

FATHER DAVID'S PHOTOS FROM MISSISSIPPI MISSION TRIP APRIL 26-MAY 2, 2009



On the left is the house Tish Lentz and I were working in during the week. It was 45 miles west of the camp on the bayou in Pearlington, MS, which is on the border with Louisiana. The first house was on the ground. The rebuilt house must be on stilts, This entire area was flooded. The photo on the right is the view from the porch. Tish is on the right.



The photo middle left was taken the first day we arrived. No wallboard was on the walls or ceiling. The photo above and to the left was taken on our last day. I worked with members of All Saints Beverly Hills and the Tennessee Baptist Conference to cut, hoist and secure all the wallboard for the ceilings and the walls. Much of my day was spent on scaffolding. The photo on the left shows us on break: from left to right Linda from All Saints, Tish from St. Andrew's, Sue and Pam from All Saints, Kristen from AmeriCorps, and Stephen from All Saints. Photo above shows Kristen and Shelly from Americorps.



We stayed at Camp Coast Care in Long Beach, MS with about 80 others. The camp is 2 miles inland from the Gulf Coast. The camp dormitories were divided between men and women. Photo above was my bunk for the week. I had to provide my own sleeping bag and towels. Lights came on at 6am and went out at 10pm. No problem! I was sound asleep by then from a hard day's work.



At 6:15am a blessing was said and then a hearty breakfast was served. After breakfast we packed our own brown bag lunches to eat at our worksites. At 7am the Volunteer Coordinator, Michael, reviewed our assignments for the day. Here we are in the dining hall waiting in the morning to head out to our job sites. I volunteered to fill the water jug every morning for our crew.



The benefits of a mission trip are not only helping those in need but also strengthening the bonds of those we know. Here enjoying the local cuisine together is the team from the Diocese of Easton: left to right: Sandy and Skip Wrightson from Trinity Cathedral, Easton; myself from St. Andrew's; John Falcone from Holy Spirit, Ocean City; and Tish and Carroll Lentz from St. Andrew's.



At the end of the week in the evening we treated ourselves to a "Swamp Tour" of Bayou Country just across the border in Slidell, LA. Carroll Lentz can be seen above on the left. We explored a cypress swamp which reminded me of our own Pocomoke Swamp – except this swamp had lots of alligators!

It does make you think – the Eastern Shore's topography is very similar to the Gulf Coast – how would we fare from a frontal assault of a Category 5 hurricane?

THINKING ABOUT GOING ON THE NEXT MISSIONS TRIP TO MISSISSIPPI? Find out more at the Diocesan website: www.dioceseofeaston.org or contact Father David Michaud or Mr. Carroll Lentz.