

Volunteer Ministries



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LONG-TERM PARTNERS IN SERVICE VOLUNTEERS GATHER

**January 13-18, 2008, Charleston, South Carolina
PEACE IT TOGETHER**



Twenty-two volunteers currently serving terms of nine months or longer met recently in South Carolina for the annual long-term volunteer gathering. A puzzle consistently was in process on a table in the dining room where we gathered for food and fellowship. Good conversation and quiet times alone took place over those pieces.

Throughout the gathering we explored talents and skills each volunteer has been given and identified gifts and assets of people and situations with whom volunteers serve. Breaks were characterized with trying to find the how the pieces of the puzzle fit together to create a beautiful picture.

Throughout the gathering, volunteers got to know each other and the different settings in which they serve to see that they were part of a larger picture. Some found others in other settings with similar joys and challenges. Some found they were glad they were in the setting where they were placed because their skills would not have matched some of the other settings. On the puzzle project—as two, then three, then four puzzles emerged, they lay side by side for awhile and then were packed away to make way for a new puzzle. One puzzle was even repeated during the week.

(Continued on page 2)





Long-Term Volunteer Gathering

(Continued from page 1)

At the end of the gathering, although the group worked together to ‘complete’ the final puzzle—as we departed to go out into the world into our various settings—the sixth puzzle sat on the table, several pieces still needed to complete the picture. Ed Finertie, who has been a *Partners in Service* volunteer in six settings and attending his 7th long-term volunteer gathering, commented on the puzzle experience as he departed. The experience is very much like volunteer service. Indeed, volunteers work with all kinds of people. Sometimes it is a group effort with conversation and sometimes we feel alone. We find ways to piece together the talents and skills we bring to create beauty. Sometimes we catch a glimpse of pictures complete and beautiful. But there is always more to do.

Thank you, volunteers, for being those puzzle pieces and those puzzlers—working together in your own settings to create beautiful pictures of peace. Thank you for your commitment to continue on the journey as we join in peacing together the ever unfinished puzzle of the world.



Welcome New and Returning 'Partners in Service' Volunteers



Placed Again U.S. 'Partners in Service' volunteers:

Mary Ruth, North Carolina at Wider Church Ministries, Cleveland, OH
Bill Ruth, North Carolina at Wider Church Ministries, Cleveland, OH

Placed Again International volunteers:

Sebastian Krautz, Germany at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR

New U.S. 'Partners in Service' volunteers:

Daniel Williams, Illinois at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
Christopher Charney, California at Heifer International, Rutland, MA
Megan Anderson, California at Heifer International, Rutland, MA



Thanks to 'Partners in Service' Volunteer Recently Completing Service

Keith Bowyer, United Kingdom at Plymouth House of Healing, Seattle, WA

Highlighting Long-Term Volunteer Possibilities



Disaster Ministries Settings seek Long-Term Volunteers (3 month minimum)

*South Central Conference, New Orleans, LA—

Work Site Coordinator— Term begins May 2008 or September 2008

* Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS—

Volunteer Coordinator & Work Site Coordinator—Terms begin May, 2008 or December 2008

Plymouth House of Healing, Seattle, WA seeks volunteer to begin in February or March, 2008.

Applications for 2 volunteer companion positions available for June, 2008 for period of 10-12 months

La Puente Home, Alamosa, CO seeks volunteer to begin in February or March, 2008 for period of 10-12 months

See "Partners in Service" booklet for more opportunities. Available at www.ucc.org/volunteer or by calling United Church of Christ Resources at 800-537-3394

Contact Executive for Volunteer Ministries for more information 216-736-3214 or blaufusm@ucc.org
Application available at <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer> on left side index "Partners in Service" application

What Are You Doing This Summer?

Disciples Home Missions
Week of Compassion
Summer Intern Positions!
Applications due
April 1, 2008

UCC Volunteer Ministries
Partners in Service
2008 Summer Opportunities!

Applications Due April 1, 2008

Applications will be considered as they arrive

No More Deaths ~ Tucson, AZ

Inman Christian Center ~ San Antonio, TX

Heifer International ~ Perryville, AR /Rutland, MA

All People's Christian Center ~
Los Angeles, CA

Camp Courageous ~ Monticello, IA

Yakama Christian Mission ~
White Swan, WA

Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida/
Coalition of Immokalee Workers ~ FL

Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries ~
Los Fresnos, TX

UCC Disaster Ministries ~ New Orleans, LA

UCC Disaster Ministries ~ Back Bay Mission
Biloxi, MS

UrbanSpirit ~ Louisville, KY

Prodigals Community ~ Winston-Salem, NC

Disaster Response ~ Gulf Coast Area &
Greensburg, KS

Ryder Memorial Hospital ~ Humacao, PR

F.A.S.T. ~ Alderson, WV & Cosby, TN
(1 DOC Intern)

Re-Member ~ Pine Ridge, SD

UCC Outdoor Ministries Sites
throughout the United States

F.A.S.T. ~ Alderson, WV & Cosby, TN
(1 UCC Intern)



For more information contact: Brenda Tyler
1/888/346-2631 or btyler@dhm.disciples.org

or apply online:

[http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/
Volunteer/SpecialProjects/Interns.htm](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/Volunteer/SpecialProjects/Interns.htm)

For more information contact:

Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Executive UCC Volunteer Minis-
tries 866/822-8224 ext. 3214 blaufusm@ucc.org or
Diane Dicken 866/822-8224 ext. 3216 dickend@ucc.org

Applications available online: [http://www.ucc.org/
volunteer/](http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/) OR [http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/application-
form-ucc-partners-in-service-2007-1.pdf](http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/application-form-ucc-partners-in-service-2007-1.pdf)

Joseph Conn

Florida Conference Disaster Ministries — LASER (Long-term Recovery Committee)

by Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery

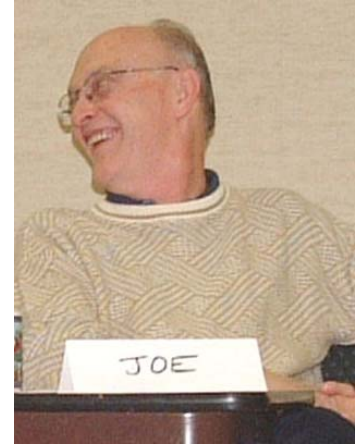
The **Florida Conference United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries** welcomed the arrival of **Joseph Conn**, to serve as Volunteer Coordinator with Lake and Sumter Emergency Response (LASER). Joe's placement with LASER comes in collaboration with national UCC Volunteer Ministries, a part of Wider Church Ministries, funded through Our Churches' Wider Mission (OCWM).

Working with **Michael Tart, Executive Director for LASER**, the Florida Conference Disaster Ministries submitted a job description and applied to national UCC Volunteer Ministries for the placement of a long-term volunteer. Through the UCC Volunteer Ministries' *Partners in Service* program long-term volunteers are placed with organizations for one month to a year, with renewable terms if desired. Volunteers are provided with a stipend and housing for the duration of their placement.

This is the third partnership and placement of long term volunteers with the Disaster Ministries in the Florida Conference through Volunteer Ministries.

Joe is an 11 year resident of Asheville, NC, where he is a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ. He is a retired educator who has a background in volunteerism. In the spring of 2007, Joe accompanied a mission team from his congregation to New Orleans where he assisted with the long-term recovery efforts. The trip inspired Joe to seek a long-term volunteer placement and stimulated his interest in the recovery from natural disasters.

In his current assignment, Joe will recruit and place volunteers who will work on the rebuild and continued clean-up efforts in the area as well as all functions related to the volunteer component of LASER's mission.



The organization continues to address the unmet needs and long-term recovery from the 2004 hurricanes, the Ground Hog Day tornados in February 2007 and the September 2007 tornados in Eustis. The Ground Hog Day tornados affected over 1,310 homes in Lake and Sumter Counties while the September disaster damaged over 160 homes causing over \$6 million in damages. Joe's placement with LASER allows this vital component of the rebuild efforts to continue and progress in Lake and Sumter Counties.



ALONG THE WAY... NEWS FROM VOLUNTEERS



St. Paul United Church of Christ, Nashville, Illinois Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS

In late August 2007, a group of 17 members of St. Paul UCC in Nashville, Illinois, journeyed down to Biloxi to work alongside the folks at Back Bay Mission, rehabilitating homes of the poverty-stricken on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We found, upon our return, that our small contributions had big pay-offs not just for the people of Mississippi, but, indeed, for each of us who went on the trip. The devastation left by Hurricane Katrina, along with the generalized poverty of the area served as an eye-opener for all of us, and a heartbreaker for many.

Thus, our mission trip, more than just changing lives in Mississippi, changed hearts in Nashville, opening up a continuing conversation of how we can be better stewards in God's hurting world.

When we returned home, our trip was the source of many questions from congregation members and community members alike, so the local paper ran an article. This article is evidence of theological wonder that mission is by nature a reciprocal activity, and often, the giver feels that they received more than they gave. Ah...the wonder of God's mystery and grace!

In the Spirit of the Living Christ, Rev. Sue Artt, Pastor, St Paul UCC, Nashville, IL

Read the entire story from "The Nashville News" Nashville, IL at www.ucc.org/volunteer.

Get Involved in UCC Volunteer Ministries 2008

Order your copies of resources available from
United Church of Christ Resources 800-537-3394.
Copies also available to borrow from your
Conference Resource Center.

For more information on
UCC Volunteer Ministries visit the website at
www.ucc.org/volunteer
or call 216-736-3214
toll-free 866-822-8224 ext. 3214

Mission Trip Opportunities

**United Church of Christ
Mission Trip Opportunities
2008**

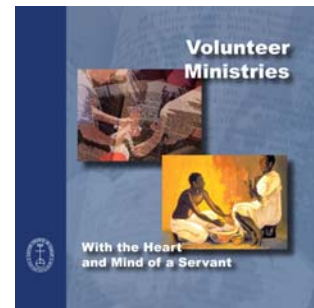
Volunteer Ministries



Youth - Young Adults
Adults - Intergenerational

List of sites and resources for planning your
group's mission trip
in the United States. Free.

With the Heart and Mind of a Servant



This DVD/Video will help to introduce
UCC Volunteer Ministries to your congregation.
Free. Or view on-line: www.ucc.org/volunteer

Partners in Service Volunteer Opportunities

Partners in Service



*United Church of Christ
Volunteer Ministries
2008*



Full-Time
Placements
throughout the
United States for
Adults of All Ages

List of opportunities for
full-time volunteer service.
Great for adults of all ages.
Free.

Resources are free for your use thanks to your on-going gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

UCC VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

Office of Volunteer Ministries
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

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For over 50 years, Volunteer Ministries has provided opportunities for people to share their gifts of service and witness to others. Through the act of foot washing, Jesus makes clear God's call to serve others. We are invited to ministries of service that reflect God's love by responding to the needs of the world and involving ourselves in efforts to challenge injustices. The logo of the towel and basin remind us of God's call to serve.

Check out the new look on the
website!
New Address too
<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer>

PARTNERS IN SERVICE
MISSION TRIPS
LEADERSHIP TRAINING
SERVICE DAYS