

**PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO
DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**NEWSLETTER
August 2008**

What the churches in the Presbytery are doing

First Presbyterian, San Diego:

In July, First Presbyterian Church San Diego members, led by Steve Gauthier with Doug Snow's assistance for the concrete footings, built a beautiful wheelchair ramp at the residence of a Ramona fire survivor. The ramp will be used by the woman's disabled daughter. Steve donated his skills and time and the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Committee donated most of the cost of materials to build this ramp. The family is very grateful for this unselfish gift.



Solana Beach Presbyterian:

The SBPC Fire Response Team and many volunteers have been working with its friends in Ramona over the last several months. During that time, the Team has:

- Built floors and shelving for storage containers
- Created a new design for storage sheds
- Built a number of outbuildings including sheds, goat nurseries, fences, etc.
- Provided contracting leadership and labor to build a garage (with financial assistance from the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Committee)
- Pruned back avocados to permit new growth; planted palms and cut down burnt trees
- Painted any number of exterior walls of buildings and the interior of a new home
- Gave beautifully handmade quilts to survivors in Ramona
- Helped organize a business's finances
- Talked, walked, and prayed for the recovery of survivors' physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

The SBPC Team would so very much like you, either individually and/or in a small group, to be a part of such a gratifying firestorm ministry. Their next workdays are:

September 13, October 4, November 1, December 6.

Please contact either Larry Muschek at SDFD-2@PresbyterySD.org or cell phone, 760 533-4284, or Linda Holland at SDFD-1@PresbyterySD.org or cell phone, 619 787-4743, for more

information. If you're planning on joining them for a workday, please Larry or Linda no later than the Wednesday before the date. They will then send out a confirmation e-mail with additional instructions including what to wear and/or bring, time to meet to caravan up to Ramona, etc.

The latest news from the PDAC

Community support. The San Diego Presbytery Disaster Assistance Committee (PDAC) submitted a proposal to the national Presbyterian Disaster Assistance organization for a grant to be utilized at the “Unmet Needs Table” of the San Diego recovery efforts. A grant for \$50,000 was approved and will be used to support survivors in San Diego County. Case managers who assist the fire survivors with the numerous and complicated processes of recovery and rebuilding work through the 7 Community Recovery Centers. The case managers present individual cases for consideration to a group of agencies who may be able to provide additional assistance needed for that family to have safe and sanitary living, when all other resources have been exhausted. This grant allows the SD Presbytery to be present and minister to the community through this process.

Communications. The Presbytery’s webmaster is designing a section of the Presbytery’s web site for information about and from the committee. We will notify you when it is live! Watch for it under “Committees” at: www.PresbyterySD.org

How can your church stay connected?

Become a Congregational Response Coordinator or assist your current church’s representative as a point person for communication to and from the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Committee.

Join the PDAC as it defines the next areas of focus and identifies opportunities to minister to community during the long-term recovery from the 2007 fire disaster. (see next meeting notice below)

Keep the PDAC informed about fire relief activities sponsored by your congregation.

Develop a process for communication and assistance for your congregational members during and after a disaster be it an earthquake, fire or other disaster.

Next PDAC meeting:

(The stated meeting time is the fourth Tuesday of each month, 10:30 a.m.–noon)

August meeting: (note this is on a different date than usual)

**Thursday, August 28, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at
Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church**

Please **RSVP** if you are able to attend.

Contact: Carolyn Peterson, Chairperson, (Christ Presbyterian Church, Carlsbad)
760 436-9165, PDAC@PresbyterySD.org