

CHURCHES SUPPORTING CHURCHES ADOPT-A-CHURCH PROFILE

Hartzell United Methodist Church
Pastors: Rev. James Haynes, Rev. Becky Conner, and Rev. Jeff Conner
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THE HISTORY

Hartzell United Methodist Church began in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans in 1926 and is primarily an African American congregation. The church building has been destroyed by fire, Hurricane Betsy, Hurricane Katrina, and Hurricane Rita. The congregation has rebuilt the church over and over again and continues its ministry in spite of adversity.



THE VISION

The church wants to be a beacon of hope to the Lower Ninth Ward community. It is a place of worship and solace for many.

CURRENT NEEDS

Hartzell United Methodist Church sponsored a Day Care Ministry for working families for over forty years. Civic and community groups met there frequently, and we distributed commodity foods to the elderly. Clemson University students have partnered with the church so that we now house up to 57 volunteers at a time as they help rebuild homes and churches in the community. We are a satellite site of the Northshore Recovery Program of UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which takes applications for and helps secure funds for rebuilding. In addition, we are a satellite office of Total Community Action of New Orleans, a resource and referral agency that gives utility assistance. Finally, Hartzell UMC is opening its door to a sister church from another denomination to come and worship there until that church can be rebuilt. To keep our ministry alive and thriving we need:

1. A commercial stove, a freezer, tables, and plumbing in the kitchen.
2. Flooring (tile or carpet) for the entire church building.
3. Panic devices to be installed on exit doors.
4. Building materials and volunteer labor for repair to the homes of church members.
5. Funds to assist with expensive utilities as we house volunteers.
6. A baptismal font.
7. A bus to transport the elderly.
8. Funds to aid with our pastor's salary after June 2008.