

## ***Disciples Are Among Those Recovering From Major Flooding In The Southeast Week Of Compassion Responds***

Heavy storms that swept through parts of Middle Tennessee and Kentucky battered the area, causing flooding in several areas. In Tennessee, flooding has claimed the lives of 19 people and immersed well-known landmarks in downtown Nashville.

Clay Stauffer, pastor of Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville, says the lower level of the church, which includes the pre-school, gymnasium and children's wing, was flooded. Several members also lost their life's possessions. "Some of our members had up to four feet of water in their homes," said Stauffer. "As a congregation we are trying to give them support, as well as provide food, water and toiletries to shelters."

In addition, the regional office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) experienced extensive water damage in nearby Bellevue. The Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville reports only small amounts of water in its basement.

*Week of Compassion has already made an initial response to those affected by the flooding. To learn more about WoC's ongoing work and ways you can support their efforts, go to: [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)*

## **May Outreach Emphasis Local Benevolence**

We are asked daily for help with a wide variety of needs: housing, utilities, food, medicine, therapy, gas and transportation assistance, baby needs, bedding, household appliances and even a party dress. We research other resources before committing our own and very often there are none. We support two Protective Services caseworkers through our "Adopt a Caseworker" program of the Council of Churches. The needs for the individuals on their caseloads are varied and often do not meet the criteria of ordinary services. Two members of our congregation, Lisa Lynch and Geri Sporcic, work closely with the caseworkers and then follow-up by trying to find the most economical and/or appropriate responses to requests.

Community businesses have helped us by giving discounts or free merchandise. Most recently Purcell Tire gave us a very large discount on tires for a family with small children. Another company, L. J. Scharnhorst Floor Covering, donated a rug so a small child would have a warmer and softer floor than the hardwood he was playing on.

"The party dress?" you ask. One young lady, around age 16, in foster care was able to go to her prom as any young girl her age, with a dress she picked out on her own. We do these things anonymously to protect the identity of the recipients and our own members.

Our church is made up of very giving people. **Please know that we never give cash to individuals. If you are asked to give cash to anyone, even someone who attends our church, *please do not*.** Ask them to talk to the pastor. We will do all we can to find help for them.



## Disciples are Expanding the Table

Against the odds of being denied land and permits, Chimiste Doriscar, a Haitian new church planter, found a quaint site in Carl, Georgia that had 3.76 acres of land and a house. With a loan from Church Extension, this property became the site of Centre Evangelique La Pierre Angulaire. The house is now converted into a sanctuary with more than 100 chairs for the congregation. The church, founded in 2002, is thriving, said Doriscar. "Sometimes we have to add more chairs for worship."

In 2001, New Church Ministry was involved in the planting of two Haitian congregations. Since then, of the 640 new Disciples churches started in the United States and Canada, 100 of them are Haitian congregations. There is a certain connectedness that is shared by those who are part of the new church movement. It's a welcoming spirit of Disciples kinship that reaches out to embrace all who come to the table of worship to be joined together as a family in service to God and neighbor. Now more than ever, New Church Ministry and all our partners embrace with love and support our Haitian families in the United States and in Haiti, who were impacted by the earthquake on January 12, 2010.

We will continue to expand our reach - planting churches and extending the witness to new mission fields. Join the efforts of New Church Ministry in *Expanding the Table* in the United States, Canada and right here in your region by supporting the Pentecost Special Offering. This offering, divided evenly between your region and New Church Ministry, helps to fund recruitment, coaching and training of new church ministers, like Chimiste Doriscar. By *Expanding the Table*, you and New Church Ministry are reaching out to serve multitudes and to share God's message in new ways.

## 2020 Vision

- 1,000 new congregations
- 1,000 transformed congregations
- The leadership development necessary to realize these new and renewed congregations
- All within a context of being an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church

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