



Church Volunteers in Mississippi

The week of March 9th found 10 members from our church family working in Waveland, Mississippi to build a new home for a family left homeless from hurricane Katrina. Bev Dinsmore, Paul Daniels, Angenette Miller, Tim Morgan, Tony and Emily Wright, Sam and Karen Mummert and Randy and Betsy Sibert not only helped to build a new home but also helped to keep the bugs off each other while they worked. The team spent the week putting the finishing touches on the inside of the home that will be occupied by Lynda Rich and her daughter. Lynda is disabled and takes care of her 40 year old daughter who is mentally challenged. They lost their home and possessions during hurricane Katrina three and a half years ago. They were living in a FEMA trailer until it was taken from them because of

problems with the insulation. With no place to live, they purchased a very old RV which was in terrible shape and lived in the vehicle until a new home could be built for them. By the end of the week the team had hung all the inside doors, installed the trim on all windows, installed the baseboards, painted the doors, trim and baseboards and installed cabinets in the kitchen. On March 20th the home was dedicated and Lynda and her daughter moved in. Lynda told our team that there was a time when she did not think she would ever get the opportunity to have a home again but because of volunteers like us, she has hope and cannot thank all the volunteers enough for what they have done for her and her daughter. (continued on page 2)



Home Lynda and her daughter currently live in and new home pictured below built by volunteers



Inside this issue:

Feature story continued 2
Mission Trip Pictures 2
Habitat for Humanity 2
Youth Group continued 2
Volunteer comments 3



We need your input

- * Missions Committee is interested in input from the congregation
- * What suggestions do you have for committee future projects
- * Are you interested in being on the committee
- * Contact Randy Sibert for further information

Youth Group off to New Orleans

The youth will be traveling to New Orleans for the 2009 ELCA National 20 Youth Gathering. This triennial event boasts an audience of approximately 36,000 youth from across the country. Themed, "Jesus, Justice, Jazz," this event will focus on mission work in the region. Christ Lutheran youth have been assigned to the literacy

campaign and will be working in local schools.

Youth will be working directly with an organization called LutheranHANDS, which is actually based in our own Lower Susquehanna Synod. The non-profit group, which was founded by Jesse Woodrow and Michael Brommer, Harrisburg Area Confirmation Camp

staff members, has made a commitment to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in their faith through service to others, to help recognize and live out God's call to serve others as a way of life, and to provide opportunities and guidance to maintain that lifestyle under God's direction. For information please visit the (continued on next page)

Volunteers in Mississippi (continued from page 1)

This is the second trip members from our congregation have made to the Gulf Coast area. There are still years of work to be completed in the Gulf Coast area by teams of volunteers.

Families are still without homes and the only way for most people to obtain help to rebuild their home or have a home built for this must come from volunteers. The families who remain without a place of their own do not have insurance and are in the low income bracket and need help to rebuild. There continues to be volunteer coming to the area but financial aid and grants are almost non-existent and funds must come from other sources.

Unless you see the area firsthand, you

cannot comprehend the devastation and how much work still needs to be done.



Team the week of March 9, 2009
with Lynda Rich on the left

We are working with *Joining Hands in disaster response*, a group formed by Rotarians and members of Lutheran Churches in our district and from Iowa.

Thanks to each of you who made a financial contribution to make this trip possible.

Please talk to one of the team members to hear first hand their stories, what they saw and how much work still needs to be accomplished.. If you would like additional information please contact Randy Sibert or Pastor Stickley.



It has been said as you look back on your life, the moments that stand out are the moments you have done things for others.

Youth Group continued from Page 1

LutheraHANDS web site at <http://www.lutheranhands.org> and the ELCA National Gathering website at <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Youth-Ministry/Youth-Gathering.aspx>

Here at Christ Lutheran, there will be a Pasta Night fundraiser on Friday, April 24th at 6 p.m. to help with the costs of this undertaking. Look for more information soon. In addition, on April 26th, Jesse Woodrow from LutheranHANDS will be speaking about the importance of youth mission and ministry work at both church services.

Mike Bricker

Habitat for Humanity

The Missions Committee is looking at providing an opportunity for members of the church to volunteer to work with Habitat for Humanity. Those who volunteer would be assigned to a team or project several times a year depending on the type of work Habitat is doing at the time. We would like to know how many people would be interested in doing a project in the community before we go forward with this project.

If you have an interest in working on a project, please notify Randy Sibert or Pastor Stickley.

Comments on the Mississippi Mission Trip

I am thankful that I was able to go on this year's mission trip to Mississippi. I have found these trips to be a humbling experience and this year was no exception. As I reflect on this year's trip several things come to mind. First and foremost are the people still in need of help. It is amazing that after more than three years there are still people living in temporary housing. Even more amazing is the number of people that for many reasons never came back after Katrina. I am so thankful that we were able to play a small part in helping to rebuild their lives.

I was fortunate again this year to be able to meet the home owner and hear her story about the hurricane and life after Katrina. I just cannot imagine living in such conditions.

We spent most of the week painting and hanging the interior doors, and painting and installing window trim and baseboards throughout the house. While none of us had experience hanging doors and installing trim, we quickly learned. The home owner came in a couple of times to look around and was thrilled with what she saw.

Another thing that really strikes me is the number of volunteers from all over the country who are still drawn to the Biloxi area to give of their time and talents. This year we happened to be down there with a lot of kids on spring break. It's so uplifting to see these young people come together with us "older folks" for a common cause. I just wish I had some of their energy.

The camp we stayed at was maxed out for the week, meaning all 180 beds were full plus some people came and stayed in their travel campers. To keep an operation like this running smoothly certainly requires God's guiding hand. We slept in bunk beds with eight to a room. Actually it wasn't too bad. After long days of manual labor in hot weather it wasn't hard getting to sleep.

For me, the most emotional part of the trip was coming home. For us it's only a week of our lives living and working out of our comfort zone. For the folks still in need of housing, this is their life and they can't get on a plane and go back to a comfortable place. Also, there are many long-term volunteers who have made this cause their life's mission. Please remember them all in your prayers.

An extra benefit for me of going on these trips has been getting to know my fellow church members, some of which I don't see often because of going to different services. This experience has certainly formed a bond between us for which I am very thankful.

My daughter Amanda who is no stranger to mission trips went on last year's trip. Early in the week she said to me, "You know Dad, once you go on one of these trips you catch the bug and want to do it again." Well, she was right. I am already looking forward to going next year.

Tim Morgan



Tim



Betsy and Emily

Interested in more information about the Missions Committee? Call Randy Sibert at 545-2198 or email Randy at rsbs@comcast.net