

Epistle *to the Bonitians*



THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BONITA SPRINGS | SPECIAL EDITION OCTOBER 2017

Hurricane Irma

S P E C I A L E D I T I O N



Monday morning September 11, the day after Irma... the message is still standing strong.

Doug's Desk

Powerful Hurricane Roars Over Southwest Florida



Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt

On Sunday September 10, 2017, a powerful and very wide-ranging Category 3 hurricane roared north through the Florida Keys, made landfall on Marco Island, and then proceeded straight north through the Florida Peninsula, affecting the entire state. The actual eye of Hurricane Irma moved north across Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero, and Fort Myers. Peak wind gusts in Naples were measured at 142 miles per hour. First Church was inside the “eye wall” from about 7 PM to 8 PM that evening. The wind and rain stopped around 3 AM on Monday morning, September 11, allowing residents to assess damages and begin the cleanup efforts.

Everyone who considers Southwest Florida their home (or one of their homes) has been impacted and will be impacted by this storm. Many of the members of our First Church community waited out the storm in our area, either in their own home or in other secure locations. Many more

evacuated to places to the north—and often had challenges in returning due to traffic and gasoline complications. Those who had spent their summer elsewhere and had not yet returned to Florida had to watch the television and internet reports, wondering what might happen.

This “Special Edition” of the *Epistle* is an effort to capture the impact of Hurricane Irma before, during, and after; to assess its consequences; and to speak from the perspective of our faith and God’s presence with us in this and all the “storms” of life.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Doug Pratt



The Chronology and the Impact of Irma

In late August 2017—around the time Hurricane Harvey landed on the Texas coast and did massive damage by winds and rain—Southwest Florida was inundated by a tropical system of very heavy rain (with minimal wind). Three days of intermittent downpours produced about 15 inches of rain, saturating our ground, lakes and rivers. Serious flooding occurred in the floodplain near the Imperial River basin in east Bonita Springs. Those floodwaters had just receded by the second week of September but the ground was still very saturated and the drainage systems full.

Weather forecasts beginning on Labor Day, September 4, indicated that a powerful hurricane in the Atlantic was changing course and could strike Florida. As the forecasts and “spaghetti plot” projections were adjusted, the expected impact moved from the east coast to the west coast, and by late that week we knew the storm was coming directly toward us. Some church members opted to evacuate. Every seat on planes departing Fort Myers airport was booked. Thousands headed north on Interstate 75 and other roads resulting in significant traffic jams and long lines at gas stations. Hotel rooms further to the north were sold out. Evacuation was a stressful process, filled with uncertainty.

Meanwhile, those who chose to remain in the storm’s path prepared their homes for impact. Some went to public shelters or to other private places. A mandatory evacuation order for the beaches was issued in anticipation of a high storm surge from the Gulf of Mexico. The doors and windows of First Church were shuttered by our facilities staff and a willing volunteer crew. Outer bands of the storm began arriving Saturday night, September 9. A small group (totaling 26 people) had a worship service in the church sanctuary early Sunday morning to pray for God’s protection for us and our homes. The peak of the storm arrived late Sunday afternoon and into the evening.



Though forecasts had been for deadly storm surge from the west, thankfully that surge did not materialize (the beaches were not greatly impacted, nor the homes along it). The greatest consequences of the storm were as follows:

- **Power:** Hundreds of thousands of homes in Southwest Florida lost electric service for at least 24 hours (the total number exceeded 5,000,000 in all the state—an unprecedented problem). Out-of-state electrical workers by the thousands quickly came to our aid with their trucks. Many residents of Bonita, Estero, Naples and Fort Myers went several days, some more than a week, without electricity. The results of this were some very hot days and nights without cooling, ruined food in freezers and refrigerators, the lack of services at gas stations, supermarkets and restaurants, and the loss of communication (through cell phones, land lines, television and internet that were out of commission). For many, it felt like a return to life in Florida more than a century ago! Only those hospitals, stores, and homes with generators were able to function for a period of time. The power was finally restored to everyone by Friday September 22, 12 days after the storm hit.

Epistle *to the Bonitians*

SPECIAL EDITION OCTOBER 2017

Editor: RJ Flower-Opdycke
Copy Editor: Judi Van Cleave
Design: gilurickdesign

Contributing Photographers:
Tom Bunt Paul Spinka
Leslie Durling Donabeth Urick
Dave Nichols Sharon Weisenauer

First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs

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- **Tree debris:** Hurricane Irma caused a massive loss of trees across the area. Many of them blocked roadways and fell on homes. Piles of debris from cut trees and palm fronds lay beside roadways for several weeks. Golf courses sustained much damage and all were closed for at least a time. Those who return to our area after the storm will notice the visual effects, at least temporarily, on the beauty and vegetation of Southwest Florida. The one positive factor: if we know anything about Florida, we know that vegetation grows here relentlessly, 12 months of the year, so trees and shrubs will return.
- **Flooding:** Localized flooding of roads and yards, and the spilling-over of lake beds were experienced across the area. Much of that flooding had receded within a few days after the storm. There were several areas, particularly in the basins of the Imperial River in Bonita Springs and the Estero River in Estero/San Carlos Park, where waters rose to the height of 4 or 5 feet. Hundreds of homes have been inundated, and even homes that were not flooded in those areas were inaccessible to the residents except by boat or high-wheel vehicle. A few neighborhoods could not be entered at all because live electric wires were lying in water. Floodwaters remained high for more than two weeks after the hurricane. The duration of the flooding was complicated by debris that got caught under the bridges of rivers (and served as dams), and by the natural “sheet flow” of water that moves through Florida from north to south. Bonita Springs has had serious flooding in these areas before, but this was the worst—made so by the double-punch of the storms of late August followed by the September hurricane.



FEMA Town Hall meeting at FPC on September 22.

- **Structural damage to homes:** The greatest amount of damage to homes was seen on the most vulnerable parts of the structure: lanais, screens, and pool cages. Many will need to be replaced. A comparatively smaller number of homes had roof shingles or tiles blown off, and some homes experienced roof damage due to trees or utility poles falling on them. The basic structures themselves came through the Category 3 storm in remarkably good shape. The wisdom of the stringent Florida building codes, the toughest in the nation, were proven by how well we came through this storm—which was nearly a worst-case scenario. The most vulnerable homes, predictably, proved to be the mobile homes and modular homes, some of which experienced significant wind damage.
- **Initial challenges of mobility and services:** All who were in Southwest Florida during and immediately after Irma had to deal with the challenges of driving through neighborhoods (flooding and downed trees in roads), with a shortage of gasoline and essential supplies at stores (a few stores with generators could operate on a limited basis on reduced power starting Monday, September 11), and with difficulties communicating with the outside world. Some communities also had problems for several days with their plumbing. Boil water notices were common. Most of Collier County alerts were lifted by September 20.

The Response to Irma

The people of our area are hardy, resilient and determined. Neighbors immediately rallied to help one another and check on one another; the spirit of mutual support and “we’re all in this together” remains very strong. Along with inconveniences, disruptions of routine, and the loss of property, there is a prevailing sense of gratitude to God and relief that there was negligible personal injury and no direct loss of life from the storm. We made it through, and we will be stronger for what we have experienced.

Because of the massive scale of the storm (crossing the entire state) and the already-stretched national resources from Hurricane Harvey two weeks earlier, it is understandable that recovery help from outside our communities has been slower to arrive than we would have liked. Local governments and first responders have worked very hard and have served commendably. The visiting utility crews deserve great credit, working long days in very hot and uncomfortable conditions. (I personally spoke with one crew from New York and another from Tennessee.) Samaritan’s Purse and other charitable and relief groups arrived quickly. Their volunteers began to assess the damage to homes and provide emergency water, food, and other supplies to people who were displaced or in distress. Landscaping crews have been busy cutting up and stacking trees; roofers and some federal staff from the Army Corps of Engineers started giving out blue tarps to homes and businesses. Contractors are just beginning the process of repairing damaged homes. The immediate response to the storm is now transitioning to

long-term recovery efforts, which will last for months or even years.

Our congregation has committed to a partnership with the City of Bonita Springs, other churches of our community, local and national non-profits, and our cooperative ministry “Love In the Name of Christ” (Love INC) to spearhead a long-term recovery effort. We have created a special fund and our congregation members, with their contacts and web of relationships nationwide, have been very generous in raising cash to be used to help those in our area who stand in need in Irma’s aftermath. Our primary focus is the working class of our community. Many of them experienced greater damage (and even destruction) of their homes than the majority of our congregation, many are also under-insured, are renters rather than owners, do not have an adequate financial cushion to handle an emergency, and are wage-dependent. These are the people most in need of our help. Love INC will be vetting and assessing the needs. A “Community Relief Team” of volunteers from our congregation will be working in the months ahead to assist individuals and families with both financial and practical help. The recovery of our area will be complicated by the fact that some of the homes that were flooded are in an historically flood-prone area, and the city and county may determine that it is wiser to not rebuild them. We will have to follow the lead of our government officials on those decisions.

Damage at First Church

The damage to the First Church facilities from Hurricane Irma consisted of the following, in order of significance: (1) A corner of the sanctuary roof was impacted, resulting in some water leakage; once the roof is repaired, some areas of the sanctuary wall and ceiling on the southwest side of the sanctuary will need to be replaced; (2) An air conditioning unit on the roof of the sanctuary was damaged and will need to be replaced; capacity for cooling in the sanctuary is somewhat reduced until that can be completed; (3) Some flashing on the steeple was torn off; (4) Three light poles in the parking lot were snapped, and a number of trees around the perimeter of the church were toppled. (Thankfully, one year earlier we had removed several large oak and banyan trees from our parking area and replaced them with small trees. Had we not done so, they probably would have come down in the storm); (5) Some other areas with minor roof leaks were found in various locations of the building. The damage to the church will all be covered by our insurance policy, minus the deductible. We are grateful for the comparatively small impact. Our ministries should all be resuming per normal as we move into the coming season.



Personal Reflections About a Hurricane and Its Aftermath

The leaders of First Church were invited by the EPISTLE to offer brief personal experiences and thoughts about the recent natural disaster that struck our community.

To Leave or Stay; That Was the Question

Waiting for the weatherman to accurately predict the path of Hurricane Irma proved to be quite a challenge. Once determined, the many horror stories on I-75 coupled with the lack of gasoline convinced us to stay. We had always said our block house was like a bunker and we were about to find out.

We stayed next door, with very gracious neighbors who had just recently installed a whole house generator. Power went out at 7 PM on Sunday just as we were in the eye of the storm. The generator kicked in immediately, keeping us with light and air conditioning.

Monday morning, we assessed the damage: downed trees, broken roof tiles, and flooded roads throughout our community. All inconvenient but not serious. Power was restored some 63 hours later (Wednesday morning).

Here is what we learned:

1. We re-discovered the radio to receive information from the outside world.
2. Our smart phones became our only method of communication.
3. We observed cooperation within and between communities; people were helping people, and we were fortunate to participate in this wonderful experience.
4. Volunteerism continues today.

What got us through? We prayed and read our Bibles a lot, particularly these two passages:

“The Lord will keep you from harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” Psalm 121:7-8

“For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear: I will help you.” Isaiah 41:13

Hurricane Irma brought people together. We are the hands and feet of the Church, the Body of Christ. It's what we do. Blessed be the Lord.

– JOHN N. CARDWELL

Jesus Would Be There

My wife Janet and I have been through several hurricanes in the past years but never one like Irma. This was a monster, but we finally decided to stay in our house and ride out the storm. This was a significant, anxiety-producing decision since many friends and neighbors had left and urged us to leave as well. Why did we stay? We felt we could better control the situation at home—and who wanted to be in an I-75 traffic jam during a hurricane?

The hype on the radio/internet was that the storm surge was now a potential reality in our previously no flood (zone “X”) area. This was a fear we had never faced before. The power went out and we huddled in the interior closet with our Bible, *Jesus Calling* and *Jesus Today*, water, two flashlights, and snacks. We were clearly anxious, but nothing helped us more than focusing on the Lord. By doing that, everything else seemed to melt away and not to matter. We knew that whatever happened, Jesus would be there with us and we had nothing to fear. Sure, we might lose some of our “stuff” but stuff is just temporary, God is eternal. He was and is the One Who gave us strength that horrible day. But the key, and what we may often overlook, is that He does this everyday of our lives, whether we deserve it or not. Focusing on Him is the most important thing we can do.

Before, during, and after the storm friends contacted us with their concerns and prayers. It was truly gratifying. Our few neighbors who stayed pulled together to unselfishly help each other. In the aftermath, we gave thanks to the Lord for getting us through relatively unscathed. Yes, we were blessed and now it is our duty to help others. As in all things, the Lord will guide us.

– MIKE GREENE

He Who Will Sustain You

I was fortunate enough to have help from a friend in putting up shutters and preparing for the storm. The day Irma hit, the “Verse of the Day” was Isaiah 46:4: “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” I decided to stay at my house knowing the Lord was with me. Psalm 23 was my prayer throughout the storm!

After the storm, I was amazed at how the neighborhood came together and helped each other with generator connections, clean up, and encouragement. Our differences did not seem to matter.

To God I am thankful; thankful that He is MY God! He protected us all from the storm surge predicted by the forecasters and got us through “another” storm in life. He will help us also with the rebuilding. Praise be to His name!

My question before, during and after Irma is: What does it take for us, as a people, to get back with God? (Hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, bomb threats...)

– MARIA KARL



Reinforced by His Word

Lila and I had convinced ourselves mid-week before Hurricane Irma arrived that our 11-year-old, Miami-Dade County Code Compliant house would do okay in a Category 3 Hurricane. As the week wound down it became apparent that Irma was headed our way and that we could be faced with a Category 4 storm and a potentially significant storm surge.

Because we had a generator and a home we felt safe in, we invited a couple to ride out the storm with us. Then on Saturday morning we received a robo-call alerting us that we were in Zone “A” of the flood plain and that Lee County had issued a mandatory evacuation. We heeded the notice and made plans to seek shelter elsewhere, where we safely rode out the storm.

Sunday morning when I woke up—quite anxious, I might add, because of the sounds of the increasing winds and pounding rain—I started my day, as I always do, reading my devotionals. The September 10 devotional from *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young started with “I am always available to you,” based on Matthew 28:19-20, the last sentence of which ends, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Suffice it to say that Lila and I had our courage reinforced by His Word and safely endured Irma’s fury. We were blessed with no damage to our home. How providential to have read that devotional on the day Irma came through Lee County.

– DAVE NICHOLS



Deacons and church volunteers are busy helping the residents of Citrus Park in Bonita which was hard hit by Irma’s winds and water damage. The cleanup is overwhelming to the many who have lost so much. Removing debris, gathering water-drenched belongings and cleaning our refrigerators is all done while ministering in the name of Christ.

What Lasts Forever

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

– Matthew 6:19

Whether you evacuated or remained in Southwest Florida, you probably considered this question in some manner: What is essential to preserve and what would not be catastrophic to lose?

As Lauren, Lucy, Bella, David, and I packed up necessities in preparation to head north, I was struck by the items we left behind. This made me think about the priority that we put on possessions and how much that priority is dependent upon our phase in life.

What belongings were important to you five years ago? Ten years ago? If you are like me, prized possessions have shifted over time... perhaps our obsession with possessions is misplaced. If the stuff that seemed important five years ago is not today, then maybe the stuff that is so important today, will not be tomorrow.

Given this—and though I don’t often make declarative statements—here it goes: Relationships are what are truly important in this life. Our most vital relationship is with God through Jesus Christ; relationships with family, friends, and community flow from that most significant relationship.

When our hearts are with God, our treasures are not found in the possessions that we can never take with us into the life to come. Rather, they are in the relationships which will endure forever. This means that our greatest priority ought to be ensuring, not that our “stuff” is safe, but that our relationships are eternal.

Through Irma, God has given us a remarkable opportunity to do this. Is there someone in your life that you would love to share eternity with? Introduce them to Jesus and that relationship will continue through this life and into the life to come. So perhaps the question in our hurricane kit should not be, “what” would you bring with you, but “who” would you bring with you?

– PASTOR BRAD ROGERS

Sure of One Thing

First, I need to say, “Praise the Lord!” We had little damage as did my daughter and her family in Miami. We listened for days and worried about what we should do: go east to Miami or harbor loved ones in Bonita. Should we evacuate? Is it too late?

This reminded me of the song lyrics, “East is east and west is west and the wrong one I have chose.” We were only sure of one thing... that Irma would hit Florida. So we made the decision to each stay in our own homes. I kept hearing the verse, Matthew 6:34: “Don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” Irma did bring trouble for so many.

After the storm, I felt blessed to have the prayers of our church members (near and far) and to see the compassion, helping, and caring of so many. This made me think of Philippians 4:6-7: “With prayer, petition and thanksgiving The peace of God will guard us.”

My hope and prayer is that those who need to rebuild will feel God at their side, guarding them.

– DONNA TENFELDE





Recovery of Hope

Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness! – Lamentations 3:21-23

Having weathered the storm, by God's grace, the immediate aftermath brought a new reality to daily life in Bonita: the sights and sounds and smells and experiences were constant reminders of how much had changed. This is the first time that I can remember living in a community recovering from a natural disaster. And while pictures may capture the storm's destruction, they fall short of communicating the emotional toll. Life as we knew it on Labor Day weekend 2017 is now a distant memory. Yet I still dare to hope.

Two images in particular made an impression on me. One was the sight of a fleet of power company vehicles rolling down Bonita Beach Road. Workers came from all over the country to help restore power to southwest Florida. This was hope on a grand scale, evidence of the Lord's great love. While I would have liked to thank each worker personally, I learned to use this recurring sight as a prompt to

thank God for their presence and sacrifice, to pray for their safety, and to ask for guidance for those coordinating the operation.

God's "compassions" are sometimes described as tender mercies, and I delighted in these every day. A beautiful sunrise, a cup of hot coffee from a stranger, neighbors helping neighbors, a place to cool off and rest. But it was something in the Home Depot parking lot that summed up for me the essence of God's compassions. We had just pulled in for yet another visit to the store, when I noticed a bright orange truck off to one side. "Tide Loads of Hope" identified it as a mobile laundry, offering to wash clothes for free! I'm not sure what I loved more: the concept behind it—that having clean clothes helps to restore one's sense of normalcy and dignity—or the clever name, Loads of Hope. What a sweet blessing!

In the aftermath of Irma, we were loved, empowered and washed clean ... sounds like good news to me! My hope abounds.

– DONABETH URICK

Irma's Wrath

There was no doubt—Irma was vast and deadly. As an organized couple, Jerry and I carefully prepared for the inevitable and convinced our two children that we would be okay to ride it out.

On Friday, we received their voice mail messages: “Mom & Dad, the storm is not going up the east coast; it is forecast to hit you in the face. Please reconsider your situation.” We were not concerned about our home blowing away, but the threat of storm surge and major flooding was frightening. A mandatory evacuation notice had been issued for Zone B. With visions of rapidly rising water vivid in our minds, we decided to go.

Our precious cat, Pippa (a munchkin Persian), was a strong factor in our evacuation process. The pet-friendly shelters nearby were full, but within the next 70 minutes, we were able to secure a pet-friendly motel ... in Gainesville. Frazzled, we packed up Pippa along with all our necessities.

The usual 4-hour trip to Gainesville took nearly eight; we arrived about 10 PM. Imagine our horror as we unpacked the car and discovered that we had left our plastic tub of valuable papers and cash behind along with the bottled water, but there was no going back. Saturday morning we succeeded in finding gas (after five stations), purchased water at a 7/11, and prepared to hunker down with Pippa. The fate of the plastic tub would be determined by Irma.



Pippa: This tiny little munchkin (she is standing) wouldn't have a prayer in a flood!

This story does have a happy ending. Upon our return, we had no flooding and our plastic tub was still sitting where we had left it. We were without power for five days, but friends with power offered us their condominium so we had a comfortable place to sleep.

Truly, there is no right or wrong answer for survival in a storm like Irma. Many of our friends went to shelters. But with the pet-friendly shelters full, we had to leave Southwest Florida because of Pippa. We learned later that, although many places were not advertised as “pet-friendly,” they indeed were. Had we known, we could have spared ourselves the tough trip north.

– SHARON WEISENAUER



Tears of Thanks

Natural disasters have several things in common, but always a “Call to Action.” Typically, we follow this call via TV coverage and charitable fund raisers. On occasion, we are the ones on TV. Our community is fortunate to have the Red Cross, Samaritan’s Purse, the Salvation Army, and many local organizations available to offer their assistance. Even with their incredible support, it is still not enough. The Call to Action becomes personal.

Media coverage of Irma has focused on the destruction across Southwest Florida. There are many different levels of destruction. I lost the red flag on my mail box, neighbors lost lanai and pool screens. Others lost everything. Money alone does not answer their needs. Volunteers, as the Body of Christ, are summoned into action, not by the victims, but by God. Jesus said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” My wife’s favorite expression is, “To love another person is to see the face of God.” When volunteers come face-to-face with these residents, they do see the face of God and they become His hands and feet.

Many of our church family not only volunteered, but led tirelessly, even 24/7. They led others into action and they led by example. I can’t begin to list them, but we know them. This was not their first chance to lead, but rather their way of life... helping and serving others.

FPC members were led into areas of destruction; in some cases, unimaginable destruction. These leaders and volunteers are making an incredible difference as disciples of Christ. Some residents have to be consoled when their saturated family Bible or prayer book is tossed into a dumpster. Refrigerators are cleaned out, scattered roofing tiles collected, and ruined belongings removed. The cleanup is overwhelming. It takes teams of dedicated workers to help put these lives back together. When the volunteers leave, these residents shed tears of thanks, not tears of a victim. I can only imagine that God had some tears, too.

– SCOTT FLAIG

As committed Christians, Samaritan’s Purse staff and volunteers serve in the vital role of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of those in despair following a disaster. First Church supports the ministry of Samaritan’s Purse. Many church members are currently volunteering to help with relief efforts locally. SP’s base of operation is located at Center Point Church in Naples, 6590 Golden Gate Pkwy. Volunteers may sign up as part of a recovery team for a half or full day. *See Page 12 for signup instructions.*



Paul Spinka, site manager for Samaritan’s Purse, working with his team of volunteers at a Fort Myers home post-Irma.

Samaritan’s Purse in Southwest Florida

Church member Paul Spinka serves on the Site Management Team for Samaritan’s Purse. This evangelical Christian humanitarian aid non-profit always hits the ground running, often the first to respond in the name of Christ after a catastrophic event. SP currently has a response base in Naples, Florida to aid those affected by Hurricane Irma.

Since Irma hit, Paul has been working incessantly at locations in Bonita Springs and Fort Myers (to name a few), helping homeowners deal with damage both inside and outside their homes after the floodwaters receded. Trained for national disaster relief at the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville, NC, he says the prime purpose of his SP team is to give people hope for the future.

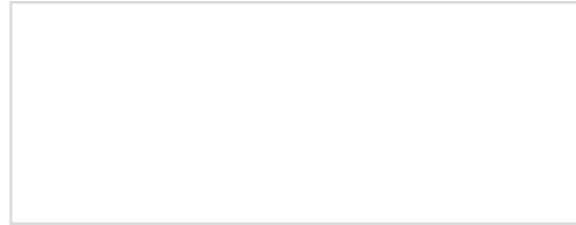
“When I lead a team of volunteers, I tell them that we will be praying a lot today,” Paul said. “If anyone has a problem with that, all I can suggest is that they pray about it.”

The team’s focus is to provide immediate relief and, more often than not, this includes listening to the homeowner, offering spiritual comfort and demonstrating God’s compassion. “Cleaning out the home is secondary,” Paul said. “New volunteers are always told, ‘Never let the homeowner stand alone.’ Our most important job is to minister to those who are hurting so they can begin to pick up the pieces. This is our priority.”



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Irma – Ongoing Recovery

First Church has established an Irma Community Relief Team (ICRT) consisting of volunteers from our church led by Pastor Paul Fahnestock. Through the local Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) organization, churches will receive requests to help with the verified needs of families and individuals. At FPC, the ICRT will be tasked with evaluating requests associated with hurricane relief and organize all aspects of meeting those needs.

How You Can Help...

- 1) Donate to the Irma Community Relief Fund**
Make your check out to First Presbyterian Church designating **Irma Community Relief** in the memo line and place it in the offering plate during Sunday worship or mail it to the church. You may also donate online at our website, fpcbonita.org, or at the giving kiosks located in the Narthex. Select the category name **Irma Community Relief**. 100% of your donation will be used for relief assistance to residents in our community.
- 2) Volunteer at Love INC**
Commit to a half-day each week for the next three months. You will receive orientation to work with the Love INC staff in the process of interviewing clients by telephone to verifying needs, and help with assigning those needs to our local churches and service organizations. To set up your volunteer orientation, contact Love INC at 239-405-8595, 9AM-12 Noon, Monday through Friday.

3) Volunteer with Samaritan's Purse

Commit to a half or full day serving as part of a recovery team. Local volunteers can start by attending the orientation at Center Point Community Church (6590 Golden Gate Parkway, 239-860-1352) in Naples at 7:30 AM for a full day or 12 noon for a half day. Then assignments are given with an SP Staff Site Coordinator and a team of volunteers.



Stay Informed

To keep up with the latest news and information on local recovery efforts in our community, visit the church website at fpcbonita.org. We will list all the ways you can help, including current volunteer opportunities, special projects and ongoing needs. In addition to cleanup assistance, Spanish-English translators are in high demand.