

First Presbyterian Church and Holston Habitat Have a Long Loyal Relationship



In the last 34 years, First Presbyterian Church members have helped build 19 affordable homes for deserving individuals and families in Kingsport. The total number of Habitat Houses built in Kingsport alone now reaches 141. Across the Holston Habitat service area, including Tennessee counties of Sullivan, Washington, Carter plus Bristol, VA, 258 newly constructed homes are changing lives by offering a hand-up to people through home ownership and the many benefits associated with that lifestyle.

The First Presbyterian Church legacy with Holston Habitat dates back to the early days when Elizabeth Ann Hay and Jo Morrison were very influential in organizing a way to address the needs of so many people without a safe place to sleep at night. From there, members like Tom Fudge, Gordon Travis, Bill Adams, Burt and Jane Boyd, Sue Wells, Bennie Pierce, Hunter and Sylvia Wright and certainly many others, including the very important food providers, loyally carried on the commitment to provide newly constructed, energy efficient homes with an affordable mortgage! This year the First Presbyterian contingent of volunteers who worked on Marquetta's Build included Jim Amstutz, Stewart Baggett, John Good, Gary Hallen, Larry Maston, Claudia Mihovk, Gerry Morie, Mike Shelton, Catherine Tucker, Gary Tucker, Allen Wright, and the lunch crews: Carolyn Doerfert, Sharon Engel, Joy and Lee McConnell, Jane Scott, Kathy Stoots, Becca Wright and Allen Wright. It is amazing what God can do with people willing to serve! All praise and glory to God Almighty!



To put names to those families whose trajectories were certainly enhanced by time, talents and money from First Presbyterian Church members and many other volunteers, see the list below. Please pray for these people and their families to appreciate the Grace and Peace of God in their life's journeys.

- 1) Carrie Dukes – original 1989 plus 1993 addition (deceased)
- 2) Billie (deceased) & Shirley Thorp – 1992
- 3) Bob (deceased) & Evelyn Wells – 1994
- 4) Thomas and Jacqueline Tatchi – 1995 (deceased) Tatchi family came to Kingsport as refugees at First Presbyterian Church and later became Habitat homeowners. The children paid off the mortgage and made repairs and improvements to the house. Martha and Sarah remain members of FPC and still live in their family home.
- 5) James & Angelina Isley – 1997
- 6) Marc & Carla Gilliam – 1999
- 7) Michael & Tammy Gravens – 2000
- 8) Sheila Peters (Duncan) – 2001
- 9) Jeremy & Amber Kent – 2003
- 10) Libby Brown – 2006
- 11) Billy Sims - 2007 (deceased)
- 12) Michael & Peggy Mendenhall – 2009
- 13) Misty Churchwell - 2012
- 14) Nadine Skaggs – 2017
- 15) Darien & Danielle Dingus – 2018
- 16) Joe & Jennifer Brewster – 2019
- 17) Ashleigh Woodbury – 2020
- 18) Darlene Sutherland - 2022
- 19) Marquetta Bishop – 2023

We look forward to another chance to serve alongside other Habitat volunteers in 2024. This is very rewarding work and meaningful fellowship with church members helping make a positive difference in the lives of families like Marquetta and her children. Please consider volunteering yourself when the time comes around next year. God is Great!

