



St. John's United Methodist Church

2000 Florence Avenue
HAZLET, NEW JERSEY 07730

REV. DR. LANIE B. PRICE, Senior Minister

Telephone (732) 264-1236

October 11, 2011

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's UMC:

By now, I am sure you are aware that St. John's suffered extensive flood damage from Hurricane Irene. We are in the middle of restoring and repairing our complete facility. I would like to share information with you about what we have accomplished on the clean up and what tasks still lay ahead.

When Rev. Price entered the church early on Sunday, August 28, she was surprised to discover serious flooding. The damage was extensive. The flood covered our education wing, the church offices, the chapel, the library, and hallways. We discovered to our great disappointment that our Sanctuary was also flooded and completely unusable. Word of our problem spread and approximately 40 of our members began arriving to see how they could help. For the rest of the day and into the night this work crew was busy doing wet vacuuming and any and all necessary chores. The work continued into the following week. On Labor Day we started removing the wet carpet from all affected areas in our Education Wing. This was a huge job and we were thankful for the many helping hands that appeared each day to assist with the work. New carpeting was then ordered and as that was being laid, another group of parishioners worked on flood cutting and replacing of wet sheetrock where necessary. On Sunday, September 11, approximately 50 to 60 members and friends arrived at church volunteering to assist wherever they could be used. A contingent set to work in the Sanctuary removing all carpeting and unbolting the pews from the floor.

The majority of the initial phase of work has been accomplished. We are now concentrating on the Sanctuary. We are focusing on three main areas (1) replacing the flooring (9,000 sq. ft.), (2) repairing and refinishing of the rerados and (3) the cleaning and the replacing of bulbs in the chandeliers. We are securing pricing for the flooring and rerados.

The question of 'when' we will be able to hold church services in the Sanctuary is of interest to everyone. To be completely up front - we are not sure, at this point. We will be dealing with contractors on some of the sanctuary jobs and, therefore, the time frame is uncertain. We are working diligently to secure pricing and to get the project underway. We will keep the congregation informed as progress is made.

FUNDING: The cost of carpeting for our initial phase was \$42,593.44. The Nursery School graciously donated \$20,000.00. The balance was paid with the redemption of a bond from the Church's Endowment Fund. The cost of restoring our sanctuary has not been fully determined, at this point. Unfortunately, our insurance carrier, Mercer Insurance Co. advised us that we were not eligible for any payment as the water damage was the result of floodwater. We are in contact with FEMA and there is a possibility we may receive some funds. No specific amount has been determined. Funding is of great concern, but we will continue to seek every avenue open to us.

This is a difficult time for our church, but we know with God's leading we will make it through. It is wonderful to say that our own members and friends have done almost all the work we have accomplished, thus far. Our volunteers have given their time again and again and continue to do so. Saying, Thank You, for all you continue to do, does not seem enough.

We look forward to seeing our congregation each Sunday for worship at 10 AM in our Gym. The support of every person helps us to move forward. Your church needs your prayers, your presence and your gifts.

Norman Zweiacher,
Chairman of Trustees