, the volunteer response has been immediate and we are incredibly grateful for the recovery work that has been done by so many of you.

Peter 4:8-10 conveys the volunteer spirit so well, "*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*"

Last Saturday, a committed group of kindergarten parents, teachers and parishioners joined together and provided much needed help in cleaning out the kindergarten and MDO areas in preparation for the re-build. Their jobs were tedious and dirty, but a wonderful spirit of camaraderie was evident as everyone worked together through our common faith and purpose. In their own words, here is what some volunteers had to say:

*"St. George's is a home to many - including my family. I was excited to be a part - even if just a small one - of the rebuilding process. It was fun to be a part of the crew of volunteers going after the mud -- scraping, shop vac-ing, sweeping, mopping and spritzing - hopefully making our wonderful St. G's was one step closer to being its old self."*

*Walton Foster – Member and former Kindergarten board member and parent*

*"My wife Miller and I moved back to Nashville in 2007 and the first thing that I mention to anyone who asks if we are happy with our move is St. George's. The church and kindergarten have been a focal point in our lives and those of our three young daughters. It was difficult for us to see the destruction to the building following the flood. In volunteering, I am trying to take this moment as an opportunity to give some small measure back to a place that has given so much to me and my family."*

*Jason Callen – Member and Kindergarten parent*

*"To see the devastation from the flood brought me to tears. When the tears dried, I experienced the overwhelming desire to "fix it!" The immediate and overwhelming response from everyone - parishioners, parents, or simply members of the Nashville community - has amazed me. I wanted to be part of this response. I am reminded of the childhood poem, "Here is the church, here is the steeple..." but I feel the last line should be changed to "open the doors, the church IS the people." I am thankful to be part of such a vibrant and caring community of faith, one that uses God's presence to repair itself on an ongoing basis.*

*Liz Pickens – Member and Kindergarten teacher*

In the midst of this disaster, stronger spiritual relationships and amazing new friendships have been formed throughout the St. George's family. In so many ways, God's presence in our lives has never been greater. Many volunteers have commented how different we all look in our work clothes, and not in our usual "Sunday best." I think it is the "best" we have ever looked!

***We Are St. George's!***

Dru Anderson

***\*Note – we will not have a work day this Saturday (May 29). Stay tuned for further volunteer opportunities- Thanks!!!***