

ARTICLE FOR COUNTRY GAZETTE

September 7, 2005

By Rev. Carol Mariano

Orting United Methodist Church

There are times when I am proud to be a member of the Orting community. One of those came Sunday evening September 4, when members of the community joined together in a prayer service in the park for those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The outpouring of prayer support was wonderful to experience! I know many are contributing financially to ease the impact of this disaster. Prayers and money are the best way to help at this point, because the area is not set up to receive volunteers other than medical workers who have their own means of support—gas, food, water, accommodations. I understand Habitat for Humanity in the Southeast is putting together prefab houses to deliver to the devastated area as soon as it becomes feasible. As I consider the possibility that we could have a lahar here in Orting, I am even more aware of the fragility of life and how much we depend on each other. Thank you to all who have generously contributed to these people in such desperate need.

There are times when I am not so proud to be an Ortingite. We are blessed with a beautiful setting—rivers, trees, wildlife, the trail. Yet, since fishing season opened, the trail and the river bank are covered with trash. Trash containers are available, but people simply leave their droppings on the ground behind them. Is it really so difficult to pick up after yourself?

God doesn't do everything for us. We are partners with God in helping things run smoothly in this world, whether it be by acting responsibly in caring for our environment, or giving to help those who have experienced tragedy. Our smiles, words, responsible living and generous actions can change a bad day into good for ourselves as well as for those whose lives we touch. Church has a way of encouraging us in our partnership with God, calling us to be our best self and to leave the world a better place because we have lived here. Come and find out for yourself on our Open House Sunday at Orting United Methodist Church, September 18 at 10:45 am. You are welcome at Orting United Methodist Church—Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.