

St. George's Update, May 11, 2010

### An Opportunity

"How are you doing?" "Are you ok?" Sometimes we ask each other these questions idly; no response is really expected. As the floodwaters receded, however, there was nothing casual about these inquiries. We want to hear each other's stories; we need to share our common experience. We are neighbors, friends, and parishioners who have endured a very difficult, even traumatic event.

Here is some of what we have heard:

*"I was all alone, watching the flood get closer and closer to family treasures."*

*"It was like being on an island. We couldn't get out. We couldn't leave."*

*"We tried to come to church that day. It was impossible. I was so scared."*

*"My entire first floor is flooded. Everything is now out in the open. It's hard to feel safe."*

*"My heart hurts for those who have lost everything. So much grief."*

Hard words to hear and absorb. But we are also hearing about the grace of God throughout this tragedy as well:

*"I have never prayed harder for everyone at St. George's and for God's peace. God has heard and answered my prayers."*

*"God is enabling me to sleep at night despite the losses."*

*"We are so up lifted by all the prayers"*

*"It's incredible to see the kindnesses extended by so many. Complete strangers helping one another."*

*"I've met parishioners I never knew before. We are working side by side at the church."*

*"Thank you for calling to check on how we are!"*

As hearts open now and in the coming days, please take a moment, pause and really listen each other. We are the eyes, ears, hands and feet of Christ here on earth. Don't miss this opportunity to minister to one another. The amazing love of God is manifested in His people as we reach out to His people in the name of Christ.

Marcia