



The Justice & Witness Insider

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Monthly Snapshot

The JWM Insider offers a monthly glimpse into the world of Justice and Witness Ministries. Learn more about our mission, staff, exciting projects, upcoming events and more. Get to know our ministry on a more personal level.

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Hurricane Irene hits Franklinton Center at Bricks



by Vivian Lucas

Located in the historic community of Bricks that includes contiguous property in Edgecombe and Nash Counties and that borders Halifax County, North Carolina, Franklinton Center at Bricks is a tri-county site. The Center and all the surrounding counties continue to struggle to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Irene. In fact, North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue has secured approval from President Obama for nearly 40 counties to receive various forms of federal assistance for the massive damage caused by the late August hurricane that brought death and destruction along the eastern United States.



At Franklinton Center, the hurricane left behind fallen trees and branches, roof and window damage, downed electrical lines, and large amounts of debris. Numerous large pools of standing water became prime breeding sites for an already problematic mosquito population. For almost a week the Franklinton Center was without electrical power and water. Onsite Facilities Manager, Michael Warren, installed 2 generators on campus. These generators provided power to keep lights in the dining hall and Judson King house and prevent food from perishing in the freezers.

On the Monday immediately following Irene that hit during the weekend, recovery efforts began. Every staff member came in to work on clearing debris. Due to the overwhelming demand for professional tree service within the state, the Center still awaits removal of several trees that continue to lean dangerously. JWM Executive Minister, Linda Jaramillo worked with Susan Sanders to obtain \$2,000 from the *One Great Hour of Sharing Emergency Solidarity Grant* that helped cover some of

the costs of needed equipment and supplies such as the generators, a chain saw, and other yard tools. As the Center still waits for insurance benefits that will hopefully provide funds for much needed repairs, there is the recognition of other costs of the storm. Loss income due to the cancellation of several events cost the Center several thousand dollars. Still, the center is in better shape than many communities.

The total cost of any disaster can never be measured in dollars and cents. By some reports, Hurricane Irene will very likely be one of the 10 costliest catastrophes in the nation's history. In the areas near Franklinton Center, the hurricane flooded farm crops such as sweet potato, cotton and tobacco. This has had profound effects on the economy and families that depend on these and other crops. Most municipalities, communities, businesses, and families do not budget for disasters. So many different challenges have made it difficult for people to pick up the pieces as they face with replacing perished food, completing tree and debris removal, making home repairs, loss wages due to job interruptions, damaged and destroyed crops, and the growing reality of mosquitoes and other pests.

Franklinton Center at Bricks is committed to live out its mission to promote social transformation by empowering people through training, education, community development and direct action. It will continue to partner with the surrounding communities to plan and implement significant programs and initiatives to change the lives of those the Center serves — especially in times of trouble.

The Center plans many facility improvement projects and program initiatives to address its mission. Among some of the programs planned for the next year are a sustainable agriculture project, a farmers' market, a rural health initiative, a racial justice immersion ministry, a local food pantry, a community-wide disaster relief program, and the expansion of the outdoor ministry program. Tax exempt donations to support these projects and initiatives are greatly appreciated and can be made payable to Franklinton Center at Bricks, P.O. Box 220, Whitakers, NC 27891. For more information, contact the Center at (252) 437-1723 or email your inquiries to allend@ucc.org.

Values-Based Banking Webinar



by Edie Rasell

A webinar on Values-Based Banking will be hosted by United Church Funds will take place on October 27, 2011, at 1:00 pm Eastern Time.

Learn more about making responsible banking and investment decisions in this 45-minute webinar featuring a presentation from the Center for Responsible Lending. Hosted by United Church Funds with Justice & Witness Ministries, the event offers pastors, treasurers

and other leaders an opportunity to consider how their churches, conferences and organizations can move ahead with the General Synod resolution <http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/gs28/Resolution-on-Banking-Practices.pdf> calling on UCC entities to examine their banking relationships. Hear from a church that made big changes, learn more about Justice & Witness Ministries' implementation of the resolution, and take away resources for building banking and investment relationships that reflect your values. For details, visit www.unitedchurchfunds.org.

Tulsa Ministers Say No to Hate!

by Rev. Bob Lawrence, Community of Hope UCC, Tulsa, OK

Over 100 Tulsans participated in a silent solidarity event at Tulsa City Hall to protest the presence of "ACT! for America," a national anti-Islam group. The group "Say No to Hate" held a silent counter-protest standing against the hate-filled messages that were being directed towards our Muslim sisters and brothers. After "ACT! for America"

finished their demonstration, the participants of "Say No to Hate" swept the sidewalks outside City Hall to represent the sweeping of hate from our city. Every UCC authorized minister currently serving a call in the Tulsa area participated in this event including JWM board member Rev. Leslie Penrose. Learn More: <http://ow.ly/6paLa>

Justice & Witness Ministries 2012 Message on Public Education



Check out the new resource, the **Justice & Witness Ministries 2012 Message on Public Education**, now on-line. The topic is timely—"Why the Conventional Wisdom on School Reform Is Wrong and Why the Church Should Care." This year the publication is available only on-line. Check it out! <http://www.ucc.org/justice/public-education/2012-justice-witness.html>.

The Human Face of Climate Change



by Jim Deming

The Minister for Environmental Justice, the Rev. Jim Deming, spoke September 18 at the annual meeting of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light in State

College, PA on *The Human Face of Climate Change: Food, Faith, and Other Necessities of Life*. Rev. Deming also led a seminar at University Mennonite church and participated in workshops on how to bring "green justice" to congregations. For more information on the environmental justice issues facing Pennsylvanians- such as fracking and water quality - go to www.paip.org or demingj@ucc.org

Reproductive Rights Threatened



by Loey Powell

This year, an unprecedented number of bills aimed at eliminating or severely restricting women's access to the legal option of abortion have been introduced in state legislatures. In Mississippi, a bill has been introduced which would define "person" to include undeveloped embryos. In Ohio, a bill is

moving through which prevents termination after a fetal heartbeat has been detected. In Michigan, voters will decide whether or not to ban late term abortion. You can check out what is happening in your state on RH Reality Check <http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/>. We know that reducing the need for abortion is best accomplished by making birth control and family planning available, accessible and affordable. The Department of Health and Human Services is recommending that women be able to receive FDA approved contraception with no co-pay through their insurance program. However, it is also recommending that "religious" employers could claim an exception to this ruling. The UCC has a long standing commitment to repro-

ductive choice and justice and joins other faith groups in supporting this as a member of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice <http://rcrc.org/>. Tell HHS that all women and all employers should offer coverage for contraception with no co-pay <https://rcrc.wufoo.com/forms/comments-to-hhs/>. Fact sheet on the difference between the "morning after pill" to prevent pregnancy and RU486 which terminates pregnancy: <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/media/fact-sheets/birth-control-ec-mifepristone.pdf> Be informed because the presidential candidates certainly are not on this issue! powelll@ucc.org.

