



Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church



“Hope Floats” A Mission to Help Katrina Victims By Laura Bendlin

At first the devastation wasn't so obvious. Homes and buildings intact, countless fast food restaurants, and even a Wal-Mart stands in this little town of D'Iberville, Mississippi. As our group of 37 members of the Venture Crew 49 and Otisville-Mount Hope Presbyterian Church toured the city, assessing the jobs to be done, the initial reaction was that there wasn't much that needed doing.

How wrong we were. Suddenly we began to notice the driveways that led to no where, and empty foundations that looked like gravestones. When the doors of the houses were opened, the backyards explored, insides of garages exposed, and the hearts of the residents were revealed, we realized that the jobs ahead of us were endless. We were the ones chosen to finish up all the work that had been done by the thousands of volunteers that came before us.

Staying at the Volunteer Village, home of the D'Iberville Volunteer Foundation, was a memorable and inspiring experience. Drs. Ed Cake and Irene McIntosh are gifted leaders

who triage a constant flow of citizen requests, matching them up with available volunteers. Not to mention Irene's fabulous cooking!

Each of us has our own stories to tell, as we were sent on different jobs in groups of three to six people by the D'Iberville Volunteer Foundation. But I can tell you that the two jobs that I was involved with touched and warmed the hearts of two very grateful families.

Mike's house was intact, but his property looked as if time had stood still since Hurricane Katrina. Debris and garbage lay on the ground since the winds and the rains had subsided. A tree stump left from a tree which had fallen across the road during the storm required removing. Vines had grown onto his electrical wires. Landscaping and yard work was desperately needed. Mike had a staph infection, which led to numerous operations. He was resuscitated on four different occasions when his breathing had stopped, and was therefore unable to complete these needed tasks. Using shovels, an ax, and chainsaws, our team removed that stump, and Mike was thrilled!

Our second job was for Ann, a mother of eight adult children, who lived by herself. After returning two days after Katrina blew through her trailer

park, she found two sides of her trailer missing, as well as her back deck destroyed. She told us about the interior

water damage and the loss of her job at the casino. The D'Iberville Volunteer Foundation had re-sited her trailer with sheets of silver aluminum, and had built her a

new back porch. However, the trailer park homeowners' association was unhappy with the mismatched colors. We needed to paint the new siding to match the old, and paint her back porch with primer. Not only did our paint job help beautify her once partially demolished home, but it allowed her to relax and once again feel comfortable in her community.

Throughout the three days we spent working, the homeowners expressed their gratitude and joy at the renewal we were able to provide. As we worked, they came out to talk to us, and told us stories about their families and how they had survived the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. Probably the most important job we

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May Newsletter Deadline

Please send your information for the upcoming newsletter to the office by Sunday, April 8th. This includes all the Pentecost plans and any May and June events planning! Please send your info by email to betsy.cory@gmail.com

Murder Mystery Dinner

It's that time of year again! Time to dust off your magnifying glasses and detective's badges and try to help solve a crime. This year, you



will get to enjoy some of your favorite daytime drama actors from the soap opera "Hold Back the Night" as they play 13 Past Midnight at the home of the show's producer.

We will have two performances of 13 Past Midnight, by Billy St. John, on Mother's Day weekend. There will be a matinee at 2 o'clock and an evening performance at 7 o'clock on Saturday, May 10th. Please keep in



mind that the doors will open at 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock for hors d'oeuvres and the show will begin a half hour later.

Tickets will be \$10 and will include dinner, dessert, and a lot of laughs. They will be available beginning March 30th. Remember, tickets go fast, so get yours early.

Now, we could use your help. It would be greatly appreciated if all of the bakers out there could donate desserts. We really need at least 20 desserts to be able to cover both performances. Please let us know if you will be able to donate a dessert for one or both performances. We also need volunteers to help out in the kitchen with cooking and/or serving. This year's production will also require a small stage crew. This year we have been asked to perform for the Minisink Valley Bus Company and will be adding a show on Friday, May 9th, just for them. We would also appreciate anyone that

might be available to help out for this performance. If you are interested, please contact either Marilyn Komstedt or

had was listening. As land developers and new residents come into D'Iberville, the Volunteer Foundation sees its role in the community nearing an end. The Foundation will officially close down its Volunteer Center on May 31, 2008, after two and one half years of dedicated service to its community.

In the end, we gained much more than we gave. The most rewarding thing is knowing that we rebuilt hope, thanks in part to the

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Mississippi

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20...25...Do I hear 30??? SOLD!!

We're having an auction to benefit the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



Saturday, May 31st 11:00 AM

We're looking for donations of goods, services, gift baskets, baked goods to auction off. Donations can be brought to the church Friday May 30th between 7 -9 PM.

To register donations email or call Betsy Cory at betsy.cory@gmail.com or 344-6201. Contact Joe or Ceann Miedema - 856-5651 for more information.

Choir News

Calling all vocalists! Coming in June - an OMHPC "Mass Choir" performance of Handel's "Hallelulia Chorus"!

Rehearsal dates TBA. Please indicate your interest to Sue Conklin by mid-April.



OMHPC Goings On...

2nd Annual Community Yard Sale

The Village of Otisville has set the date for their 2nd Annual Community Yard Sale. It will be held on August 2, 2008. Our church will again be renting vendors spaces in our Main St. parking lot for \$15 per space. There are no plans for a sale of donated items inside the church, a bake sale or a food vendor at this time. If a church group would like to do any of these as fundraisers see Candy Burnett or Liz Runnalls.

Mother's Day Love Bouquet

On Mother's Day, May 11th, we will again have vases available at the front of the church for anyone who would like to place a flower in remembrance or honor of their mother. Any flower is acceptable. Last year we had such a gorgeous collection. Some flowers were purchased and some were from our gardens. A sampling of the bouquet included tulips, geraniums, roses, calla lilies, carnations, and bleeding hearts. It was truly a bouquet of love. The flowers will later be given to some of those who have not been able to attend church.



Silver Anniversary

This September marks the 25th anniversary of Jeff's ordination and ministry here at the Otisville Mt Hope Presbyterian Church. Plans for a celebration party are in the making. The celebration will be on Sunday, September 21st at Kuhl's Highland House after church. So mark your calendar and plan on being there to help make the day very special! More information will be forthcoming. Questions? See Sue Conklin, Anna Gibbs or Candy Burnett.

25
years

OMHPC Junior Youth Fellowship

Thursday, April 3rd – 7:30 p.m. – **Contemporary Christian Rock Concert** – Mid-Hudson Civic Center Poughkeepsie – including *Third Day, Sanctus Real and Decemradio* - tickets \$26.50/\$31.50 per person (which will be reduced by some amount from our JYF fund-raisers depending on the number of participants & a potential group rate) – R.S.V.P. to a1svc77@yahoo.com – Payment due a.s.a.p.

JYF Meeting – Sunday, April 6th – 6:30 p.m.

JYF Meeting – Sunday, April 20th – Monster Mini-Golf, Middletown – 6:30 p.m. – discounted to \$5.50 (from \$7.50 p.p.) for 20 participants

JYF Meeting - Sunday, May 4th, 6:30 p.m.

JYF Meeting – Sunday, May 18th, 6:30 p.m.

Coffee House

Looking ahead into Spring!

April - "Jesus Perez and the Flock" with hip-hop dancing and more...also: ice cream social

May - Full Armor (new album release!) and a variety of "our best" desserts

June - "Broken and Poured Out", along with "open mic" and International cheese platters

7:30 pm on the third Saturday of each month. Call Sue for details (386-8114).



The Otisville—Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

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Preaching

4/6	Psalm 116:1-4 Matthew 6:19-24	Treasure	Communion	Jeff Farley
4/13	Psalm 23 Matthew 6:25-34	Me? Worry? Never!		Jeff Farley
4/20				John Forrest
4/27	Psalm 23 Matthew 5:38-48	Love & Hate		Jim Eggleton

The Bookstore has gotten new fair trade coffee: French Vanilla 12 oz drip and Bright Day Medium Brew 12 oz drip. We also have more organic very dark chocolate bars and organic milk chocolate bars. See Rita O'Loughlin on Sunday or the office staff during the week.

Friends:

Needed around the church:

1. Someone to stain the wood supports for the screen in the sanctuary
2. Someone to sweep up outside the church and get the outside ready for Spring.
3. Someone to help in the Church office on Sundays from 9am—11am.