

# For Immediate Release

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Contact: Ann Morgan, (518) 891-1615 or [anmm@adelphia.net](mailto:anmm@adelphia.net)  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
136 Main Street  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

## **Katrina Recovery With a Personal Touch**

St. Luke's church in Saranac Lake, NY is starting what it hopes will become a national movement to become more directly involved with hurricane relief and recovery efforts in a specific town in the Katrina-affected area. Like many organizations and groups, St. Luke's is working to gather funds and other items through fundraising efforts and collection points. What makes St. Luke's effort different is that it is seeking to establish a personal, long-term relationship with a community in the Katrina-ravaged area.

"Our hope is to provide on-going financial, technical and moral support to a community that will be in need of more than just a one-time donation," explains Ann Morgan, St. Luke's parishioner. "By reaching out and becoming involved in the personal lives of the people our efforts are supporting, I think we all will stay interested, motivated and committed to helping these people for the long-term," says Morgan.

St. Luke's is calling its movement "From Our Community to Yours," and it hopes that all sectors of the Saranac Lake community will get involved. "Our vision is to connect churches to churches, civic groups to civic groups, schools to schools, and health care providers to health care providers, so that each sector of the adopted community has a contact in our community with whom they can communicate their specific needs," says Morgan.

"Imagine if every community in the United States adopted one of the thousands of communities in need of support right now ... it would make relief and recovery so much more personalized for the adopted town, and each sponsor community's efforts so much more personal and meaningful," says Morgan.

To make the effort more personal, volunteers making trips to the adopted town will be asked to take pictures and record stories of the community's progress toward recovery. These pictures and stories will be posted on St. Luke's website for the entire community to see. "This way we can all see exactly who our donations are going to and how our technical support is helping. This is the kind of thing that will keep me motivated," says Morgan.

St. Luke's is working with the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi to identify the community it will adopt. In the meantime, the Dioceses of Mississippi shared that current needs are for supplies ... non-perishable food items, bottled water, sanitary supplies such as diapers (both baby and adult), cleaning supplies including Clorox, paper towels, toilet paper, first aid supplies and so much more. St. Luke's is asking each family and business in Saranac Lake to bring items they are

able to donate to St. Luke's Parish Hall, located at 136 Main Street in Saranac Lake. The Parish Hall will be open Monday – Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to accept donations. Each Friday for at least the next several weeks, volunteers will load a rental truck with supplies collected and drive them to the adopted community.

For a copy of the supply list, please visit [www.dioms.org](http://www.dioms.org) , stop by St. Luke's church, or call (518) 891-3605.

For more information or to “join” the movement, please contact Ann Morgan at (518) 891-1615.