

## Emergency Response Team

*WE* wanted to thank you for your support and prayers UMC and Mission Committee. So, thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU! from Gerard Piscitelli, Ken O'Brien, and John Young.

Our Mission was to enter disaster areas in Florida, North Ft. Myers, work along a Virginia team already settled in for the two weeks prior. Most of them were from Bethlehem UMC, Moneta, VA.

Day 1, arrival 2:30 pm, settled in – stayed at Good Shepard UMC. Team meeting that night after our meal, which was made by their congregation (thank you)!

Workday 1: Up at 7 am, breakfast and off on a UMC bus to the worksite. Kenny, John, and I worked with three members of the Virginia team. We arrived at a home owned by an elderly man, Mr. Dave Carnival. Work performed: tarp on the roof, cut out the living room ceiling, put up 4 x 8 sheetrock and blown in insulation. Dave was so grateful for our work. In the morning he watched as we took the time to listen to his story, as his loving wife was in the hospital, waiting to be released to come home. He missed her so much!

We had lunch and headed to our second home that day. The homeowner was Ken and his son who had disabilities. He looked nervous as we arrived. After our team leader Tom spoke with Ken, we entered his home, which was completely damaged by the ocean water coming in - 4' of water! We removed his living room furniture and all, saving what items we could that Ken wanted. We cut out 4' high of sheetrock and sprayed for mold. It was a dirty, exhausting day. As we left Ken's home, praying for the recovery of Ken, mentally, spiritually, and physically; Ken had a story he shared with us - (Ken & Barb) of his saving a man drifting into his pool in the back yard, and taking him to higher shelter until help arrived.

The next two days were spent at a double-wide trailer home in a beautiful setting next to the ocean owned by Tammy and her husband. We worked alongside the entire Virginia team, mucking out the home and laying new flooring throughout. It was difficult, but we accomplished this task. So many people worked hard and together to get this floor down, while Tammy and her husband sat in one room in the corner of the trailer. Like all the other homes, this trailer park with over 100 trailers were wiped out by the storm, and every trailer had much debris out front of their homes.

So there you have it, a little review of our fabulous ERT experience that all of us totally and equally worked super hard every day.

With God's Grace, may all those affected by this terrible storm, find hope that their lives will become close to what they were before the storm.

For the Grace of God,

Gerard Piscitelli  
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Of the United Methodist Church in Central MA