

When the storms of life are raging,
Stand by me (stand by me);
When the storms of life are raging,
Stand by me (stand by me);
When the world is tossing me
Like a ship upon the sea
Thou Who rulest wind and water,
Stand by me (stand by me).

Dear Friend of the City Society,

Today, the devastation from Hurricane Sandy – an unprecedented event – is visible all around us. I hope that you and your family were able to weather the storm without too much incident.

With a grateful heart, I report that most City Society missions are functioning. Our city churches ... Anchor House ... children's program – all have only minor damage, plus the predictable challenges to staff who are without power or full transportation.

All except our Far Rockaway program – as I'm sure you can imagine.

As I write, the Far Rockaway program is still without power and communication. But throughout – our mission has continued to serve the community. On Thursday following the storm, without power, all perishable food from the refrigerators and freezers was distributed to those who had gas stoves. On Sunday, November 2nd, the Mission had a worship service with soup being provided.

Four days after the storm a generator arrived from the NYAC Disaster team. Since that time, the mission has been serving minimal food – coffee, rolls, and soup – to those who are hungry and neighbors affected by the storm. While the generator is helping to keep lights on and some refrigerators working, the electric stoves are not.

We have an opportunity to be of great service to the decimated Rockaway community. Today I ask for help from our generous City Society contributors so that we can offer the Rockaway mission whatever supplies and services they need to be a place of comfort.

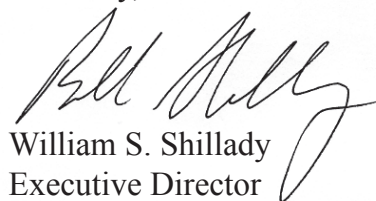
(over, please)

Today I remember the story of the disciples as they sailed across the Sea of Galilee and a storm arose. In Mark 4: 35-41, Jesus is awakened by his disciples in the midst of this terrible squall and he calms the storm. He says to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Hurricane Sandy has come and gone – and no one was able to calm the wind and the waves. But now our faith must be strong as we seek to respond in hope, love and ministry to those who continue to be afraid of what their future holds.

If you are able, please make an extra contribution that will work through the City Society to the people of Far Rockaway. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Shillady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

William S. Shillady
Executive Director