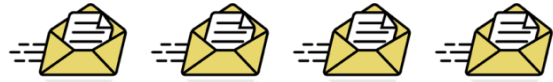




REV MATTHEW MILLER

*First Presbyterian Church Sioux City IA
 PPH Living Waters Working Group*

Many people have called or emailed inquiring about our working group and its planned trip to help install a clean water system at the Trinity House home and school in Jacmel, Haiti. We have had limited contact with our partners in Haiti, the St. Joseph Family homes, to which Trinity House belongs. Initial word is that the St. Joseph home in Petionville, which among other things housed a number of former street boys, operated an art center, and was the base of the Resurrection Dance Theater, was destroyed in the earthquake. All but one of the boys were on the roof for afternoon devotions at the time and were unharmed. The boy who was trapped was rescued, but sustained injuries as did Bill- a former resident who was managing the home. The Wings of Hope house in Fermathe, which cares for physically and mentally disabled children abandoned by their families, sustained structural damage, but for now the residents of St. Joe's and Wings are staying at Wings. We have been told that those at Trinity House are okay. While we are grateful for the safety of the residents at all three homes, we were saddened however to learn that a Wartburg Seminary student named Ben Larson who was staying at St. Joseph's was killed in the collapse. The working group had purchased tickets and had planned to travel at the end of February. News reports continue to pour in detailing the extensive destruction throughout the country. We will be re-evaluating our travel plans as we have a clearer picture of conditions on the ground. Living Waters for the World has an established network of clean water systems throughout the country of Haiti, it has been reported that half of those systems are believed to have been destroyed in the earthquake. Our first concern is for the immediate well-being of our friends. As we are able, we will be in touch with our partners to assess how to proceed and how we can best assist them in the recovery process. Those wishing to make financial contributions in the wake of this tragedy may want to consider donating to The Red Cross, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, or to Hearts With Haiti- the non-profit that supports the mission of the St. Joseph Family. In the meantime, we weep with those who weep for God's children in Haiti.



ANNUAL PACKETS materials are due to the presbytery office **January 29, 2010**
 Clerk's Annual Questionnaire and Annual Statistical Report are done **on-line** ! If you are responsible for your packet and haven't seen it, check with your pastor. If you have questions or need assistance, call Kay at the Presbytery office.

REMINDER:

Next Presbytery meeting is **Saturday February 6, 2010. First Presbyterian Church Vail IA.**
Worship offering to 2010 Triennium Scholarships
 **We have 22 kids from Prospect Hill interested in attending!



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FOR TRIENNium DETAILS AND REGISTRATION!



Gift Ark

The First Presbyterian Church Sunday School Classes of Schaller have completed their goal of raising \$5000 to purchase a "Gift Ark" for the Heifer Project. The "Ark" began at Christmas 2007, when the classes had saved up an offering and purchased a goat, honeybees and a flock of chicks. They decided to set the "Ark"- two of every kind of animal the heifer project provides as their long term fundraising goal. As of October 2009 they had raised \$5866.29!

Mayor joins local churches with 'noisy cans' for Haiti

Local businesses asked to place cans for change collection

By **DOUGLAS BURNS**

Staff Writer

Daily Times Herald, Carroll IA

Monday, January 18, 2010

Mayor Jim Pedelty has joined local Protestant and Catholic Church leaders in calling for Carroll residents and businesses to give their loose change for a week to Haitian relief efforts.

“On Tuesday, Jan. 12, just before sunset, a powerful 7 magnitude earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti creating one of the worst tragedies in human history,” Pedelty said.

The mayor, with Father Tim Johnson of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, the Rev. Michael Fitzsimmons of the Carroll First Presbyterian Church and Carroll Public Library director Kelly Fischbach jointly hatched the idea for a “Noisy Can Collection” to provide funds to assist Haiti.

This morning, in a news conference, Pedelty asked businesses and social organizations to place cans at their locations for one week, asking for change. The mayor also is requesting that all churches in Carroll designate Sunday, Jan. 24, as “Noisy Can Offering.”

All those involved with the cans are asked to take them to Bank of the West in Carroll on Monday, Jan 25, at which point the money will be pooled and donated to a relief organization. Pedelty said he is still vetting such groups to determine which one will give Carroll the “most bang for its buck” with actual on-the-ground help, and not too much in the way bureaucratic overhead.

“As mayor of the city it is my job to let people know they can help in a way that’s relatively painless,” he said.

People can drop cash or checks into the tin cans, but Pedelty said the intent is to get as many people as possible involved — and he saw the pocket change concept as a way to allow those in Carroll across the income spectrum to be a part of the effort.



Pedelty said there are no doubt many needs right here in Carroll, but the reports and televised scenes of death and despair in Haiti are so gripping that Carroll shouldn’t turn the other way.

“People in Carroll have been generous over the years,” Pedelty said. “We give of our means. I think it’s appropriate that we look beyond our borders once in a while. They (Haiti) need all the help they can get right now.”

Carroll Mayor Jim Pedelty, the Rev. Michael Fitzsimmons and Carroll Public Library director Kelly Fischbach are among those organizing the Noisy Can Project in support of relief efforts in Haiti. Area businesses are displaying cans where customers can drop spare change. Daily Times Herald photos by [Jeff Storjohann](#)

Pastor Fitzsimmons said the coin-can drive is a way to get many people involved.

“I think the purpose is to say we’re part of a larger community,” Fitzsimmons said. “We see the suffering on TV.”

Pedelty said an announcement will be forthcoming on the humanitarian organization(s) receiving a week’s worth of Carroll’s change.

“Collectively, as a community, we can make it amount to quite a bit,” Pedelty said.

Kay Lenhart Presbytery Communications



110 East Third Street Storm Lake, IA 50588