



Contact: Drew Thompson
Phone: 614-337-1000
Email: dthompson@peacegahanna.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

REBUILDING LIVES

Constructing homes destroyed by tornadoes in Alabama

Gahanna, Ohio - November 17-20, 2011 – On Wednesday November 16th, thirteen members from Peace Lutheran Church travelled by van to Clay, Alabama, near Birmingham, to volunteer with the state’s Lutheran Social Services to get victims of the spring tornado disaster back into their homes. They returned on Sunday November 20th.

The 13 volunteers were assigned to work at a Habitat for Humanity site in the city. Some began rebuilding a damaged deck, while others worked on repairing the plumbing in the kitchen. Outreach & Family Minister, Janie Tinklenberg said, “It was truly a team effort, over three days they clocked over 260 accumulated hours of building, repairing, cleaning, and painting to finish the work.”

In an effort to move people into homes more quickly, one of the local banks has given homes that have been foreclosed and vandalized to Habitat to refurbish and pass on to a tornado victim.

Those 260 hours paid off when they witnessed first hand the joy experienced by one blessed Alabama resident. Wanda was a widow who survived the tornadoes by taking shelter in her bathtub. After the tornadoes passed she looked out to find that the storm destroyed her home and all her belongings. Tinklenberg said, “Wanda had lost everything and was lucky that she survived.”

On their last day in Clay, Peace volunteers handed the keys to Wanda just in time to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday in her new home. “She moved into her new house with an easy chair, a bed and a TV and she couldn’t have been more happy,” said Dana Stuckey, Director of Outreach Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church.

Peace is blessed to be able to serve those in the community around them, “at the heartbeat of Peace is service...it’s through serving others that we experience a deeper level of gratitude, and grow in our life of faith.” said Lead Pastor Kai Nilsen.

Peace is organizing more trips down to Alabama in the upcoming months. For more information visit www.peacegahanna.org or contact Drew Thompson at 614-337-1000.

###