



Back row, l to r: Joe (UMC employee), Russ Rankin (First Franklin), Joseph Pritchard (First Morganton), Ken Unnasch (Long Creek Pres., Kings Mountain), Phil Trick (First Hickory), Bob Abel (Hayesville Pres.), Derwin Nelson (First Hickory), Sue (UMC employee). Front row, l to r: Sue Unnasch (Long Creek Pres., Kings Mountain), Bobbi Trick (First Hickory), Joanne Mitchell (Southminster, Gastonia). Seated: Tommy Gilbert (UMC Worksite Coordinator). Not pictured: Melvin Meares (Hickory First), Ann Greenlee, Jean Markley and Sally Copeland (First Highlands), Ben and Morganna LeBoutillier (First Hickory).

PWNC Spring 2022 Disaster Assistance Trip to Canton, NC May 1-6, 2022

On Sunday, May 1, nine volunteers from seven PWNC churches gathered at the Canton Presbyterian Church where we would be spending the week. Their Pastor, Esta Jarrett, and the church had graciously extended the invitation for our team to use their kitchen and fellowship hall for our meals, rooms in the church for sleeping, and a couple of showers and bathrooms for clean up after long days of work in the community. Back in August of last year, large amounts of rain caused flooding in Haywood County. Many homes had been damaged, and two organizations were working to help restore these homes: Baptists On Mission and the North Carolina United Methodist Disaster Response Organization, with whom we would be working on three houses. During the week, our volunteers would paint and replace doors, put down a laminate floor, repair drywall, repair faulty electrical outlets, paint walls, put up molding, replace a window, pressure wash, repair cabinets, and more. The fellowship that happens on these disaster assistance trips among team members as we live and work together, eat and worship together, is really wonderful.

Because we were so close to other Presbyterian Churches in our Presbytery, we were able to welcome volunteers who could only spend a day or two working with us to learn more about what serving on a disaster assistance team is all about. We were most appreciative that the Waynesville First Presbyterian Church and the Canton Presbyterian Church women, and the good folks at the Cruso UMC provided us with a delicious supper meal on three of the days. Before we left Canton, the team decided that we would like to come back in the Fall to continue helping this flood damaged community within our Presbytery get back into their repaired homes. Information about the Fall trip will be forthcoming.

