

## Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser for Outreach

*Save the date!* October 2, in the rectory backyard, the Outreach committee is hosting a Chili Cook-Off fundraiser. Details will follow in the weekly email announcements and monthly newsletter.

You may recall that a few weeks ago, the Outreach committee made an appeal for donations to help the survivors of two disasters, one here in the United States and the other in Haiti. Haiti had suffered a 7.2 earthquake only a few weeks after the assassination of its president. Tennessee had three counties flooded, and at least one had never participated in the FEMA National Flood Insurance program. These events came on the heels of wildfires that continue to ravage the US West.

Then came Ida, which hit Louisiana as a Category 4 Hurricane! (Remember, Sandy was “only” a Super Storm.) And while many of us here on the coast were saying “At least not us again,” the remnants of Ida ripped through several other parts of New Jersey. Most of us watching the news viewed the aftermath of Ida’s follow-on Force 3 tornado in Mullica Hill with disbelief. To our north, towns that hadn’t flooded in NJ in decades were under water. I grew up in Belleville, and yes, it is along the Passaic River, but on streets miles from the river homeowners had water up to the first floor.

Many of you have already made donations via the eGiving tab on the church website or by check to assist the survivors of the disasters. We thank you for your generosity. But it’s getting increasingly more difficult for each of us not to become overwhelmed trying to decide who will get aid on the heels of successive disasters.

Our hope is that the Chili Cook-Off will raise not only much-needed funds but also our spirits—and take the pressure of decision-making off your shoulders. We know the joy that breaking bread (cornbread? tortilla chips?) together can bring. The cook-off is also an opportunity to give thanks once again for our recovery from Sandy and for being spared from Ida.

Outreach plans to distribute funds raised among the varied areas in need, and we will search for some churches that can use help as well. We will work with Fr. Robin Pierce from the Elizabeth Episcopal Community to channel aid to Haiti where it is needed most and in the most fiscally responsible manner. Your participation at this event not only guarantees you a taste sensation but also a warm feeling by supporting Outreach in our efforts to spread our help to as many people, in as many locations, as we can.

With Thanks and Gratitude,  
Phyllis Kata, Linda Gyurko, Maureen Mulligan, Paul Hamelberg  
The Outreach Committee