

Across the miles and across many waters, our baptism unites us and calls us into service. Thank you so much for the response to WVMAW's request for supplies for families in Panther, WV. Karen Robinson and I took 21 boxes of contractor garbage bags and 10 gallons of bleach, as well as a donated floor cleaner and a commercial mop bucket. Loaves and fishes that help to make a difference! These items will be used next week by a WVMAW team from Hickory, NC who will be helping to clean up yards, debris, and insulation.

Today was assessment day. Flooding leaves such a mess. In Panther many homes had water that washed up underneath, dislodging insulation and duct work. It will take several months to dry out, and much work will be required to prevent mold from easing inside, and floors from warping. We are discussing how summer teams from Hampden (near Gilbert) can help with cleaning as well as replacing duct work and insulation. We are seeking Presbyterian Disaster Assistance funding to help with this expense.

Most of the homes in the area lost the bridges to their homes. The creek bank has washed away, and if the bridge remained in place, it is unsafe. We saw at least 30 damaged bridges. Repair will involve engineering and creek bank restoration that is beyond volunteer pay grade. Many families will face replacing heating and air conditioning units, and issues with wells and septic systems. WV Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (WVVOAD) will be seeking options for families to find loans and funding opportunities.

Today we learned about the man whose wife passed away right before the flood. We saw the mess in the yard, and the garden they had planted together nearly washed away. He is simply not motivated. We pray that as some of our youth clean out the debris, and perhaps sit with him, that he will feel the healing of Christ begin in his soul. Hands of help bring much hope.

Prayers are no small thing. I can never say that enough. Thank you for your prayers and your gifts that make hope possible for so many.

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