

# THE WARNOCKS' ESCAPADES

Our Home Page: <http://warnocksescapades.com>

11 November 2015

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To our partners, family, colleagues, and friends, please accept our apology for the tardiness of this most recent newsletter.

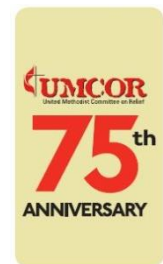


As each of us finds ways to celebrate UMCOR's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, early in 2015, I (Ted) was tasked to help us celebrate this milestone. As part of my contribution to this celebration, I was tasked to facilitate our return to Atlantic City, NJ in March 2015. 75 years ago in Atlantic City the Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (MOR) the predecessor to UMCOR was formed. With months of planning and significant contributions there are simply too many persons here to name. Even so, as we celebrated this milestone at the Asbury United Methodist Church (Rev. William M. Williams, III, Senior Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church pictured to the left here with his child) was instrumental during every phase of our service. The service at Asbury UMC was a most special time and one that will forever remind me our humanitarian values. For more on this celebration, see the following news stories: "[UMCOR Marks Special Sunday and its 75th Anniversary at Historic Church](#)" and "[UMCOR Celebrates 75th at Atlantic City Church](#)".



While coordinating this special event, I was also able to complete specialized training in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). This nationally certified program coupled with even more FEMA courses has fulfilled my Civil Air Patrol requirement to be CERT qualified. Understanding how each of us are called to volunteer in our own communities, this program provides me with valuable insight into how trained persons respond in our own neighborhood and those throughout the U.S.

Closely following the UMCOR celebration in New Jersey, we shifted our focus towards UMCOR's annual board meeting where, along with business/mission related actions, we celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Rev. Norma Kehrberg, UMCOR associate general secretary from 1984 to 1991 was the keynote speaker. A former missionary as well, Kehrberg was at the organization's helm when UMCOR celebrated its golden anniversary. Read "[UMCOR Board Marks 75th Anniversary](#)" for more on this celebration. And, if you have ever thought "I wish we had a few business size cards that could give us facts about UMCOR", we produced these cards for this celebration. From our earliest history to current efforts, these cards will provide you with "*I didn't know that knowledge and insight about UMCOR.*" To print these business style cards, download "[UMCOR Fact Cards](#)".



The words I recollect hearing in late April went something like "I suppose you might wonder why we did not approve your flight to Zambia" were followed by "we need you to go to UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, LA to provide support to our Relief Supplies". At least this is what I recall – the words may have been a bit different. Even so, a week later, I arrived at UMCOR Sager Brown where upon my initial focus was to augment open staffing challenges at the Depot and Volunteer Services Departments. During the first two months I made it a priority to learn what each open position was expected to do. The best way for me to do this was, quite simply, to first serve in the role as an assistant depot assistant, while at the same time serve as Interim Volunteer Services Director. After two weeks of "assisting" to make sure that our relief kits had every item in place and that the quality of every item shipped from

this depot to our partners overseas (often preparing over 5,000 kits weekly) required someone with strong people skills, high energy, and attention to detail, I fully understood the need to fill this position as soon as possible. This was accomplished (no need to go into detail) with a highly qualified person from our kitchen staff. So, with one staff challenge filled, a new opening was created in the kitchen. That position was quickly filled and we now have a full complement of very capable persons serving meals to nearly fifty volunteers every week.

Over the next few weeks, we moved forward to firm up staffing. A new Human Resources Officer was hired, and with his assistance, we now have our facilities (grounds and buildings) staff fully operational. During this timeframe, I shifted more of my time back towards Volunteer Services as we were functioning with temporary staffed persons.

On one of my trips “home” to Virginia I fulfilled a previous commitment with the Civil Air Patrol. For a week, I served as the Logistics and Transportation Officer for the 2015 Cadet Encampment. This year’s program had a combined commitment of over 250 persons with a focus for our cadets to develop leadership skills, investigate the aerospace sciences and related careers, commit to a habit of regular exercise, and solidify their moral character.

There has been one more position change in my current service at UMCOR Sager Brown. While we seek new leadership of our relief efforts, I have been named “Interim Executive Director UMCOR Relief Supplies”. As the position’s title implies, it represents a significant role as “...[UMCOR](#) works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing”. During the past few months, we have shipped relief supplies to Odessa, Ukraine, Amman, Jordan, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Beirut, Lebanon, and Iraq. During these same months we have also worked



with our partnering depots shipping relief supplies to Accra, Ghana and the Republic of Georgia. In total, during the last 7 months we have shipped 109,500 health kits, 35,100 school kits, 3,900 Layette Kits, and 560 bedding kits. For more information on our relief efforts see the following articles: “[Supplies Provide Real Help for People in Need](#)” and “[UMCOR School Kits Reach Refugees in Lebanon](#)”.



As our weeks run together at UMCOR Sager Brown, we are reminded of the service provided by two of our leaders who died as a result of the Haiti earthquake in January 2010. Nearing completion, the new Dixon Rabb Hall will be dedicated on November 17<sup>th</sup> during the 2015 Fall Disaster Academy being held here in Baldwin, Louisiana. See the “[August update/progress on the Dixon Rabb Hall](#)”. The photo taken last week shows the front of the new dorm. It faces the Teche Bayou. And if you can picture yourself sitting

on the front porch, you may feel moved to reflect upon being in mission as you watch in solitude as the Bayou slowly moves in and out with tidal changes.



As the weekend nears an end, we should note the exceptional efforts of our UMCOR Relief Network. Initial support to the recent flooding in South Carolina came from the Mission Response Center in Terrell, NC. And this weekend, from our partners located at the United Methodist Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur, AL, they began responding with the first shipment of over 2,000 cleaning buckets. As this response continues, please look to the [UMCOR web-site](#) for updates on our collective efforts. Ray L. Crump, Director of the Decatur, AL location sent us pictures

of the trucks being loaded and now in South Carolina. More on this effort to follow!