

11 May 2010

Friends-

Here's the latest information on our daily response to the clean up and coming repair efforts from the recent flooding.

- 1) Westminster has offered and has been designated as a PDA volunteer host site. We will be able to adequately host up to 30-36 people at a time who are literally calling from all over the Eastern United States wanting to come to Middle Tennessee and offer their help. I've got a working list going that gets longer each day. PDA will do the scheduling of volunteer groups. We have three wonderful PDA volunteers set up in a temporary office next to mine, but they are mostly in the field in and around Nashville doing assessment work. Rob Moreland, one of our Elders from the Tullahoma church, is the head of this crew. The other two guys, Dale Martin and Kelly Buell, are from Michigan. Kelly is from Texas originally and still knows how to say "ya'll." They are doing a fantastic job.
- 2) PDA relief money for damaged churches, homes, NaCoMe, and individuals is on its way. The grant writing had been completed and we will have about \$20,000 in hand by the end of this week. That does not imply, however, that we are not going to need a lot more money and a lot more volunteer help. This is only a start for our long-term recovery efforts that may last for as long as 2-3 years based on prior experience with such disasters.
- 3) The PDA number for assigning gifts is #DR000015. You can have individuals send money directly to PDA at the 100 Witherspoon St. address in Louisville, or send checks to our office made out to the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Flood Relief account. Either way all of these funds will get designated here for the ongoing work we will be doing together.
- 4) NaCoMe is still in need of volunteers for clean up and repairs. You should schedule your volunteer efforts directly with Deb Kruger our camp director: 931-729-9723. The phones and electricity are now working.
- 5) Watch for the article I will send you tomorrow that I wrote this morning for The Outlook. I hope they will print it. Also watch for daily updates on the presbytery web site at www.presbytery-middletennessee.org.
- 6) Finally, continue to be in prayer for all who have suffered so greatly from the flood and send me updates of how we may specifically help individuals in your congregations and communities.

Grace and peace,

Phil Leftwich