

Dear Supporter,

Seldom are there events that challenge us as Christians in the same manner as when Hurricane Katrina made landfall. The greatest natural disaster in our nation's history, Hurricane Katrina devastated communities along the Gulf Coast and left 1,836 people dead. A month later, Hurricane Rita made landfall. The fourth most intense hurricane ever recorded, it caused over 113 billion dollars of damage.

The five year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina is Sunday, August 29, 2010. We are asking congregations that have supported our efforts in the past, to use this anniversary as an opportunity to collect a Special Offering to support our efforts to continue to rebuild homes, lives and communities impacted by disasters in South Louisiana. As our funding becomes increasingly scarce, the needs of those seeking to return home are ever more pressing.

As we approach your congregation five years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we do so with deep appreciation for the support your church has given to the rebuilding efforts. Your Church, and over 18,000 other Presbyterians have answered God's call by coming to South Louisiana to help our communities rebuild. The talents, time and prayers have sustained over 700 families directly and thousands more indirectly, through our operations in New Orleans, Slidell, Lake Charles and Houma. Yet, there are still many more who continue to struggle to return home and rebuild. It is estimated that 1,500 people are still living in FEMA trailers in South Louisiana, and approximately 6,000 low-income households remain on waiting lists seeking assistance with the rebuild of their homes.

The goals of our continued rebuilding efforts are to assist low-income, elderly, disabled, uninsured and underinsured households to return to safe, affordable, and environmentally sensitive homes.

We hope you will join Presbyterian congregations around the country in marking the five year anniversary of the storms of 2010 by participating in the special offering. This will be a day in our worship services to remember, to give thanks, and to recommit ourselves to serving those who are most vulnerable.

If your church is interested in participating in this Special Offering, August 29th, 2010, please contact Vann Joines at vann@pslrecovery.org or call him at (504) 942-0444 x232. When contacting Vann, please provide your name and contact information, as well as the name and contact information for your church. Vann will be available to answer any questions or to provide resources for the offering.

Thank you, once again, for your continued support and expressions of love.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Together in Christ,

Jean Marie Peacock

Associate Presbyterian for Congregational Development and Disaster Recovery
Presbytery of South Louisiana