

Redstone Stories

“A Meeting of Survivors”



In April 2018 five members of the Redstone Mission team from many different congregations traveled to Fayetteville, NC to stay at a large Presbyterian Church and work with United Methodist Disaster Assistance. We worked all week on one home. We spent most of the week sanding drywall, applying more joint compound, known as mud, and sanding some more – and then we applied the first coat of paint to the newly smoothed and sanded walls.

Friday morning, a car pulled into the driveway. Two women got out – one was the homeowner, Cathy, and the other her friend, Sylvia. She said that they had not intended to stop by, Sylvia had taken Cathy to the doctor, and the car just sort of drove itself to the house. Cathy told us her story. Her husband had died 2 years ago, just before the hurricane. A week before the hurricane hit, they had 12 inches of rain in one day. When the hurricane blew through, they had another 15 inches. There was widespread flooding; her house had about 4 feet of water in it. She hired a contractor, who put up new wallboard over black mold – and then left town with her money. Then Kathy was diagnosed with breast cancer – and had bilateral mastectomies. She had to retire from her work as a registered nurse so that she could proceed with her treatment. We walked through the house with her – I have to say she seemed quite fragile. We presented her with a cross made of nails on a rawhide thong and as I placed it over her head, I told her that I am a 26-year survivor. She said, “I’m never taking this off!” We prayed with her and laid hands on her – and it was a powerful experience of God’s spirit. It was the Holy Spirit that directed that car to that house that morning. Disaster relief workers do much more than repair and rebuild – we help to rebuild lives.

~Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Honorably Retired

Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World...

Together!

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