



Priority Needs USA

Visit Individual Conference Webpages for latest disaster info:

[North Alabama](#) | [Mississippi](#) | [Tennessee](#) | [Memphis](#) | [South Carolina](#) | [North Carolina](#) | [Western North Carolina](#) | [Virginia](#) | [South Georgia](#)

For information about Kentucky/Tennessee snow storms, scroll to pg 10.

Alabama

1. Disaster Response Center, call 866-340-1956. Alabama as well as the Florida Panhandle area was been hit by several hurricanes in 2004 and 2005, which caused major damage to both of these areas. Volunteers are needed to help with repairs/rebuilding of many homes that were subjected to these storms. Lodging is available. Contact: Alabama/West Florida Conference Call Center, Tel. #866/340-1956

Arkansas

1. In the months of January, February, March and May 2008 Arkansas was hit by several storms. Because of this half the state has been declared disaster areas. The debris removal phase has ended and the repair/rebuilding phase is about to begin. Skilled volunteers, such as carpenters, painters, electricians, etc., are needed immediately. Please note although no youth groups will be accepted skilled young adult groups will be welcomed also. Volunteer housing is available in the Clinton and Sutgart area., Contact: Don Weeks, dweeks@arumc.org

Florida

1. In February 2007 tornadoes swept through Central Florida. Due to this, storm residents in the area suffered maximum damage. Volunteers are needed to assist with clean-up immediately. There will possibly be a need for volunteers to help with repairs and rebuilding in the near future. Contact: Florida Storm Recovery Center, Tel. #800/282-8011 ext. 149
2. Florida Hurricane Recovery –.# 800/282-8011 ext. 149. Also, don't forget the disasters of last year! Three major hurricanes including caused extensive damage to the Florida Annual Conference in 2004. Now WILMA has entered the scene in 2005. Many homes were completely destroyed and many others are in need of repairs. Volunteers are needed immediately to help with debris clean-up, repairs and rebuilding.

Georgia

1. Americus, GA: Sumter Disaster Recovery, Inc. has been the recipient of outstanding assistance from volunteers from all over the United States and even Australia. We greatly appreciate what has been done to make our recovery so fast. However, we do have twenty-eight major jobs remaining to be completed at this time. I anticipate that this recovery effort will extend into October or longer. The following jobs are on schedule for completion for July and August. More will be scheduled for August and September as they are approved. We use volunteers wherever possible. The skills needed include demolition, installation of trusses/rafters, roofing, sheetrock ceilings and walls, carpentry, electrical and some plumbing. Final finish skills required include tape and texture of drywall, sanding, installation of insulation, painting, and cabinet installation, flooring either laminates or carpet. We will need on the lighter side cleaning, yard repair to fill holes left by stumps, some sod lying.

Jobs on schedule at this time:

Oak Street, install drip edge, flashing and shingles, some exterior paint

Ashby Street, remove old shingles, repair decking, install new felt, drip edge, flashing, some exterior paint, rebuild 5'x6' porch roof pitch 5/12

Apple Drive, installs and or repair window (older home built in 1920's)

Felder Street, Exterior painting (after roof is completed)

Sunset Drive, remove old shingles, repair decking, install new felt, drip edge, flashing, some exterior paint drywall ceilings and walls three rooms 4/12 roof pitch

Watermelon Rd, remove old shingles, repair decking, install new felt, drip edge, flashing mobile home

Hudson St, demolition of remaining roof, ceilings, sheetrock on walls, kill mildew or mold, remove damaged flooring (hardwood), install trusses, decking, felt shingles, flashing, rebuild porch roof 5x6 area, Post for porch, repair brick around porch, replace 11 windows, 2 exterior doors, 6 interior doors, insulate, add new sheetrock for ceilings entire house, most interior walls, replace floors with Sub floor in some area, underlayment, tile or other type of laminate to replace hardwood.

Hudson Street, some demolition of interior ceiling and walls, remove old roof, re-deck, shingle, etc. some floor damage.

Jones Drive, installs flooring underlayment and stick on square linoleum tiles

Hudson Street, installs flooring stick on square linoleum tiles.

Illinois

1. In the month of March 2008, storms that hit southern Illinois caused major flooding. This is before the current flooding of June 2008. Fifteen counties were impacted. Three of these counties experienced damage in concentrated areas. There will be approximately 115-150 homes that will need repairs/rebuilding in Union County (rural areas), Saline County (the town of Harrisburg) and Franklin County (the town of west Frankfurt). It is anticipated that volunteers will be needed by mid-August. Contact Person: Ed Hoke, edpathoke@yahoo.com

Indiana

1. Contact Disaster Response Coordinator(s) : Rev. David Powell / 820 W Mill Street / Danville, IN 46122 / 317-745-4330 / info@danvilleumc.org & Bob Babcock / 661 Peachtree Ln / Danville, IN 46122 / bobbabvim@aol.com / 317 745 7513. Terra Haute and Bartholomew County Areas in need of volunteers.
2. Even though flooding was extensive last month in central Indiana, volunteer recovery work crews are also in northwest Indiana to assist

survivors of January floods in the Remington, Monticello and Delphi areas. DANI Director Alan Welch of Lafayette told e-HUM, "We are in need of help with housing some long-term volunteers from outside our area. These folks might be here from two to four weeks. Some will need space for a camper or RV, and others will need a room and bath. If you can help, please contact me right away." Welch also needs anyone with connections to local campgrounds who might be willing to provide space for these volunteers to contact him. To contact Welch, call 765-742-4718 or e-mail welchah@gmail.com.

Iowa

1. Record flooding, with rivers cresting far higher than previous records, was experienced in a number of cities and rural areas in eastern Iowa in June of 2008. Volunteers are needed for long term recovery work. Call 1-877-393-1607 or email flood@fumcmarion.org. You may keep abreast of the situation in Iowa and register your team on line at www.iaumc.org/volunteer. **[\[#901680 - Midwest Emergencies\]](#)**

Kansas

1. Tornado Recovery efforts. Haviland, KS. Contact: Sandy Hendrickson, disasterresponse@fairpoint.net, Disaster Response Coordinator.

Kentucky

1. Earlier this year storms known as "Super Tuesday" storms ravished western Kentucky. Approximately 50-60 homes are still in need of repairs or rebuilding in the Muhlenberg County. It is estimated that this work will continue into next year. Volunteers are needed to assist with the repairs/rebuilding as well as debris removal. Housing is available. Youth groups, young adults and older individuals are welcome. Contact Person: Kevin Brown, Tel. #270/754-2770, revkbg@aol.com

Louisiana

1. Baldwin - UMCOR at Sager-Brown - Community Outreach and Disaster Relief. Work in UMCOR Depot processing kits for emergency shipment. Work on campus to facilitate buildings, grounds or facilities. Housing rehabilitation in surrounding community. For specifics on assembling kits please visit the Sager Brown website at www.sagerbrown.org . Contact Person: Volunteer Coordinator, Tel. #800/334-4221.

2. Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage in the state of Louisiana in 2005. Volunteers are still needed to help with clean-up, repairs/rebuilding. Although the

storm hit in 2005, there is such extensive damage that volunteers will be needed for quite some time. Contact : Louisiana Methodist Storm Recovery Center, Tel. #877/345-5193, stormrelief@bellsouth.net, or stormrelief1@bellsouth.net. You may request to work out of any of the following stations if you have a preference.

Abbeville Recovery Station (Abbeville, LA)
Dulac Substation (Dulac, LA) [#982149 - Community Centers]
Eastbank Recovery Station (Metairie, LA)
Southwest Recovery Station (Lake Charles, LA)
Northshore Recovery Station (Slidell, LA)
Uptown Recovery Station (New Orleans, LA)
North Rampart Street Community Center (New Orleans, LA - formerly St Marks)
[#982149 - Community Centers - More than 60 United Methodist multiservice community centers, assisting people in low-income communities]

3. **Louisiana Disaster Recovery** has significant needs for all forms of recovery teams. We have areas where ERT are still needed. Homes still have trees in them, needs for tarps, mucking out and evaluative and assessment needs from Gustav and Ike. Long term recovery teams are still needed in the New Orleans and Lake Charles areas from **Katrina and Rita** [\[#982523 - Hurricanes 2005\]](#). Revisions are currently being made in the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Katrina/Rita response to extend to **Gustav and Ike** responses [\[#3019695 - Hurricanes 2008\]](#). The New Orleans recovery stations will phase out in 20 months. The Abbeville station will remain open due to new damage assessments from this year's storms and the Lake Charles station extended. Damage from Gustav and Ike is heaviest along the coast and inland for up to 75 miles from Houma to the Texas/Louisiana state line. Several towns in this area are just now experiencing the retreat of storm surge and flood waters which covered the entire incorporated area. Damage (wind and flooding) from Gustav heavily affected the Baton Rouge to Alexandria areas. **Team leaders** should schedule teams online if possible : <<http://la-umc.org/>>. Follow the prompts to registration forms. Or call Rev. Yvonne Dayries, Volunteer Coordinator for Louisiana Disaster Recovery, 225.346.5193, <ydayries@ladrm.org> , <laumdisastermin@bellsouth.net> . The web site also includes a number of photos and updates on the affected areas.

Mississippi

1. The state of Mississippi has been hit by tornadoes and flooding in the past few months. Because of these storms several hundred homes are in need of repairs or rebuilding. Volunteers are needed immediately. Youth groups are welcomed. Persons knowledgeable in carpentry, flooring, sheet rock, etc. are needed. Housing available upon request. **Contact : Robert McCoy**, Tel. #662/213-6400, rmm@ms.metrocast.net or rm@eclergy.net

For more Mississippi disaster response information, [click here](#).

Minnesota

1. Winona County Flood Response. Volunteers are still needed to work on homes damaged by last year's flooding in Winona County. Skilled leaders to lead teams of five people (a ratio of one skilled person per five unskilled volunteers is required) will work on sheet hanging, carpentry, finish carpentry, taping and mudding, and painting. Teams can come any day of the week or weekend. A coordinator will guide teams to a job. The groups are needed immediately and through July and possibly later. Adult groups are preferred but older youth with skilled leaders are welcome. If you can help with this important ministry, please call Rick Lane at (507) 457-8882.

Missouri

1. In April 2006, the Caruthersville Area of Missouri was hit by storms causing tornado damage in the area. At that time, over 300 homes sustained significant damage or were completely destroyed. Although the number of homes needing repairs/rebuilding has decreased significantly, there are still many in need of construction. Volunteers are still needed to help survivors put their lives back together. Contact Person: Harlen Crayne, Tel. #573/333-2270, Cell: 573/922-0101

Nevada

1. In the beginning of 2008 a storm caused the Truckee Canal to breach which in-turn caused flooding in Fernley, Nevada. Approximately, 100 homes are still in need of debris removal, landscaping, fence mending or home repairs/rebuilding. Volunteers are needed to help those affected put their lives back together. The minimum age for volunteers is 16 and this will be based on the UMVIM criteria. Housing is available. Contact: Sue King, Tel. #916/374-1582, suek@calnevumc.org, Website: www.cnumcvim.org

New England

1. Floods of 2006. Contact David Stackpole, New England UMVIM coordinator, vimnecumc@charter.net or 603-465-7885.

North Carolina

1. Hurricane Ophelia slammed into the coast of North Carolina causing damage in Carteret and Craven Counties. Because of this, volunteers are needed to help with the repairs and rebuilding of approximately 12-15 homes. Lodging is available in churches. Contact Person: Ann Huffman
Tel. #888/440-9167
2. MERCI (Marion Edwards Recovery Center Initiatives) has launched a project to build low-income homes for families. Volunteers will be needed to assist these families with sheetrock work, painting, roofing, carpentry and other aspects pertinent to building. Contact Person: Ann Huffman,
Tel. #888/440-9167

North/South Dakota

1. Residents of Northwood, N.D., were devastated by an F4 tornado that moved through the community on Aug. 26. The churches, hospital, nursing home, businesses and homes of this small community were impacted; it is estimated nearly 95% of the town's structures sustained damage. On Oct. 20, the North Dakota Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), of which the Dakotas Conference is a member, is organizing a Rebuild Blitz to help prepare homes for winter. UMVIM teams are needed to assist in the repair efforts; it is requested each team have one member with some experience in shingling and/or window installation. When your team is organized, please notify Three Rivers District Superintendent Debra Ball-Kilbourne (neumc@daktel.com) or Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator Paul Baker (eumc@702com.net) to receive additional details.
2. Residents of Northwood, N.D., were devastated by an F4 tornado on Aug 26. UMVIM teams are needed to assist in the repair efforts. Each team should have one member with some experience in shingling and/or window installation. Contact: Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator Paul Baker, 701-642-6202, eumc@702com.net to receive additional details.
3. Dakotas United Methodist Disaster Response is working to help recover from the effects of the tornado that caused damage to homes in Rolla and Belcourt, ND on July 7, 2008. At least eight homes were destroyed and 21 others sustained significant damages in Belcourt, which is on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in north central North Dakota. Rolla has received approximately the same amount of damage, and damage reports continue to come in. Many of these homes have little or no insurance coverage. These rural communities have drawn together, but need our support. There will be future needs for long term recovery teams (i.e., UMVIM). Contact: Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator Paul Baker, 701-642-6202, <eumc@702com.net> to receive additional details.

4. Flood damage in Aberdeen, SD and Wahpeton, ND. Teams needed later in the summer of 2007 to help with assistance in repairing and rebuilding. Contact Paul Baker, 701-642-6202 or eumc@702com.net. [#901680 - Midwest Tornado Emergencies - Emergency response to victims of tornado, flood, etc. caused by spring storms]

Oklahoma

1. In 2007 Oklahoma endured ice storms, flooding and tornadoes. Recovery efforts are ongoing to help those affected by those storms rebuild their lives. Volunteers are needed immediately to help with this effort. Volunteers should be 18 years of age or older. Housing may be available upon request. Contact Person: Richard Norman, Tel. #405/530-2032, RNorman@okumc.org

Tennessee

1. Spring 2006 tornadoes, ongoing recovery. Teams needed to help with framing, sheet rocking, roofing, concrete work and general carpentry. General clean up is also needed. Please have at least 2-3 skilled carpentry folks on each team! Teams can stay in the gym at FUMC, Dyersburg. Showers are available. Teams will cook their own meals, using the church kitchen. Youth 7th grade and up are welcome. An adult (age 25 and over) to youth ratio of 1 - 5 is required. A fee of \$500 minimum per team to help pay for construction supplies is requested. Contact Rev. Robert Craig at 731-285-6454 to schedule a team or for more information.

2. Three community-based, ecumenical Long-Term Recovery Organizations (LTRO) have formed to address the unmet needs that remain since the Feb. 2008 tornadoes. Currently, all teams will be scheduled directly with these LTRO's. Contact information and current needs will be updated periodically on our blog, so check back regularly: TNUMCDisasterRecovery.blogspot.com. Also, if you want to be contacted by email of new information, send request to JBrock@tnumc.org, 615-329-1177.

Texas

1. **Texas Annual Conference** is accepting long term clean-up teams for those areas that are ready now. More information is available at <http://www.umcortexas.com>. [\[#3019695 - Hurricanes 2008\]](#)

- 2. Rita Recovery.** Beaumont, TX. Schedule teams with Beverly Antilley, 409-223-0118, b50wabit@sbcglobal.net. Roofs, exterior work on houses, dry wall, ceilings, floors, weatherizing. Y (14 and up), F, A, OA, IV, NOMADS, RV. You may request to work out of any of the following stations if you have a preference.

Beaumont (main station)

Port Arthur (satellite station)

Wisconsin

1. Long Term Recovery Teams (UMVIM Work Teams). Contact: Rev. Jeanne Jones revjmj12@yahoo.com, 43646 S Sleepy Hollow, Gays Mills WI 54631. This was the hardest hit area. Other regions (we have three more) will have different contacts. When they are established, I'll let you know. David Sharpe, Wisconsin Disaster Response Coordinator, 608-788-8724, desharpe@sbcglobal.net.

Wyoming

1. The Thrift Store in Lander, WY serves 12 native American reservations as well as the impoverished people of Lander itself. Lander UMC is rebuilding their thrift store after a fire last fall. Teams will be needed all summer through fall.

Professionals are planned for the foundation, exterior walls, roofing. Volunteers can assist with all the interior work. Contact Dan Ratigan at 307-332-6442 or blankmtnranch@tcinc.net

"We visited this site while in Lander January 21 and it is going to be a wonderful experience for your teams! The people are friendly, welcoming, organized, and ready. The Wind River region offers exploring of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, fishing, hiking, rodeo, pow wow, ranching, and more. Teams can camp in the city park, bring RVs, stay in the church or church members' homes. We suggest \$100 per person for material fees."

Additional info from Heather Wilson, sweetland5@hotmail.com - UMVIM WJ.

2. Southwestern Wisconsin was hit with 2 major floods. We had not fully recovered from the August 2007 when hit by the June 2008 flood. WI VIM sent in two teams early in 2008 and began assessments and many repairs. During the rest of 2008 we hosted another 10 teams, some from as far away as Bucyrus, Ohio. On average there were about 20 members per teams working for 5 days. A great deal was accomplished in the way of repairs and "just listening." The town of Gays Mills is still working on the possibility of re-locating as they were the hardest hit. Some buildings are to be torn down, some elevated, some

moved. There will be more help needed next summer as those things start to happen. It is a difficult time for residents who don't want to see their lovely town changed, but realize that they have to do something. Drastic change is inevitable, whether from the businesses moving or from the badly damaged homes torn down. Many friends have moved out, not wanting to deal with another flood which is seen now as probable. (After the 100 year flood of 2007, we thought that we might be safe for another 100 years, then came the next flood 10 months later.) It's a more difficult situation living where you know another flood may come than living where a tornado or fire or hurricane has hit and then moved on, although residents along the Gulf Coast do anticipate another hurricane just because of location. Jeanne Jones, WI VIM revjmj12@yahoo.com
[\[#901680 - Midwest Emergencies\]](#)

Virginia

1. Floods. Recovery Teams needed. Shirley Snead, shirlsne@aol.com or 866-264-8488.
2. On April 28th 2008 Suffolk, Brunswick, and Stafford Counties in Virginia sustained tornado damage. The community of Driver in Suffolk County was hardest hit. Between these three counties approximately 800 homes were damaged and would need either repairs or rebuilding. Volunteers will be needed in the summer to help with the repair and rebuilding process. Housing is available. Youth groups are welcomed. Please note, for youth groups, adequate supervision is required for safety purposes. Contact Person: Ginny Chambers, ginnychambers@vaumc.org

Kentucky/Tennessee Snow Storms

A report from the Memphis Conference:

1. This Sunday, the Paris and Dyersburg Districts will be asking for offerings for the Area Disaster Response Teams. Then offerings on following Sundays would be directed toward "Memphis Conference Disaster Response."
2. Three command centers will be set up immediately: one in the Dyersburg District office, one in the Paris District office, and one at Broadway UMC in the Paducah District.
3. Each center has an 800 number for those people requesting help clearing trees and branches and for those volunteering to help with the recovery effort.
4. The Connectional Ministries office will be paying the salaries of the three persons manning those phones beginning on Wednesday, February 4. The

phones will be answered 8 hours a day, Monday through Saturday. Brenda Kerns will train the command center personnel on Tuesday at Martin, Tenn.'s First United Methodist Church.

5. Elyse Bell of the Paris District will serve as the internal communications director. Those manning the phones will send all their requests to Mrs. Bell who will communicate the information to Bill Carr, the Conference Disaster Recovery Director. Elyse will work out of the Paris District office.

6. Both the Paris and Dyersburg District Superintendents will have people assessing immediate needs in their areas over the weekend.

7. Bill Carr is working with the Area 4 Team in the Paducah District and will be assigning teams to other areas.

8. Area 3 Team will stage on Wednesday morning at 8 AM at Hazel United Methodist Church to begin work in the Paris District-primarily in Calloway County, Kentucky where the damage is most severe in the Paris District. The Rev. Allan Trull, pastor of Hazel, will rally his congregation to prepare a supper Wednesday night for the volunteers.

9. Offering to host volunteer disaster recovery teams are Reelfoot Rural Ministries (for teams working in Lake, Obion, Dyer and Weakley Counties in Tennessee and Fulton County, Ky.) and Broadway United Methodist Church (for teams working in McCracken, Ballard, Graves, Carlisle, Marshall and Hickman Counties in Kentucky). Both locations have showers and spaces for volunteers to sleep. Teams working in the Paris District will be sent to locations in Henry County, Tennessee and Calloway County, Kentucky.

10. Most areas are still closed to volunteers. Too many power lines are down so county and city officials have asked volunteers to wait until they can secure their safety.

11. 800 numbers have already been obtained for the Paris District and the Dyersburg District, but they will not be manned until Wednesday. The numbers are: Dyersburg District 1-888-850-1986 Paris District 1-866-966-7161 The Paducah District number will be established as soon as David Comperry is able to contact AT &T.

12. Five generators were delivered to Bill Carr in the Paducah District by Area

3 team members Terry Cuff, Jerry Dinwiddie and Chuck Jones. Carr placed three of the generators with people on respirators.

13. Michael Blake, director of Reelfoot Rural Ministries, took food from the agency's food bank to Cunningham United Methodist Church. The small church, 6 members, is housing and feeding 13 people from the homeless shelter in Tiptonville.

14. Residents of the Wesley communities in Murray, Ky. and in Lake County, Tenn. were evacuated after the ice storm. Fifteen residents from Lake County's Wesley Apartments were housed at the Red Cross Shelter in Dyersburg's First United Methodist Church. Three were sent to Canterbury Place Assisted Living. From Murray, 13 residents were moved to the Paris community. As of this writing, all Lake County residents are back at Wesley Apartments. Selena Henson said the Golden Cross offering will provide all residents with a \$25 food card to cover the cost of replacing the basics of bread, milk, eggs, mayo, meat and vegetables. (75 apartments x \$25 = \$1,875)

15. The parsonage and church in Tiptonville were damaged by the ice storm. Pastor Marita Burkeen said a branch came through the ceiling of the parsonage kitchen and the roof of the chapel is leaking with insulation and ceiling tiles on the floor.

United Methodists mobilize to help ice storm victims

By Cathy Farmer

If they weren't awakened in the middle of the night by cracking trees bouncing off the roof or through the window, residents of Western Kentucky and West Tennessee woke up to a different world Wednesday morning, January 28. It looked as if a hand wielding a paint brush 120-miles-wide had slathered a thick covering of ice on every tree, bush and power line.

All of the counties in Western Kentucky lost power. So did Obion, Lake, Dyer and Weakley Counties in northwest Tennessee. Roads everywhere were blocked by downed trees, houses were draped in beautiful but potentially deadly ice-coated power lines, and utility poles for miles at a stretch were laid on their sides like so many downed bowling pins.

As one United Methodist in Paducah, Ky. sputtered, "I'm 80 years old, and I've never seen anything to beat this!" Another likened it to the destruction he saw in Louisiana after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

Some of the hardest hit were the elderly, the sick and those without homes.

Dyersburg District

The 14 residents of Tiptonville's River's Home for the Homeless finally found shelter at tiny Cunningham United Methodist Church just outside Ridgely, Tenn. Sheila Morton, director of the shelter, said the six-member church was the only one willing to open their doors to the eleven men and one woman living at River's Home.

"After the (electric) pole broke outside River's Home, we were freezing and we didn't have anything to eat," said Mrs. Morton. "We want to thank these wonderful people for taking us in. No one else would open up for us."

Jamie Anne Stover, a member of the Cunningham congregation, said they turned on the church's gas stoves to get the building heated and started cooking breakfast for the refugees from the ice storm.

"Some of them are over at my mother's taking showers right now," said Jamie Anne. "My mother, Wilma Stover, who is 79 years old, spent the first night here at the church with them, and she emptied her house out so they would have food to eat."

Ms. Stover said the men from the shelter have been "real helpful with the vacuuming and cleaning up after themselves."

"We're just blessed we could do this for them," she said. Chuckling, she added, "We called Brother John (the Rev. John Holcomb) to let him know, too. We said, 'God's church at Cunningham is hosting the homeless!'"

Fortunately for Cunningham and other churches near Reelfoot Rural Ministries, the Memphis Conference agency that, among other things, maintains a food bank for the needy in northwest Tennessee, the loss of power meant the frozen food in the agency's big walk-in freezers needed to be handed out right away.

The Rev. Michael Blake, RRM's director, packed up everything that was going to spoil and took it to nearby churches to cook. The Cunningham congregation made plans to fix a big bacon, sausage, eggs and biscuit breakfast for their guests.

Power has now returned to cool the freezers at RRM courtesy of Herman Smith and Harry Henderson. The two men from Martin, Tenn.'s First United Methodist Church gathered up some generators and hauled them to the ridge-top ministry. Reelfoot will soon be ready to host the Memphis Conference disaster response teams working in the area. Blake said he will reserve the dorm for those who need to stay overnight.

Just up the road, the parsonage and the chapel at Tiptonville United Methodist Church were damaged by the ice storm. A tree fell on the parsonage roof, landing a branch in the kitchen near the sink. The Rev. Marita Burkeen said her husband Wayne was standing on a step-stool holding the branch while church members sawed the biggest part of the tree away. Tiles in the flat-roofed chapel were soaked and leaking. Some landed on the floor.

"It was really frightening," said Rev. Burkeen. "We could hear the branches hitting the house." She added that every family in the church has trees down, and some have damage to their homes.

Lynne Ayers, an active member of the congregation, emailed that her yard and street look disastrous. "I had one large limb come through a front living room window," she wrote. "Fortunately I was able to get a piece of plywood nailed up."

Burkeen and Ayers plan to open the church kitchen now that the power is back on so they can feed the community and workers.

Teams of cooks started setting up their grills in the Tiptonville church parking lot on Sunday, February 1. Organized by Herman Smith, they plan to keep cooking as long as people need them to be there.

The Rev. Stan Waldon, Dyersburg District Superintendent,

emailed: "We fed 250 people at Tiptonville First on

Sunday afternoon. Herman Smith from Martin First brought

his cooker and some helpers. They worked hard all

afternoon. It was a rewarding experience. People were

very appreciative. Those who volunteered were blessed."

Waldon added that they were able to provide food for 250 people. "The amazing thing is that we fed that number for only \$70. Most of what we cooked was donated to us. And we have some supplies left to help feed disaster response team members this week. God is so good and amazing. People do rise to the occasion."

The Area I Disaster Response team from Memphis is organizing to work in the Tiptonville area this week. Since power is now back on at Reelfoot, they'll be staying in the dorm. Waldon said he expected them to arrive Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning.

Paducah District

In Paducah, Ky., on Thursday, January 29, Dr. David Comperry, senior pastor of Broadway United Methodist Church, said that of the 22,500 homes in the town, 21,000 were without power. "I think the damage is comparable to the 100-mph straight line winds ('Hurricane Elvis') that hit Memphis a few years ago," he said.

The loss of communications is hampering recovery, according to Comperry, and gas can't be pumped out of the ground without electricity so Kentuckians are driving south to Tennessee to fill their cars and find gas for their generators. Stores in Martin and Puryear, Tenn. have long lines of Kentuckians waiting to buy gas and kerosene for space heaters.

"I waited in line over an hour and a half at one station just to gas up my car," Comperry said, noting that everyone is paying with cash because credit cards don't work without electricity. "And it will be awhile before we get electricity back," he added. "In my neighborhood alone, I saw five transformers on the ground!"

The Rev. Paul Mullikin, pastor of Paducah's Arcadia UMC, said trees were down everywhere. "One of the estimates we were offered to clean up the trees around the parsonage alone was \$2,000!"

While the main roads have been cleared, many neighborhoods are still blocked. Bill Carr, the Memphis Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, put his own chainsaw to work clearing streets and driveways within a five mile radius of his home in Reidland, Ky.

"Some of the Tennessee boys on the Area 3 Disaster Response Team (Jerry Dinwiddie, Chuck Jones and Terry

Cuff) showed up with five generators," Carr said. "I put

them to use right away." Three people dependent on

respirators to breathe desperately needed power to keep

their machines operating.

"I've been getting up at 1 AM to go refuel the generators," Carr said, "and, boy, it's hard to put on my boots and go out in the cold after a long day of cutting trees. But when I get to their houses and see those people lying there in their hospital beds, I just thank God that we've been able to help."

Explaining why he was responsible for refueling the generators, Carr said, "The people are elderly. You've got a 90-year-old trying to take care of someone 93."

Paducah District Superintendent Rick Dye emailed that the entire Jackson Purchase "is a major disaster area." He said there was no way, as yet, for him to get reports about church damages. "Some areas may be without power for two or three weeks... Utility workers are beginning to arrive. There is plenty of food and fuel but there are some distribution issues. Primary roads are passable, but rural roads are not," he said.

Dye and his wife Vicki have been sleeping in front of their fireplace to keep warm and learning to cook over an open flame.

Wesley Senior communities had to be evacuated

Residents of Wesley senior communities in Lake County, Tenn. and in Murray, Ky. had to be evacuated when their residences lost power.

Selena Henson, director of the Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation, said 15 residents from Lake County's Wesley Apartments were housed in the Red Cross Shelter at Dyersburg, Tenn.'s First United Methodist Church. At one time, the shelter was housing as many as 73 people from the area.

Three of the Lake County residents were evacuated to Canterbury Place Assisted Living in Dyersburg.

Power was restored to the Wesley Apartments over the weekend, so all have been moved back.

"Thirteen residents from Murray were moved to our Paris community," Henson said. "They are being housed in the community room with cots provided by the Henry County Emergency Management Agency. Paris District Superintendent Joe Geary, Elyse Bell, Rob Martin and the staff and volunteers from Paris First UMC were very helpful as we organized the move. The entire community in Paris is being supportive. They're helping, along with financial assistance from the Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation, to provide three daily meals and snacks."

Henson said that the real need will come as the residents return to their apartments. "We're making plans to replenish perishable items when utilities are restored. Everything in 75 refrigerators and freezers will be lost. We plan to give every resident a minimum \$25 food card to cover the cost of replacing the basics of bread, milk, eggs, mayo, meat, vegetables, etc. The money will come from the Golden Cross Offering."

Henson added that local grocers Kroger in Murray and Foodrite in Tiptonville "have been wonderful" in working with her to replace needed food.

Plans for recovery

On Friday, January 30, Paris District Superintendent Joe Geary and Dyersburg District Superintendent Stan Waldon met in Dyersburg with the Rev. Kevin Conrad, Connectional Ministries Director, and David Reed, Communications Action Team leader, and Cathy Farmer, Memphis Conference Communications Director, to plan recovery efforts.

As of this writing, the plans include:

1. On Sunday, February 1, the Paris and Dyersburg Districts asked for offerings for the Area Disaster Response Teams. On the following Sundays, the offerings will be directed toward "Memphis Conference Disaster Response."

The Rev. Geary emailed later, "I have asked all Paris District Churches to receive a special offering on this Sunday and the following Sunday for the Area III Disaster Response team. These monies will come to the Paris District Office and not the Conference Office. We will dispense for mileage, gasoline, equipment, repairs, whatever the leadership of the team tells me they need. Similar offerings are to be taken for the Dyersburg and Paducah Districts for the same purposes per the coordinated meeting yesterday in Dyersburg."

2. Three communication centers are being set up

immediately: one in the Dyersburg District office, one

in the Paris District office, and one at Broadway UMC in

the Paducah District. The Connectional Ministries office

will pay the salaries of the three persons who will man

the phone at each site. Brenda Kerns will train the communications center personnel on Tuesday at 1:30 PM at Martin First.

3. Each center has an 800 number for those people requesting help clearing trees and branches and for those volunteering to help with the recovery effort. The 800 numbers have already been obtained for the Paris and the Dyersburg Districts, but they will not be answered until Wednesday, February 4. The numbers are:

- Dyersburg District 888-850-1986

- Paris District 866-966-7161

The Paducah District number will be established as soon as Dr. David Comperry, senior pastor of Broadway UMC in Paducah, is able to contact AT&T.

Geary said, "We have hired Joann Riggins for the Paris District Communications Center. She will be trained Tuesday, Feb. 3, and begin work Wednesday morning, Feb. 4, to answer the toll free number for people calling from Calloway and Henry Counties (only) for assistance. That number will go into effect Wednesday at 8:00 A.M. It will be manned from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, Wednesday through Saturday the first week, and then Monday through Saturday in following weeks for as long as it takes. The operator will work out of the district office in Paris."

Waldon emailed: "Mrs. Susan Dieth will staff the Dyersburg District Communications Center. Susan is out of the East Dyersburg Church."

4. Elyse Bell of the Paris District will serve as the internal communications director for the communications centers. The persons manning the phones will send all requests to Mrs. Bell who will communicate the information to Bill Carr, the Conference Disaster Recovery Director. Carr will coordinate the deployment of all teams and volunteers.

5. Local pastors are being asked to assess immediate needs so Disaster Response will know where to deploy teams and volunteers.

6. Area 3 Disaster Response Team will stage on Wednesday morning, Feb. 4, 8 AM, in the parking lot of Hazel United Methodist Church to begin work in the Paris District. Geary said the crews will begin work in northern Henry County and southern Calloway County and then work north into all parts of Calloway County on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Rev. Allan Trull, pastor of Hazel, will rally his congregation to prepare a light breakfast, sack lunches, and a supper Wednesday night for the volunteers. "We'll fix food for them as long as they need to be here," Trull said.

Geary said that Mrs. Beverlyann Jetton of South Pleasant Grove UMC will coordinate the refreshments at Hazel in the mornings and then have the lunch bags available on successive days. Bottled water is also being provided for volunteers.

The forms for homeowners that give permission for volunteers to work on private property have been emailed to pastors in Calloway and Henry Counties. "We hope to have them all filled out before the teams arrive," Geary said.

7. Offering to host volunteer disaster recovery teams are Reelfoot Rural Ministries (for teams working in Lake, Obion, Dyer and Weakley Counties in Tennessee and Fulton County, Ky.) and Broadway United Methodist Church (for teams working in McCracken, Ballard, Graves, Carlisle, Marshall and Hickman Counties in Kentucky). Both locations have showers and spaces for volunteers to sleep.

Teams working in the Paris District will be sent to locations in Henry County, Tennessee and Calloway County, Kentucky.

8. In Kentucky, Wayne Workman of Mt. Carmel UMC, Brad Colson of Benton First UMC, and Allen Burnett of Lone Oak UMC have started working on debris removal for at-risk and elderly people across Marshall County.

Steve Elder reports on damage from ice storm in Fulton County

As of Feb. 2, I understand that all the power is restored to the city of Fulton, by Fulton, Light Gas and Water and that part of the city of Hickman, the county seat of Fulton County, Ky. has had power restored by

Hickman Electric. However 100% of the county residences are still without power one week after the ice storm.

Hickman-Fulton Counties Rural Electric Co-op says it could be weeks (as many as 4 weeks) before power is restored to everyone. They have in excess of 1500 poles down. I counted 21 down in a 7 mile stretch. (This doesn't include the lack of phone service) The Fulton County High School in Hickman is being used to provide 3 hot meals a day and cots have been set up on the gym floor for National Guard and out of town utility workers. A number of churches have opened their facilities including Hickman UMC and Fulton First UMC.

The Fulton County Rescue Squad has been delivering water and sandwiches provided by FEMA. Beginning today, National Guard troops are going door to door checking on residents. They have begun helping with law enforcement, especially after the rash of generators being stolen.

The rural community pulls together. I can only speak for the area between Crutchfield and Casey, but farmers are out with their tractors and blades clearing state and county roads; as well as others with chain saws, trucks, etc. Those unable to run chain saws were checking on neighbors. It was 5 days in my area before we saw anyone from county or state governments.

We will survive and be stronger. I was blessed to have a fireplace and a 4 stack ventless gas heater and lost very little food before purchasing a gas generator in Jackson, TN, and having it installed on Saturday. All my neighbors are in good shape too.

One individual said, "We haven't finished cleaning up from Hurricane Ike yet!" Actually, it's hard to tell the difference now.

Rev. Steve Elder