

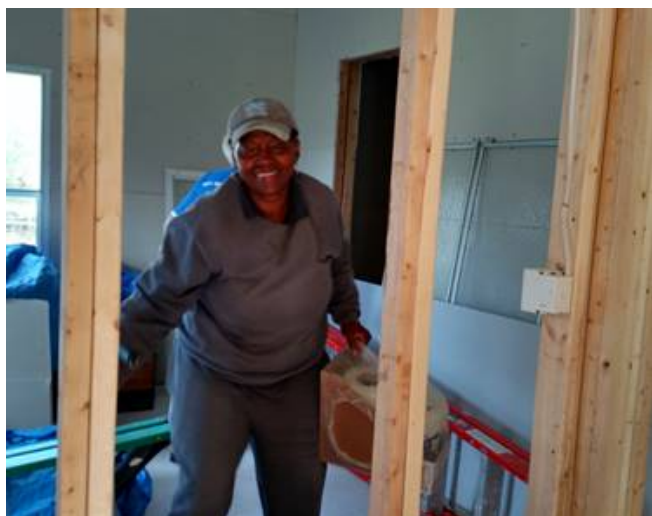
Greetings!!

I can't believe a week has already gone by since we got back home from our mission trip to Wilmington. I had good intentions of getting this out to everyone sooner, but.....

We arrived in Wilmington, NC Sunday afternoon and got settled into our rooms at First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington. Same church we stayed at in the spring of this year. Very comfortable accommodations with individual rooms for one to three people, each with a half bath in the room. Nice for those of us on the older side of life. Everyone was there by dinner time on Sunday, except Ben Hill and Dave Rowe, who got stuck in bad traffic and was delayed. (Yes, we waited for them to eat dinner!) But finally, we were all safely there, and our week started.

We met with Mike Moser and the NCBOM in Burgaw, NC Monday morning where the warehouse is located and got our assignment. There are still so many homes that are in the queue to work on. Progress is being made, but it is slow. Mike pleaded with us to come back again.

We would be working on the house of Darlene Daniels, a very sweet lady we all got to know and love. Darlene was there with us every day and was ready to fetch whatever we needed. She even made a couple of runs to a local hardware store to get some supplies so we could keep working. Her ready smile, laughter, and words of encouragement and thanks made us feel like we had known each other for years. Darlene's home had water damage, not from deep standing water but from the roof. Shingles let go and in came the rain. So, the house had to be gutted, all the drywall and insulation removed. A new metal roof has since been installed, insulation replaced, electrical wiring done, and some drywall installed.



Our main tasks were to put up drywall and work on the plumbing, reworking the master bathroom. We had two members of our team that were experts in drywall and plumbing, Russ Rankin and Dave Rowe. They kept us on task and through the week many sheets of drywall were installed, mudded and taped, water lines replaced under the house, and a new shower stall and tub installed. My thanks to Dave for not needing me to crawl under the house with him.



Russ had two helpers, Phil Trick and Ben Hill, and between them they made serious progress in the drywall installation. Oh, and let's don't forget about removing old ceramic tile and replacing some rotten flooring in the front bathroom, in the washer/dryer/water heater area, and near the back door. Chuck Shelton and Dale Sticka can tell you all about that!!



We enjoyed good food and fellowship during lunch and in the evenings, everyone pitching in and helping wherever it was needed. Couldn't ask for a better team!



Such a rewarding trip! We accomplished so much in the five days we were there, but it is sometimes hard to not see all that still must be done for Darlene to get back in her house. Fortunately, she lives very close, almost next door, at her mother's home. On top of all that Darlene suffered from the storm damage, she and her sister take care of their mother. Darlene has been out of her house for a year now, but that hasn't dampened her spirits and hope, that she will one day soon be back in her home.



Thanks to a great team! I'm rested and recovered, and ready to go hope to see all of you again.

Until next time,
Bobbi