



The Evangel
Newsletter of Community Presbyterian Church
Lake City, Colorado

November 2007

Report on the Habitat for Humanity Trip to New Orleans (by Walter Potter)

St Bernard Parish is located just to the south of downtown New Orleans. Almost every home and business in the Parish was flooded, with water standing in many homes for nearly 3 weeks before it receded. We had the opportunity to see a video taken by rescuers -- floodwater filled businesses such as Home Depot and Wal-Mart nearly 20 feet, and there were scenes of the rescue boat personnel ducking under traffic lights! So even now, more than 2 years after Katrina hit, the community is still struggling to come back to life.

The work crews were just great. With the guidance of two young and very giving Americorps leaders (22 year olds who are working for Habitat for a year), our group did whatever had to be done to get the houses finished and ready for inspection. It was really great to see everyone so willing to find out what needed to be done and work to make it happen. We had groups installing interior doors and trim, kitchen cabinets, bath vanities, closet shelves, doors, baseboards, window sills; and of course, setting nails, caulking, and gallons and gallons of paint inside and out. We inherited a set of front steps which were installed and then dismantled and re-built the right way. Oh, and don't forget the brave souls who insulated under the crawl space.

The owner of the home the Lake City folks worked on is an elderly woman, JoAnn Lay, whose husband died a few months after Katrina. After living with her daughter in Baton Rouge for 18 months, she is now housed in a tiny old RV next to her nearly finished new home. Learning what she has endured the past two years and yet seeing her so gracious and grateful was a very moving experience for us all.

At our closing ceremony, Irene Pate presented a \$5,000 check from Community Presbyterian Church to the New Orleans Habitat and Camp Hope to cover the building supplies we used during our week of finishing up the two homes.

In short, everyone left after the week with a great deal of love and respect for the people of New Orleans. We all felt that we helped two families get into new Habitat homes. Over and over we were thanked not only by the families, but also by clerks in stores, waitresses in local restaurants and random passers-by; they wanted us to know that our presence in St. Bernard and our efforts on their behalf (along with thousands of other volunteers) gave them hope.

They have come so far, but there is still such a long way to go before St. Bernard is a real community again. I think I speak for everyone in the Habitat Crew when I say that I hope the Presbytery of Western Colorado and the individual churches will continue their mission commitment to Katrina victims.

A photographic album of the trip is available online. Please go to <http://picasaweb.google.com/westernslopehabitat>

Student (Youth) Ministry Update

Seth and Crystal Daily, our Youth Ministry directors, attended the annual Youth Worker's Convention in St. Louis in early November. Both report coming away energized and overflowing with new ideas. Perhaps the most wonderful part of the convention for our intrepid youth directors, however, was the recognition they received for leading a very unique ecumenical youth program. In fact, they were asked to stand before the 3500 youth leaders present for the convention and describe the way in which all five Lake City churches work together to provide a quality youth program for our middle and high schoolers. Their remarks were met with enthusiastic applause from the crowd. We are sinfully proud of Crystal and Seth and their work with our young people. If you would like to read their report on the convention first-hand, visit their blog:

<http://www.sethandcrystal.bolgspot.com>

KLUB Continues!

Our Wednesday afternoon program for elementary and preschool children (KLUB, Kids Living Under the Bible) continues under the able leadership of Crystal Dady. KLUB attendance ranges from 15 to 20 children each week. In recent weeks the children have been studying the story of Joseph as found in Genesis. Adult volunteers and snack providers are needed! Please call the church office or sign up on the sheet in Darley Hall if God is calling you to serve in either of these ways.

Lamplighters Women's Bible Study Continues

Nancy Guthrie continues to facilitate a study of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians for women every Thursday morning. The class involves some homework, weekly small group meetings, and a lecture delivered over the Internet. Thus far about eight women have been participating. Nancy reports that the study is going wonderfully! Newcomers are always welcome! Please call Nancy or the church office for more information.

Study of the Psalms Continues

Pastor John continues to lead a seven-week Sunday morning study of the Psalms. New participants are most welcome! Join us for a brief but powerful study of the prayer and songbook of the ancient Hebrew people, and for moderns as well!

Discipleship Study Completed

A small but hearty group of saints has concluded its study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, Discipleship, meeting on Wednesday evenings for the past several weeks. Pastor John facilitated the study. All of the participants were challenged and moved by Bonhoeffer's interpretation of the life of a disciple.

Christmas Eve Service Set

Community Presbyterian's annual Christmas Eve Service will take place at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 24. This service features scripture readings, Christmas carols, and candle lighting in anticipation of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, God With Us. Please plan on joining us!

New Book Study for January: The Language of God

Pastor John will facilitate a new book study beginning in January, probably moving to Tuesday nights. The group will read and discuss The Language of God by Francis Collins, Director of the Human Genome Project and a dedicated Christian. How does this prominent scientist reconcile his work and his faith? Join us and find out! See Pastor John for more information.

Chancel Flowers

Volunteers are needed to provide flowers for the chancel each Sunday. A volunteer sheet is posted on the bulletin board in Darley Hall, or you may call the church office. Flower arrangements need not be elaborate! Volunteers may buy flowers from Velvet Faces in Lake City or elsewhere. Please let Pastor John know if you would like to have a notice in the worship bulletin acknowledging that the flowers are in honor or in memory of someone.

Musicians for Worship

Our worship is enhanced by the gifts of any and all musicians willing to use those gifts in our services. Please talk to Pastor John or sign up on the sheet posted in Darley Hall.

Library Donations

Community Presbyterian Church has a small library that is always in need of donations of new Christian books. Books may be dedicated to loved ones. Please see or call Pastor John.

Please Pray

The following members and friends of Community Church are struggling with health issues: Jeannie Farnsworth, Dot Main, Mary Ann Underwood, Emma Jean Vickers, Delbert Frieze, Ellen Melcher, and Jay Godwin. Willis Mackey remains under the care of hospice at home in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Please keep all of these saints and their families and friends in your prayers.

God bless your Advent Season!