

## *Charlotte District E-Pistle*

September 24, 2005

Many of our members throughout the Charlotte District have expressed an interest in participating in a Disaster Recovery Team that is sponsored and trained by the Annual Conference and goes in response to an appeal from church leaders in the affected region. Please let your people know that the WNC Conference is holding another Early Responder/Disaster Recovery Team member training session on Tuesday evening, October 4 from **6:00 pm until 9:00 pm** at Myers Park United Methodist Church - 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC. For directions to the church, click here: [http://www.mpumc.org/mpumc/directions\\_map](http://www.mpumc.org/mpumc/directions_map)

Larry Pryor, a veteran response team leader from Providence UMC, and Steve James, Associate Pastor at Myers Park, will be leading the event.

To register your planned attendance, e-mail Elaine Soutullo at [esoutullo@mpumc.org](mailto:esoutullo@mpumc.org).

The event is free of charge. It is open to all adults without regard to denomination. This or a similar training is required for those desiring to go to disaster affected areas to provide aid and assistance. Teams are being formed in the coming weeks with leadership from around the annual conference. This training is an opportunity for you and your members to be made available for one of our many teams that will be going into the region affected by the recent hurricanes. Key elements covered in the training include:

- \* The process of disaster response and the role of Early Response/Disaster Recovery Teams,
- \* The emotional and spiritual components of disaster recovery,
- \* Safety and health issues,
- \* What to expect in a disaster response experience,
- \* Leadership and team organization.

I am personally grateful to the fine leadership each of our pastors is providing in the mobilization of our Charlotte District churches with ministries of compassion on behalf of the many evacuees in the Gulf region. The many stories from your experiences are far too numerous for us to record; but our people are being enriched by this opportunity to be the healing and consoling Body of Christ in these crucial times.

Grace and peace,

*George*