

Red Cross Drilled at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

by [Michael G. Maness](#)

[Tyler County Booster](#), 10-9-14, 5B.

Tyler County American Red Cross coordinator John Stagg led a disaster drill at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Saturday, Oct. 4.

In case of a tornado or hurricane, the preparedness exercise helps keep the volunteers sharp on the skills and long-refined procedures of the world's premier disaster relief organization.

Stagg himself also served in the roll as shelter manager in the church's fellowship building, while his wife Mary Annette served as caseworker, Wanda Copes Simmons served as registrar, and Jim and Pat Knecht and Michael Maness served as refugees.

Stagg set up the room with six cots. As each "refugee" entered, the registrar and caseworker filled out a form with critical information like home address, phone, critical needs, and then they assigned a room and a cot. In an actual emergency, clean bedding would be given to each, too, and there would be a load of relief supplies.

Stagg said, "Though we do not have any storage for perishable items, we do have partners in the area that will help."

He was especially thankful to St. Paul's for their generosity not only in holding a drill but in being one of the refugee centers ready to respond.

He noted the need for places like this. And if one goes back to just Labor Day, there was an oil field blowout off CR 3125 where a one-mile area had to be evacuated. Fortunately, it was far enough out in the country that it only affected one family.

"If that would have happened in the city limits of Woodville," Stagg said, "or Ivanhoe, there would have been 300 or more impacted. We have enough volunteers and supplies locally to handle a small disaster, but as the size increases we have arrangements in place to get help from other areas."

See RedCross.org for much more on the "world's largest humanitarian network with 13 million volunteers in 187 countries" that each year reaches an average of more than 100 million people across the globe. As hurricane season is upon us, unable to forget Rita and Ike, we are so thankful they are here in Tyler County, too, ready and willing with smile and with trained resources.



Red Cross disaster drill at St. Paul's Episcopal Church last Saturday included (L to R) John and Mary Annette Stagg, Wanda Copes Simmons, Pat and Jim Knecht.

 **Message in a Bottle**
Biographies of Tyler County Folks
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