

First, some data points on the April 27, 2011 tornado:

- The tornado touched down at the southwestern edge of Tuscaloosa, AL at 5:13 PM on April, 27 2011.
- It tracked east/northeast through the heart of Tuscaloosa leaving a 6-mile path of destruction through major residential and commercial areas.
- The total track length of the tornado was over 80 miles (six miles in Tuscaloosa) and it was 1 mile wide at its widest point.
- It was classified as an EF-4 tornado. Winds 160-190 mph.
- There were 53 deaths and over 1,000 injuries
- Over 7,000 houses suffered some damage. Over 4,500 homes were either severely damaged or destroyed.
- No church members were killed or injured, but several were in the tornado itself, sheltering in basements, crawlspaces or bathrooms. Three church members' residencies were severely damaged or destroyed.
- The church building was not damaged.

Information on Trinity's Relief Ministry

Trinity Presbyterian Church, in partnership with MNA Disaster Response, has been involved in a variety of relief activities related to the tornado. From April 27, 2011 to present:

- In the days following the tornado, Trinity Presbyterian Preschool (TPP) began opening its doors to children affected by the tornado. Over 50 children were kept while parents attempted to start the rebuilding process.
- In the week following the tornado, Trinity sent out 15 different chainsaw teams to help cut and clear debris.
- In the year and half after the tornado, Trinity hosted approximately 425 volunteers from 25 churches, RUF and other college ministry groups, or other Christian organizations from 15 different states
- We partnered with families, the city, Habitat for Humanity, and other organizations to serve the Tuscaloosa community.
- RUF groups roofed 2 different homes during their Fall Break.
- Volunteers and/or Trinity members helped to clear debris off approximately 25 lots.
- Our most substantial partnership was with Habitat for Humanity:
 - We co-sponsored 2 Habitat homes for families who lost their homes. We partnered with Riverwood Presbyterian for one of those homes.
 - Volunteers that we housed worked on 15 different Habitat homes.
 - We housed groups for Habitat.
- We were also involved in all of the following to some degree:
 - Debris removal
 - Demolition
 - Roof repair and replacement
 - General construction and repair
 - General benevolence (giving of clothes and linens, water, food, etc.)

Information on some of the people we have served

Bernard Jefferson

Bernard Jefferson lost his home and more on April 27, 2011. Bernard's wife and two grandchildren were killed in the tornado. Trinity and Riverwood Presbyterian churches were able to partner together with Habitat to build Mr. Jefferson a new home. Many RUF and other college ministries that came to Tuscaloosa for spring break worked on Mr. Jefferson's home. Below is a picture of Mr. Jefferson with Walt Maddox, Mayor of Tuscaloosa at the dedication of his new house. Next to it is a picture of students from RUF Central Florida working on Mr. Jefferson's home.



Camilla Coach and son, Richard

Camilla Coach was born and raised in Tuscaloosa as an only child, and lost her father when she was a teenager. She has a young son named Richard.

Camilla and Richard were living in an apartment at Rosedale Courts on April 27th when the tornado ripped through Tuscaloosa and destroyed the apartments. She recalls horrible scenes that she witnessed in the moments after the storm. Camilla was living on a fixed income and had no insurance. Losing everything she had, she found herself as a young mother with no place to go. She and her son temporarily stayed at a shelter at the Belk Center and received help from local churches, including Trinity. She stood out to the leaders of the disaster relief organizations because she always did exactly what she promised to do and had a desire to better her life and her situation. She managed to find a job and a temporary place to live while she waits for her new Habitat home to be completed. She has plans to further her education and wants to make a better life for her son.



Teddy Rowe and Family

Teddy and Rosie Rowe had their home completely destroyed. Virtually the only part of the house not touched was the closet where he and his family had taken shelter. Trinity met Teddy and Rosie when our preschool kept their grandson. The very first team that we hosted from Lakeland, FL completely cleared the Rowe family's lot so that Habitat could rebuild their home on the exact spot.



What's next

While Trinity Presbyterian is no longer hosting short-term teams, there is still opportunity to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat has built 16 homes and plans to continue the work. If you are interested in volunteering in Tuscaloosa, we encourage you to consider volunteering with Habitat. Please note volunteers must be 16 and older for Habitat.

To find out about volunteer opportunities with Habitat, please contact:

Jared Patterson
Tuscaloosa Habitat for Humanity
Volunteer Coordinator
205-349-4620 (Phone)
jared@habitattuscaloosa.org
www.habitattuscaloosa.org

On behalf of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Riverwood Presbyterian Church, and all those whom you have served through your faithful prayers, volunteer service, and giving – WE THANK YOU!!!!

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Tuscaloosa AL