



The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

The Right Reverend Robert Stuart Skirving, Bishop

September 12, 2018

To the people of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

Dear friends in Christ,

As I write this letter, I am aware that many of you have already evacuated your homes in eastern North Carolina and have headed for safe shelter. Others are preparing to “hunker down” and wait out the storm that is on its way to our shores, as Sandy and I are doing in Kinston. There seems little doubt that Hurricane Florence is going to have a tremendous impact across the communities of our diocese, and many are projecting that it will be the most devastating storm that our state has experienced in decades.

Our Diocesan House staff have created a “hurricane hub” on our website at www.ecdio.org. In addition to helpful links to government and community resources, we have provided information on how to donate for hurricane relief work in the Diocese of East Carolina. As people begin to ask how to be of help, donating will allow us to begin to respond to emerging needs around us.

In the midst of all that is happening, I find myself drawn to seek God in the storm that is coming. Already, God’s voice is speaking through the words coming to us from around the world with promises of prayer, and with offers of any assistance we may need. Afterwards, when the storm has passed, many of us will find ways to care for friends and neighbors, and we will see God’s face in one another.

But right now, as the noises around us in the world distract us and dominate our attention and as our fears and uncertainty about the future sap our energy, we may wonder about God’s presence. So, right now, in the midst of all that is going on around us, let us seek God as the quiet center in the midst of the chaos and the crashing sounds. Let us remember that we follow one who rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!”

I pray that our Lord and Savior will be your peace, and that through the power of God’s Holy Spirit you and the members of your congregation will embody peace in the midst of communities that may very well be facing devastation in the days ahead. Take all appropriate precautions to be safe. And trust your heart to the one who brings peace in the midst of the storm. You are all in my prayers.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. Skirving". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving
Bishop, Diocese of East Carolina

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