



Sun, Surf and Volunteer Work,
Iowa team service in St Kitts
submitted by Beverly Nolte

Challengers Church with rainbow (Linda Rowe)

Where in the world is St. Kitts? Thirteen Iowans asked that question as they made plans to fly there on a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission work project. Nestled east of Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and its sister island, Nevis, are in the Leeward Island chain bordered by the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea and the deep blue Atlantic Ocean on the other.



Picture from Jayne Palmer

Organized by the Methodist Church of the Caribbean on St. Kitts, the hard working group painted the interior and exterior of Challenger's Methodist Church, the interior of Dieppe Bay Methodist Church, the interior and exterior home of Deaconess Janetta James, laid tile in the kitchen at Tabernacle Methodist Church and demolished termite eaten walls, doors and rafters at the Dieppe Bay Parsonage. A sewing project was held at Ebenezer and St. Johnston's churches with the church women in the afternoon. Seven days of Vacation Bible School was presented at both churches for nearly 40 children from ages 4 to 15 years. A

Noah's Ark theme was presented with crafts, stories, games and gift bags handed out the last day.

During the worship service at Dieppe Bay, one could see the high surf where the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean join together. Revs. Sandra Berryman and Crystal Oberheu had the opportunity to bring the sermon at Ebenezer, Dieppe Bay and St. Johnston's Churches.



Sewing Project (Linda Rowe)



Painting church (Linda Rowe)

During a major winter storm in Iowa this group of 13 Iowans representing as many Iowa United Methodist Churches spent time at various beaches, toured the island, had picnic lunches on church grounds and traveled by ferry to Nevis to explore that island where the sand temperature was 120 F. Did we say we burned the soles of our feet walking across the hot sand?

The group was housed in the large, rambling home of Wilfred Welsh, a church member, with the evening meal prepared by Elvira Williams and her island women committee. This home overlooked the ocean where one could view cruise ships entering and departing the harbor and enjoy exquisite sunrises and sunsets.

A close feeling was felt among the group as well as relationships made with our Methodist island friends who shared the warmth of their friendship and of the Caribbean climes! God is good!