

Los Ranchos congregations involved in Katrina relief

First Presbyterian Church, Downey

First Presbyterian Church, Westminster

Grace First Presbyterian Church

Irvine Presbyterian Church

Laguna Beach Presbyterian Church

Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church of the Master

San Clemente Presbyterian Church

St Mark Presbyterian Church

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Trinity United Presbyterian Church

Plus all of our congregations that have given generously and sacrificially towards relief efforts through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, contributions to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Habitat for Humanity and other relief organizations in the region.

If you and your church wish to be involved with hurricane disaster relief, please contact any of these listed churches or the presbytery office. In addition, you may join other Presbyterians in ministry through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by calling 1-888-728-7228, ext. or by logging onto the PDA website through www.pcusa.org.

Focus On: Congregations responding to hurricane relief

Spirit of giving knows no boundaries

Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in August 2005. Los Ranchos congregations have been involved in relief efforts from Texas to Louisiana to Mississippi and from building houses to buying houses to paying the salaries of those who have been called to minister to those devastated by the disaster. The efforts of many from our own presbytery have changed the lives of those effected by Hurricane Katrina, but have also found their own lives changed and impacted. Here are some of their stories:



Because we have gotten to work in people's homes and spend time with them, four or five days, from 8-5 in their homes, we have become a part of their lives—that is when relationships start and we get to hear their stories. What other situation would you have where a bunch of relatively well-off people from Orange County spend time in the homes of poor, black people in Mississippi?

-Laura Johnson, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

It was really encouraging to build Habitat for Humanity homes on the campus at Trinity. We built them right there out along the street. Every Trinity member that participated in the build had to bring one non-member with them. One day I was at a hardware store, wearing my Habitat t-shirt and I saw a lady not from the church, but from the community. When she saw my shirt she said, "I helped build that house!"

-Charlie Walker, Trinity United Presbyterian Church



We have discovered something very dear on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. If we work together, concentrating on our commonalities rather than our differences, then by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are unstoppable.

-George Bates, Presbytery of Mississippi

We heard it said many times, "If it weren't for the churches coming down here, we wouldn't get anything done." We helped a bit; but a lot more is still needed. Recognizing this, I plan to return in October of this year to do my best to help some more.

-Roger Wiley, First Presbyterian Church, Westminster



I've often wondered what it would be like to do mission work in the field and wondered if I was up to the task. I accepted the challenge of Gulfport and God provided the strength and blessings. The work was hard, but the rewards were great. When we finished our first roof it felt good to look at a job well done. That was nothing compared to the joy and tears of a young lady seeing what we were doing for her. She had lost a grandmother in the hurricane and was valiantly working to restore the house she inherited. The smiles on her face were more than adequate compensation for all the hard work. I think I want to do this kind of thing again.

Floyd "Barney" Ruble, First Presbyterian Church, Westminster