

Adult Mission Trip Tradition Continues Hattiesburg, MS; April 7-13, 2019

First Pres has a fifty year tradition of sending our youth on a two week mission adventure. Twenty years ago Sharon and the late Stan Croissant wondered why should the kids have all the fun? They began to plan the first of three adult mission trips to Guatemala, which took place in 2001, 2002 and 2004. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005 three trips to southern Mississippi were organized, and were followed by disaster relief trips to Tuscaloosa, AL; Joplin, MO (3 trips); Little Rock, AR; Lafayette, LA (2 trips); and, most recently, to Hattiesburg, MS. Most of these trips were facilitated by PDA, the disaster assistance arm of the PCUSA. The Croissants participated in nearly all of these missions, and Stan was the epitome of a humble servant-leader. He had considerable remodeling skills and was eager to teach others, but more importantly he loved to share the joy of helping others in need.



Stan designed and built a custom mantel for a Hurricane Katrina survivor in Mississippi

Last month fifteen church members spent a week in Hattiesburg, MS helping two people who lost their houses in a tornado in 2017. The people we help are either uninsured or underinsured and have no other resources to rebuild their homes. Both houses are nearing completion, which is always an exciting time for the team and the homeowners. Most of our work was indoors and included cabinet installation, tiling, interior and exterior trim work, painting and yard cleanup. Our work partners from R3SM (Recover, Rebuild, Restore South Mississippi) were very patient and helpful. We stayed in an historic, renovated railroad hotel with a lovely wraparound porch. In our limited free time we explored the immediate neighborhood of older homes and enjoyed southern cuisine.

