

Press Release
First Congregational Church
Topic: West Virginia Mission Trip
June 13, 2006

FCC Youth Serve in West Virginia

800 miles, 9 students, and 3 adults: all are united by the common goal of serving others. Rev. Matthew Laney will be leading a team of students and chaperons on a mission trip to Delbarton, West Virginia from June 24th to the 30th in order to improve homes and minister to children.

Located in the southwestern corner of the state, Delbarton is best known as the location of the Hatfield-McCoy feud. Today the town has suffered from a lack of locally owned resources and job opportunities, leading to a median household income of \$21,875, with 34% of the residents below the poverty line.

When Rev. Laney presented a list of possible locations for this year's trip, the students decided that Delbarton was the best place to serve. "These kids are concerned about the world and are aware of the economic disparity and the pervasiveness of poverty in these communities," commented Laney. "You don't have to travel to New Orleans to find people in need of help."

Youth Works, an organization committed to providing week-long, Christ-centered, life-changing youth mission trips (see www.youthworks.com), organized the trip for the FCC team. The days will be spent working on homes and leading clubs for the local children. In the evenings the students will have cultural activities that will give them a taste of the Appalachian region.

Rev. Laney and the rest of the mission team would like to thank the people at First Congregational Church and many other community members who helped make this trip possible. They would also like to thank the staff of Orvis who provided a space for students to sell baked goods at the recent tent sale in Riley Rink. This event alone raised over \$1300 for the trip.

For more information about this trip or future trips, contact Rev. Laney at FCC at 362-2709.