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For Immediate Release

Area Churches Help New Orleans Recovery

A group representing the Southeast Michigan Association of Congregational Churches recently returned from a week-long trip to New Orleans. The fourteen men and women included members from North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills, Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi, and First Congregational Church of Wayne.

This is the tenth year that Congregationalists from Michigan have traveled to New Orleans to help with reconstruction efforts. Last year an EF3 tornado struck New Orleans, the largest in the city's history. The tornado destroyed or significantly damaged over 630 homes and 40 businesses, two schools, and several churches. The Michigan group worked all week on one of the homes nearly destroyed by the tornado.

The group stayed at Camp Restore, a facility for volunteers that opened in 2006 on the once-flooded campus of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in New Orleans East. The Congregationalist volunteers worked with the St. Bernard Project, a long-term disaster recovery organization begun in 2006 in the wake of Katrina. Initially focused on helping to rebuild New Orleans, St. Bernard Project is now national in scope, helping with the east coast recovery from Hurricane Sandy and other disasters. Members of AmeriCorps supervised the on-site work.

Lys Kennedy, one of the organizers from North Church, said, "We come back every year because the need is still here, and we take away more in gratification and fellowship, particularly when we meet the homeowner we are helping, than we give."

For more information, contact www.StBernardProject.org or www.NorthCongregationalChurch.org



Our mission group



Installing ceiling panels



Installing insulation



Hanging drywall



“Mudding” to cover joints and imperfections in newly-installed drywall