

December 12th, 2024

What do trout ponds and septic systems have in common? In some cases, they are both vital to life and recovery and flourishing. I wouldn't have guessed it, but that is what we have discovered over the last few weeks.

Let me explain. When you make a living raising trout and your pond is destroyed by flood waters, what do you do? You can give up? Or, you can receive a large financial gift from a church and you can start over. Because you have been giving and we have been listening, we had the opportunity to help someone recover from Helene by rebuilding a family business by rebuilding a trout pond. So the next time you come to fish in the mountains or eat at a restaurant in downtown Banner Elk, you might just be eating the fruit of God's faithfulness and generosity. It is crazy and wild and beautiful and the kind of work that is happening through our Helene Recovery Fund. Other work isn't as romantic, but is just as essential. Work like building driveways and bridges, septic systems and homes is gritty but good. It is more than good. It is very good. And we are grateful to play a small part in helping people go about that good work.

At this point many of these basic projects are big. They are what is left after FEMA and insurance have paid and people are in need. So as you give and we steward, know that the projects are still coming to light and we are still giving to people so that they can know God's generosity and flourish in the world he so loves.