



## National Capital Presbytery and Puerto Rico

It started with a meeting at Riverside Presbyterian Church. A few churches came together to discuss possible responses to the litany of disasters that had come one right after another. In discussing possible responses, it became clear that thanks to pastor Edwin Andrade and worship leader Jesse C3lon there were connections in Puerto Rico that could facilitate a possible long-term relationship with a few pastors on the Island.

Rev. Andrade could identify an area of need in the San Sebastian region. There is a Presbyterian owned conference center and camp with a water pump. Unfortunately, the pump isn't working, and without power this is very little reliably clean water in the region.

Through the help of the National Capital Presbytery's Mission Coordination Committee (MCC) a presbytery account was identified to collect money for the pump. On top of that the Mission Coordination Committee also is offering a matching grant for the account of up to a total \$10,000. Any church that has given money to the Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands recovery effort can have those funds matched by this grant with funds going into the presbytery's account. Churches can also donate funds directly to the account.

With news of the lack of clean water 10,000 water purification tablets were secured by Mark Reimers of Clifton Presbyterian Church, and sent to Puerto Rico on Tuesday. In follow up, Rev Andrade found out that one of the biggest challenges in Puerto Rico is getting adult diapers. Funds from the presbytery account should soon be sent to a medical supply company so folks can obtain the adult diapers as needed, which is more efficient and effective than trying to send them down. This developing relationship will hopefully lead to further resources being sent to the pastors in Puerto Rico to use as they see best, as well eventually sending groups down to help with some of the rebuilding that will need to happen. One church that was leveled by the storm has already been identified.



So far, the following churches have been identified as donating funds to Puerto Rico and helping meet the \$10,000 the MCC offered in matching grants: Riverside, Oaklands, Chevy Chase, Bradley Hills along with a number of other churches committing to getting involved through either donation, fundraisers, participating in weekly decision-making conference calls and/or future mission trips.

This space will be used to offer future updates as these relationships develop and deepen.

This has been an exciting program to see develop, and all through the cooperation of congregations in the presbytery. The goal is a long term and deep relationship with these churches and pastors as they continue to rebuild and recover from the devastation of Hurricane Maria. If you are interested in more information, please contact Mission Specialist Mike McNamara: [mmcnamara@thepresbytery.org](mailto:mmcnamara@thepresbytery.org)

***TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!***