



## SKILLED WORKERS NEEDED

**NOW RECRUITING:** Professional cabinet makers, concrete workers, electricians, flooring installers, plumbers, painters, sheetrock hangers, wood and metal framers, and more. The United Methodist Church seeks skilled volunteers with Katrina recovery projects throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. Experience necessary. Full or part time. Must have driver's license/vehicle/tools. No salary but benefits include new friends, satisfaction, and a chance to reach out. Call (504) 483-8848 or e-mail [LAmissionzone@bellsouth.net](mailto:LAmissionzone@bellsouth.net)



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rebuilding churches



and communities

## Katrina Church Recovery Appeal

The people of The United Methodist Church\*

*Your generous contributions to the Bishops' Katrina Church Recovery Appeal (#818-001) made the following success story possible. Please continue your support of this ministry through today's special offering.*

### From surviving to thriving

Before the Rev. Irvin Boudreax ever stepped behind the pulpit of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, New Orleans, he stepped into the mess made by 11 feet of water in the church sanctuary.

"St Luke's, like all churches that had been submerged under water for about three weeks, was moldy, smelly and in shambles," Mr. Boudreax recalled.

Prior to the Mission Zone Plan, funded by the Bishop's Katrina Church Recovery Appeal, St. Luke's could not support a pastor. That's when Mr. Boudreax was recruited to lead the traumatized congregation from barely surviving to thriving.

"The hardest task is teaching people that we have to be more than we were before," he said. "We can't rebuild things exactly as they were because that New Orleans no longer exists."

Though the walls are back up and the outward structure of the church is restored, albeit without doorknobs and doors, the infrastructure of the church is still lacking.

"We're strapped for people, Mr. Boudreax explained. "We have to rebuild our Sunday school by training new teachers. We have to rebuild our committees because the faces have changed."

But now that the trauma of the storm has passed, the congregation's focus can turn outward. "If we're going to impact our community, we need evangelism teams," he said. "There's an urgency that we reach out and build a greater faith community.

"St. Luke's is fortunate to have been designated one of the anchor churches for rebuilding United Methodism in New Orleans, and we are appreciative to the Louisiana Conference and to the general church for their support," the pastor concluded. "The response to the bishop's appeal is making it possible for St. Luke's to come back stronger than it ever was. Thank you!"

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