

*The Board of Missions Contractors*  
*North Carolina Conference, UMC*  
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012

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## Welcome !

It is our hope that this newsletter finds you well.

We are having a wonderful, productive and blessed 2012, and we thought it would be a good time to bring you up to date on what we have accomplished, where we are, and what we anticipate for the months and year and a half ahead of us.

With your help, we exist to be in service to the construction needs of all of our members of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church by providing consultation, design, construction and renovation assistance in our combined ministries.



The new rose window for St. George UMC  
The cross & flame of the UMC rising from the wings  
of the Phoenix – as a sign of rebirth.



It is the volunteer who is the heart of our  
ministry.....

.....Jason Frashure &  
Bryan Frye are here lending a hand  
with the construction of the Crossroads  
United Methodist Church in the  
Rockfish Community, near Hope Mills,  
south of Fayetteville.

## The Crossroads United Methodist Church project:

In what started out as a metal pre-fab building for a non-denominational Christian community, the planners of Crossroads came together, purchased the property and dreamed the dream of how to reach out to this area of Cumberland County, growing like a wild fire as Fayetteville's suburban sprawl pushes south with subdivision after subdivision. It's a new suburban environment, where agricultural fields were the rule of the day; and is now being peopled by young, college educated, military, and growing, vibrant families and youth.

The existing metal building is being enveloped by a new, larger structure, combining new construction with renovation, to create a 9000 square foot facility divided into three basic areas of ministry. One is the combination assembly room ~ Sanctuary; one is a Parents-Morning-Out facility; and one is a coffee house ~ internet café selling fair-trade coffee.



We hit a lot of unexpected delays right from the start – weather, subs and suppliers; but all along we have been blessed by a great showing of volunteers every time they were needed. And it has been a blessing to work amidst a congregation and leadership team so on fire with the vision of ministry.

This project is being pushed as hard as it can be to try and have it complete by the first of November. We even occasionally hold Saturday volunteer work days. Always looking for volunteers beyond the Crossroads community! – so come on by. The project is located in the Rockfish community at 6781 Camden Rd., Hope Mills, NC. To enquire about volunteering, contact JP McGuire at [jpmcguire@nccumc.org](mailto:jpmcguire@nccumc.org), or, 919-920-7282.



## The St. George United Methodist Church project:



Built in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, St. George UMC is one of the oldest churches in the town of Maxton, NC. It is also on the Historic Register. And it is one of the earliest churches in the North Carolina Conference built as an African-American congregation following the end of the War Between the States.

It was wracked by a hurricane in the 1990's, in which it suffered structural damage that included throwing the building further out of plumb, and cracking several of the roof rafters. The building was rendered un-useable, and became doomed to years of neglect – due to a lack of financial resources – but – certainly not due to a lack of concern and love! Unfortunately through these years of neglect, the building was subjected to water inundation from a leaking roof and further structural deterioration. Dangerous mold grew rampant under the floors and in the walls. Bats moved into the attic – in the 100's!

The decision had to be made to either save the old structure, and thus an important piece of Maxton and North Carolina Conference history, or tear it down.

The decision was made to try and save the structure – and we have been met with success.

The initial assessment of the damage included:

- A destroyed roof
- Several broken roof rafters
- Broken floor joists
- Mold throughout
- Damaged Oak floors
- Damaged Oak pews
- A spreading frame causing a concern for a failing roof structure and back wall
- Out-dated electrical
- Out-dated plumbing
- No insulation
- Rodent infestation
- Termite damage
- Non-working HVAC
- No handicap accessibility
- Broken stained glass windows
- Etc., etc., etc!



*New doors crafted by hand in Raleigh from reclaimed 100 year-old Heart-pine lumber from an old textile mill.*



Active wood-destroying mold in the Narthex framing



Replaced structural wood framing in the Narthex



The Sanctuary – as we began, before demolition



The reframing process included complete wall coverage in OSB plywood. New tie-rods can be seen in the ceiling.



## The finished project!

For the complete story and photo bank, go to:  
<http://www.klipspringerstudios.com/Board-of-Missions-Contractors.html>

## **What's Next on the Calendar?:**

### **New Hope UMC \***

New Hope Community, Hertford, NC  
Interior Renovation:

**NOVEMBER 2012**

### **Clarks UMC**

Clarks Community, New Bern, NC  
Groundbreaking:  
New Sanctuary

**JANUARY 2013**

### **Evansdale UMC**

Evansdale Community, Wilson, NC  
Groundbreaking:  
Education Wing Expansion

**APRIL 2013**

### **Lake Waccamaw UMC**

Lake Waccamaw, NC  
Groundbreaking:  
New Fellowship hall

**OCTOBER 2013**

## **Other On-Going Needs for small teams of volunteers:**

### **Tabernacle UMC**

Speights Bridge, NC (near Wilson)  
Exterior painting – small, historic church in need of having lap-siding scraped and Re-painted. A team of 3-5 people could do this in 3-5 days.

### **\*New Hope UMC**

(Above)

While November may be the earliest we can get to this job, it is available now for a small team of volunteers to carry out. 2-4 people could accomplish this in 2-3 days: replacement of water damaged structural wood and cosmetic repairs. Inside work.

### **Trinity UMC**

Ingleside Community, Louisburg, NC  
Interior molding and cabinetry upgrades. Available anytime. 2-4 volunteers for 2-3 days.

For volunteer information on any of the above projects, contact JP McGuire at [jpmcguire@nccumc.org](mailto:jpmcguire@nccumc.org), or at 919-920-7282

# Where We Served In Foreign Missions in 2012:

(1)

## Armenia: the Karabagh Region with Project AGAPE

JP took a team of 5 volunteers to Armenia in July and August:

One of the programs of Project AGAPE is the operation of an orphanage in the village of Berdzor. Our team was able to establish a computer wi-fi network, bringing internet access to the entire AGAPE facility – primarily to serve the needs of the children in the orphanage. But with the only other internet café in Berdzor closing down the week after we arrived, this new capacity gives AGAPE just one more way to answer the needs of this impoverished community.



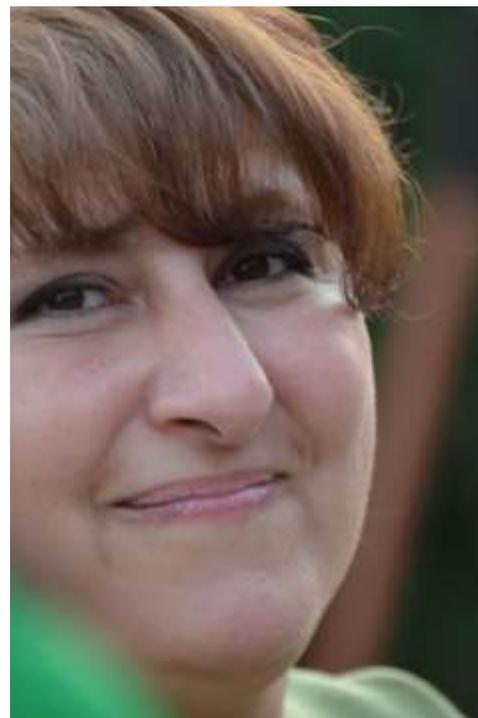
Project AGAPE also operates a warehouse facility for the distribution of clothing, food and household items to the people of the community in need; as well as storing the tools and supplies needed by the construction crews of volunteers that come to help. It is an old building and the roof has worn out – becoming full of leaks. Our task was to replace the roof – and we also discovered the need to replace the electrical service lines!



While serving in Armenia, we were also treated to accompany the Project AGAPE director, Nara Melkonyan (right) on her rounds of checking on the application, and living conditions, of the families who have applied for construction assistance.

The Karabagh region has suffered greatly from war, and most structures are bombed out ruins – in which people are trying to rebuilt their lives. Because Karabagh is independent – but recognized by Azerbaijan and the United States as a part of Azerbaijan – and is in reality, clandestinely, a part of Armenia (and Peopled by Armenians), there is no chance for economic development, and very little international assistance.

It is into this situation that the two United Methodist Conferences of North Carolina and Western North Carolina created the mission program of Project AGAPE. But due to budget cut-backs in the States, the program is in jeopardy.



These ruins are a home. There is no shelter provided by such ruins, but it is all a particular family has. At one end, there is a 70 square foot bathroom that still has walls, a floor and a roof. It is in this 7' X 10' room that a family of 5, mother and father and 3 children live.

In the summer time it is not too bad for them, as the weather in this part of Armenia is quite good for being able to live outdoors – except when it rains. But the winters are harsh and can be extremely cold. During these months the family must live in that 70 sq ft, day and night.



These construction projects end up having to wait on volunteer teams to come to Armenia to help – by providing the labor and the financial resources to make the needed renovations. But the number of teams going to Armenia has drastically fallen short. And so the suffering goes on. Unfortunately the story of this family is repeated over and over.

## Bolivia:

Gary attended a mission team to Bolivia in July.

For **eighteen years** now (!), members of the Native American Lumbee tribe, and the Prospect United Methodist Church, have been conducting mission teams to the area around Montero, Bolivia. Gary was able to go with them this year – on his second team experience with this committed group.

Over the years, the Lumbee mission team members have played key roles in the beginning of three medical clinics and they have constructed 41 new homes in one village – replacing the previous, parasite-infested homes. And now the team has begun replacing homes in a second village.

They have brought water and electricity to both of these villages, and have been instrumental in the development of three orphanages.

This year's efforts were directed at two of the orphanages and a clinic.



Pouring the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor concrete



Above: digging footings for the clinic.  
Left: repairing a kitchen



New temporary kitchen



Old orphanage kitchen

# Our Next Foreign Mission Opportunity

## Lesotho: 1-20 February 2013

Lesotho (Le-Sue-Too) is an independent kingdom completely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. The United Nations lists the Kingdom of Lesotho as one of the poorest nations on earth. Approximately 1/5 of the population is orphaned, mostly by AIDS; and since the country can not afford to care for these young children, many end up remaining in their homes - head of their own households - even as little kids.

Some of the local communities have taken it upon themselves to create what are called "support centers," where these children can come and play together in a safe environment, and where they can receive tutoring whenever such resources can be found.



One such support center is the Leratong Center in Roma. It was begun by village members, in conjunction with local business leaders and initially aided by Wittenberg University of Ohio.



In 2010 a team of 19 volunteers, coordinated through the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission program, and arranged through St. Matthew's UMC in Greenville, SC, went to Leratong to aide in the construction needs of the center. They brought with them many gifts, including a DVD player and TV, school supplies, books, etc., but most importantly, the gifts of their talents – as they shared with the children, and the adults of the village alike, their skills in knitting/crocheting, sewing, basket weaving, song-dance-play. And we all pitched in to build the center a second building to better serve the needs of these children.

A second volunteer team is now being planned for 2013. Anyone interested in attending should contact J.P. McGuire at [jpmcguire@nccumc.org](mailto:jpmcguire@nccumc.org), or at 919-920-7282.



Laying the blocks for the new building.

Teaching new sewing skills.





Teaching computer skills...

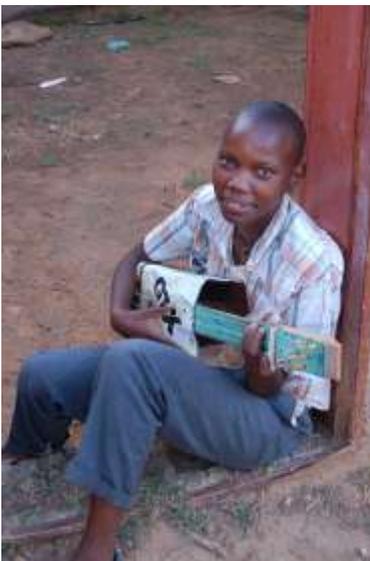


Teaching basket weaving...

The tale of two sets of orphaned twins:

These high school girls have lived in their parents home since they were about 7 years old. They have watched after themselves, and they have done well in school. One of the girls even attends a special high school for gifted children. Although they struggle now, not always knowing where their next meal may come from, they have a good chance for a better future.

Unfortunately that is not always the story.



These twin sisters, also in their teen years, have been living in the ruins of their family home since they were about 5 years old. They failed to pass the English competency exam – a required exam to gain admission to high school. There is no remedial education in Lesotho, and so because they can not speak English, they are denied further education and they are disenfranchised from their own government and any possible business careers. The only avenue of support open to them is that of prostitution. AIDS is the #1 cause of death in Lesotho – and the circle remains unbroken.



Our task at hand is to build a caretaker's home on the Leratong property. Most construction in Lesotho is concrete block walls on concrete poured floors, with wood rafters and metal roofs.

This photo is of the multipurpose building we built in 2010.

For more information on this mission opportunity, go to:  
<http://www.klipspringerstudios.com/Mission-Lesotho-2013.html>

Whether it is in our work in the North Carolina Conference, or whether it is through the outreach mission opportunities we coordinate or support beyond our Conference borders, we, at the Board of Missions Contractors strive to provide an atmosphere of support, Christian growth and human fellowship and assistance. *Come join in on the rewarding fun!*



Repairing a historic window at St. George in Maxton, NC...

&

A curious child at the Leratong Ctr in Lesotho....

