

**PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO
DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**NEWSLETTER #6
November, 2009**

The latest news from the PDAC:

1. New Grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

As we reported in the July 2009 newsletter, the Presbytery of San Diego was successful in a second grant proposal to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to continue our participation assisting fire survivors from the 2007 San Diego wildfires. As of the Nov 3rd, the San Diego Presbytery has provided assistance (along with many other community agencies) to 37 families in Ramona, Dulzura, Descanso, Barrett Junction, Fallbrook, Valley Center, Potero and Escondido for a total of \$67,676. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Escondido, and Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church also have provided funding from funds remaining in their Wildfire fund for this and other PDAC projects. The Community Recovery Teams for the 2007 wildfires are coming to a close. Hopefully it will be many years before we need to reactivate them!

www.communityrecoveryteam.org

2. Disaster Preparedness: One of our goals for 2009 is to assist individuals and congregations with their preparation for the next disaster. After our presentation to the Presbytery meeting on June 16th, we have received invitations from 7 congregations to provide a 20 min. presentation to their session. We have completed presentations to Faith Presbyterian, Oceanside Presbyterian, Lakeside Presbyterian, Christ Presbyterian, and Westminster Presbyterian in Escondido. We anticipate a presentation to Mira Mesa Presbyterian after Jan 1, and will be re-scheduling Northminster Presbyterian.

We would like to meet with your session as well!!

We are hopeful that each congregation will take the next step and review its individual and congregational preparedness for the next disaster.

Materials to start your preparedness are available at:

Congregational preparedness: www.presbyterysd.org

Click on Disaster Assistance; Click on Disaster Preparedness, “flyers”

Individual/Family preparedness:

Family Disaster Plan and Personal Survival Guide from SD County OES at
<http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/oes/docs/FamilyDisasterPlan.pdf>

4. Ham Radio operators: Does your church have individuals who are Ham radio operators?

We would like to identify these individuals across the Presbytery as part of our disaster communication.

5. Swine Flu / H1N1 flu: This topic is in our news daily, and it has created many questions.

Up to date information as well as public health center locations for vaccines are available from the county web site at: <http://www.sdiz.org> , <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov> .

A detailed public information pamphlet at:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/Portal/flu/docs/H1N1Top10GeneralPublic.pdf>

Additional information is available through the Centers for Disease Control at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Information from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance regarding guidelines for congregations during a pandemic is available at:

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/pandemic-flu.htm>

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/pdf/respondingtoswineflu.pdf>

What the churches in the Presbytery are doing:

The Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, Firestorm Team

On Sunday October 25, 2009, SBPC paid tribute to all of those who assisted, for two years, the SBPC Fire Response Team in helping families of the 2007 Firestorm begin to rebuild their homes and lives. Over the two year timeframe, SBPC assisted about 35 families in the Ramona area, a geographic area devastated by the fires (over 400 families lost their homes). Many of these families were not under the care of a local church. Essentially, these were families "living on the edge" of support. For two years, individuals and SD County-based churches gave their time, money, labor, and resources. Individual volunteers came from SBPC, Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, Christ Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Oceanside Presbyterian Church, and North Coast Calvary Church. In addition, the Presbytery denomination, both USA and San Diego County, generously contributed financially so that needed materials, sheds, supplies, etc, could be purchased for use by the volunteers when they worked with Ramona-based families once a month for two years.

How can your church stay connected?

Please share this information with your congregation.

Start preparing for the next disaster.

Review your family's individual preparedness.

Initiate a congregational disaster preparedness focus.

Contact us to provide a presentation to your Session.

Represent your congregation as their Congregational Response Coordinator.

Next committee meeting: Jan, 26, 9:30 am – 11am

Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church.

RSVP to Carolyn Peterson, Chair; hpandcp@sbcglobal.net; 760 436-9165