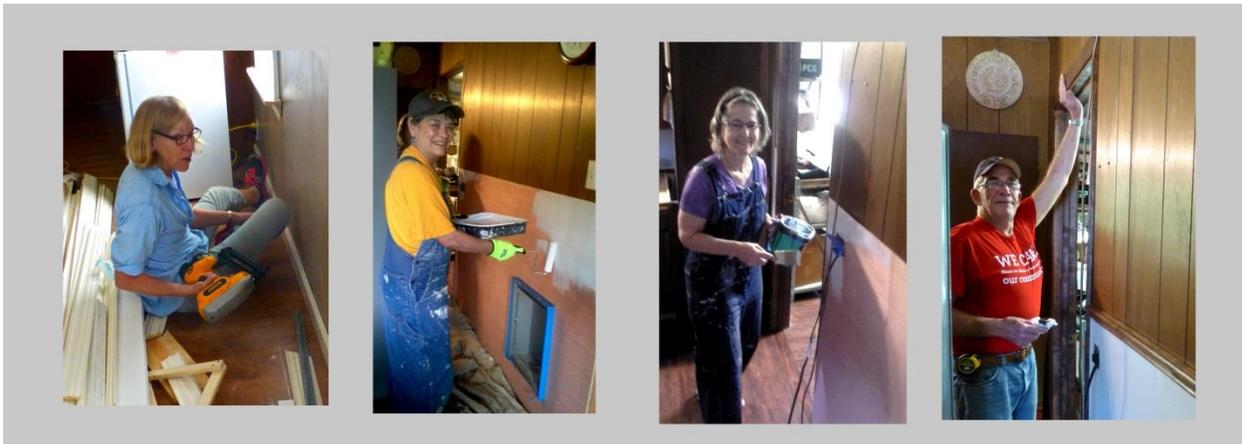


Lafayette Mission Trip 2017

Nine members of First Pres spent the week of March 27-April 2 in Lafayette, LA on a mission trip sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). This is our ninth adult mission trip with PDA since 2006.



The region of south Louisiana known as Acadiana was inundated under two feet of rain in August, 2016, which caught nearly everyone completely off-guard. Thousands of homes were flooded, and since many of the flood-affected areas were not zoned as high flood risks, many people had no insurance. The people of Acadiana are proud, strong, and resilient, but this flood hit them when many in the community were already down because of declining oil production.



We were able to work together most of the week on the home of an elderly couple, finishing all the door installation, baseboards, chair rail and door frames so they could move their furniture back in. The Sorbets have been living in their home during renovation and can finally see a light at the end of their dark tunnel.

Some of us worked on a second home belonging to Miss Jackie, as well.

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Although a few of us were experienced in this kind of work, by the end of the week all were able to work fairly independently to speed the work along; learning new skills is one of the benefits of going on a mission trip.

We are most appreciative of the staff and volunteers of First Presbyterian Church of Lafayette, who provided comfortable sleeping areas, a well-stocked kitchen, and access to showers nearby.

They gave us the gifts of their time, local knowledge, friendship and a crawfish etouffee meal.

Our work partner was Rebuilding Together Acadiana, a small organization using Americorps volunteers and groups like ours to get people back into their homes.

Thanks to our Name That Tune fundraiser in February, we were able to make significant financial donations to both the church And Rebuilding Together. They are doing such good work and we were blessed to be a small part of it.

On these mission trips, when we're not working or resting we are having a fantastic time together! We ate some terrific gulf seafood, had no mishaps or disagreements and look forward to the next trip.



We'd love to introduce newcomers to the experience, so please pay attention the next time God nudges you in this direction.