



cbf Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Forming Together
 Louisiana

Members of University and Mt. Olive Churches at Worship

January 26 2017 - cbfla.org

Reaching Across Aisles and Communities in Partnership

Update on Disaster Ministry With Greater Mt. Olive Church - by Mike Massar CBF-LA Coordinator

Ron Fairley and Alan Williams of the CBF Disaster Relief Team cautioned us to be patient, because flood recovery takes a long time - the average is somewhere between three and five years. We are trying to remind ourselves of this valuable advice in our partnership with Greater Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church and its surrounding community.

As you may remember, in August of 2016 that community was flooded by five feet of water. The church sustained quite a bit of damage, but the membership has a resilient spirit and has been dedicated to the church's rebuilding. The Rev. S.C. Dixon, Pastor at Greater Mount Olive, has been a joy to work with, and so appreciative of our efforts.

The process has been slowed by the effort to make sure that the things we do are done properly. In accordance with that philosophy we have had to make sure that everything that has been planned meets the approval of zoning laws and procedures. An architect has been secured to assist us in that effort, as well as an environmental engineer. We needed the environmental engineer's expertise to make sure that all mold had been removed from the building. We didn't want to go in and remodel and then discover mold developing in the walls.

In addition, we have discovered that a lot of the work that needs to be done at Greater Mount Olive is going to require more expertise than volunteers can ordinarily give.

For instance, the walls in the sanctuary were made of a particular plaster that can only be repaired by professionals. Currently, we are awaiting plans from the architect that will allow us to develop work teams.

In the meantime, a sense of community is taking place. Broadmoor and University Baptist Churches stepped in to give

Christmas gifts to the children of Greater Mount Olive and the community. CBF Louisiana is taking the lead in pew renovation for the church's sanctuary. And on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday the Greater Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church joined University Baptist Church for a wonderful morning of worship and fellowship.

The old proverb given a Christian slant by the poet George Herbert seems appropriate for CBF-LA's work with Greater Mount Olive

Missionary Baptist Church: "The mill of God grinds slow, but exceedingly fine." We are moving slowly but surely in the direction of new beginnings for the church and relationships between the churches. Please keep praying for the work.



Pastors S.C. Dixon (& wife Jacquie) and Mike Massar (& wife Lisa)

Give to:
The Pew Project



\$1,000 buys a pew for Mount Olive which had five feet of water in it, destroying all of its pews during the BR flood. Give at cbfla.org or CBF-LA, The Pew Project, 520 Olive St. Shreveport, LA 71104

The last few months have been eventful in East Carroll Parish. The community gathered together on multiple occasions for the Thanksgiving Service and the Community Choir's Christmas program.

Both events were lovely and made for a great way to usher in the holidays. TFH-LA also hosted a small Christmas party for the Art Club



Christmas Program

students at General Trass. The students were greatly appreciative to be able to share a meal together in the run up to exams and the Christmas break.

The GED course at Louisiana Delta Community



Art Club

College is picking up steam as word spreads through the community that this opportunity is available. The number of students with whom I've been able to work through this partnership has grown from five in the first week to almost twenty within the early weeks of January. Please continue to pray for these women and men as they work very hard and



by Marc Boswell, CBF-LA Together for Hope Director

New Year Greetings from Lake Providence!



study to earn their degree.

Also, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) has launched an initiative in the Northeastern Louisiana parishes to help them become "Louisiana Development Ready Communities." I'm working with other community members through the mayor's office to complete a strategic plan that will earn the town of Lake Providence this designation through LED. The goal is to develop the plan so as to be purposeful about the many facets that contribute to the health and flourishing of the Lake Providence community.

Lastly, it was a joy to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. service at Progressive Chapel Baptist Church on January 16. Progressive Chapel graciously worked with TFH-LA and Woodland Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky, over the summer, letting us use their facilities for the day camp hosted by Woodland. The community listened to guest choirs, a guest speaker, and many different youth representatives.

Please continue to pray for the mission and ministries of the many different leaders and agencies in Lake Providence and East Carroll Parish, including our own. Obstacles and challenges are present, but there continues to be a willingness of spirit to work hard and remain dedicated to loving our neighbors and lifting up one another.



MLK Service



Picture God's Love
Give to CBF-LA

___ CBF-LA Ministry Budget \$ _____ ___ New Church Start \$ _____
 ___ Together for Hope Rural Poverty \$ _____ ___ Disaster Relief \$ _____
 ___ Hope (Missionary) Fund \$ _____ Other: _____ \$ _____

Your name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____

State ___ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Make checks payable to CBF-LA, Finance Office, c/o Sabra Hicks,
 520 Olive Street, Shreveport, LA 71104 Give online at cbfla.org

CBF-LA STAFF

Mike Massar,
 Coordinator
 mikem@ubc-br.org
 225-766-9474

Kyle Kelley,
 Communications
 cbflouisiana@gmail.com
 318-780-4127

Marc Boswell,
 Together for Hope
 mjboswell3@gmail.com
 252-363-8098