

**PWNC DISASTER ASSISTANCE TRIP TO NEW BERN, NC
OCTOBER 6-12, 2019**



Our team consisted of (f row) Roger Rizk, FPC Gastonia; Betsy Keith, FPC Gastonia; Russ Rankin, Hayesville Pres.; (b row) Joanne Mitchell, Southminster Gastonia; Bob Abel, Hayesville Pres.; Chuck Shelton, Morrison Pres. Franklin; Brian Schroeder, FPC Gastonia; and Wanda Murchison, Southminster Gastonia.



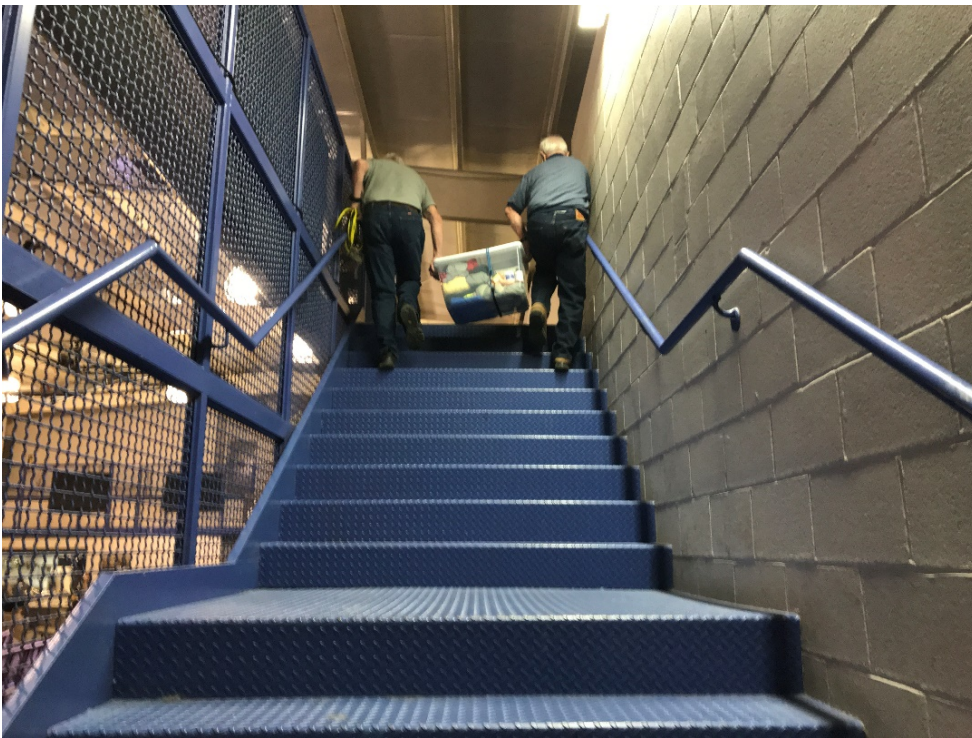
Our host site was the Cornerstone Church in New Bern.



Their sanctuary/educational building was ruined by Hurricane Florence in September 2018, so every activity now takes place in their large multipurpose building.



On Sunday evening, we were welcomed by our three leaders (John, Rusty and Emily) from Fuller Disaster Rebuilders, the organization restoring homes in the New Bern area PDA is working with. Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat, started this organization when there was a falling out with Habitat leadership.



Our bedrooms and bathrooms were up on the balcony; four showers in the bathroom on the first floor.



Trinity and husband Shawn served us delicious meals Sunday – Tuesday evenings. We ate out Wednesday evening, and ate left-overs Thursday and Friday.



However, they did appreciate it when members of our group (Russ and Chuck here) helped with clean-up and dish washing.



Each evening, our team enjoyed a time of sharing thoughts from our day and having a devotional.



Betty and her husband, Herman, have been living in this FEMA trailer placed in their yard for over a year. Fuller started to help restore their house three months ago.



Our first experience of their house was building materials and tools everywhere we looked, outside on the porch, in the yard, and inside the house. We had to spend a large portion of our first day just clearing the inside rooms so we could work.



Roger, Betsy, Wanda and Joanne began putting up inside doors and adding door knobs.



Betsy did lots of inside painting during the week.



Painting and cleaning the new floors (paint and drywall mud had been tracked onto the floors by previous teams) occupied lots of Joanne's time.



Chuck tackled putting up a new microwave in the kitchen. He's talking to Tia, a Fuller helper we enjoyed getting to know.



One of the bigger projects was to add a landing and steps onto the back porch of the house. Brian and Russ got to work figuring out how best to do it.





This was the finished product of the labors of our team.



As always, Russ was called on to work his magic with drywall and mud several places in the house. Here, he's patching up some areas in the laundry area of the bathroom which had been mis-measured and wouldn't accommodate the washer and dryer without some "demolition" by Hugh, a Fuller helper, and reconstruction by Russ.



The other large project was replacing a portion of the front porch which had rotted out.



Rusty thought it would look best if all the old boards, from the steps to the front door, were replaced. Wanda takes a turn at screwing down the new decking boards.



Brian is proud of the work our team did to make the front porch safer and look nicer.



On Friday afternoon, the Fuller Disaster Rebuilders leaders had a service of celebration and dedication of the renovated house for Betty and Herman and their family. They had hoped it would be totally finished (C.O. etc.) when they set this date, but there were still a few things left for the next group to finish.



Betty and her family hadn't been in the house since most of the work had been completed, and they were very pleased and thankful with what they saw.



On Wednesday afternoon we took in some of the sights of New Bern and did some shopping. For supper we chose the Captain Ratty's Restaurant and had our picture taken by a passerby with one of the numerous bear statues throughout the town ("Bern" means "bear" is Sweedish, the nationality of the town's founder.)



In our travels around New Bern, we saw a number of rather large houses near the rivers (the Trent and Neuse Rivers go through the city, which, when backed-up by a large storm, cause the flooding) jacked up more than 8 feet so that a new foundation can be built underneath to prevent future flooding.

