

Monday April 16th

Steve arrived at Kens house at about 8:00 am, and started loading up the tools donated by the Westminster members. We also took a lot of our own tools as we didn't yet know what the projects were that we would be working on.



At Ken's getting ready to load up tools

Steve and Ken traveled six hours south to Joplin, Missouri. Traveling into town on route 66 (yes, that route 66), we were surprised that there was no immediate evidence of the destructive tornado of May 2011 in the section of the city that we traveled through. We arrived at the Catholic Charities headquarters at about 3:30 in the afternoon. Catholic Charities is one of the faith based organizations managing much of the volunteer activities, and will designate much of the work that Steve and Ken will be doing. PDA has not yet established a camp in Joplin.

The manager of Catholic Charities was delighted to see all of the tools that Westminster is donating for volunteers to work with. Until our arrival, there were essentially no tools available unless the volunteers brought their tools with them. Steve and Ken spent about four hours creating a tool crib by building shelving in a storage area. Now Catholic Charities distribution center has a well stocked tool crib.



Building the shelves

Westminster members that donated tools; Grace Willnerd, Pam and Max Martin, Larry and Judy Ehlers. Jim and Judy White, Kathy and Greg Hershberger.

Driving from downtown Joplin to our hotel, we drove through the storm destruction area. Now we understand the extent of the 2011 tornado. A very large area of Joplin is barren as you can see in the the pictures.



We are now comfortably situated in a motel room for tonight. We are not sure what the housing accommodations will be for the rest of the week. I guess we will find out that tomorrow. It sounds like we will be working on installing tile in a shower tomorrow.

All for now.