

# *First Presbyterian Church*

February 26, 2013

Dear Friends,

Here at the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, we receive all four of the Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Someone told me recently that the one offering that stands out in his memories of growing up in this church is the One Great Hour of Sharing. We receive this offering each year during Lent.



We yearn for a way to make a difference where there is tremendous human need. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing *do* make a difference by supporting Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. You will find information elsewhere in this *Messenger* about specific ways in which One Great Hour of Sharing funds have had an impact right here in Eastminster Presbytery.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance recently helped a friend of mine. The Rev. Evon Lloyd is the former pastor of the Ellsworth Presbyterian Church and the former Concord Presbyterian Church. She now serves the First Presbyterian Church of Coudersport, Pennsylvania. During Sunday worship on December 2, a man entered the church and fatally shot his ex-wife, the church organist. Later that week, Evon wrote:

There is a gentle pink glow with the sunrise this morning, the sweet promise of a new day of blessing. Our PCUSA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team is with me and my flock providing more evidence of God's wonders, preparations, provisions and the cosmic movement of God's Spirit.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is also providing some funding so that Evon can have a retreat at Ghost Ranch in March, a much-needed time away after weeks of working to help the congregation to know God's healing grace and to re-open the church doors in January.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has also been present in the midst of natural disaster when the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Hattiesburg, Mississippi lost its roof and sustained serious damage after a tornado struck two weeks ago. One of the members of that congregation is a colleague of mine on the General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission.

We hope and pray that disasters don't happen to us. But when they happen to people we know and care about, it is comforting to know that *we are already helping* through the gifts we give each year to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please give prayerfully and generously to this very special offering that helps so many people – not only around the world, but very close to home.

*Blessings,*

436 East Second St – Salem OH 44460 – 330.337.9555  
The Rev. Dr. Meta S. Cramer, Pastor