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# small TALK

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## Hurricane Season continues to bash the US



MALIA KALUA  
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You might think the weather-forecasters are putting together a list of names for a party. But Bonnie, Charley, Frances, Gaston and Ivan are not part of the guest list this hurricane season. They are deadly, vicious, cruel and destructive hurricanes that leave devastation in their wake.

This Hurricane Season has been riddled with multiple ferocious storms. Southeastern airports had serious delays all last week. With the onset and strange movement of Hurricane Ivan, the NFL season opener of the Miami Dolphins vs. the Tennessee Titans was moved from September 13 to the Friday before.

Being informed is important. Understanding how hurricanes work keeps the people who may be effected by them safer. Here is a quick lesson to keep students at Methodist better informed in case a hurricane arrives here on our campus.

### What is a hurricane?

Hurricanes are the atmosphere's natural way of moving excessive heat to cooler areas of the globe. The name "hurricane" is from the West Indian word meaning "big wind".

Formed over warm tropi-



Photo courtesy of WRAL.com

Hurricane Bonnie made landfall in Florida and tore up the state from one side to the other. The residents of Florida didn't even have the chance to get over Bonnie before Charley hit and then Ivan attacked the Florida Panhandle.

cal waters as disorganized storms, hurricanes are part of a weather system called "tropical cyclones". As the storm becomes more organized it progresses to a "tropical depression" and once it reaches 40 m.p.h. it becomes a "tropical storm". If the winds increase to 75 m.p.h. or above, the storm earns a name from the National Hurricane Center and again is reclassified as a hurricane.

The winds of hurricanes circle around a central area called an "eye". This is the part of the storm which is calm and cloudless. The remainder of the storm wraps around the eye in a counter-clockwise motion. The "eye wall," which is formed by

this wrapping motion, is the most destructive part of the storm.

### What are the most dangerous hurricanes?

Hurricanes are rated in intensity on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. This scale rates hurricanes by their wind speed, barometric pressure, storm surge height, and damage potential. Of course Category 5 hurricanes are the most deadly. More than likely with a Category 5 hurricane we will have catastrophic damage to property, flooding, landscape damage and probable loss of life.

But there is more to consider than the wind strength when deciding if a hurricane is

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## United Way unites students



Photos by Will Montoya  
Melanie Gibson and Amanda Hall collect cans in the Berns Student Center



WILL MONTOYA  
Staff Writer

Methodist College students played a major role in Cumberland County's Extreme Makeover/Day of Caring 2004 on September 15. The event, which was sponsored by United Way, focused on meeting the community's basic needs by offering various volunteer projects throughout Cumberland County.

Methodist College participated in the events by collecting non-perishable food items, and two students got the opportunity to assist in the Scouting Jamboree. The food items collected will be distributed among churches and individuals as necessary. "I love taking part in helping the community whenever I can" said Melanie Gibson, one of the student volunteers.

Other volunteer efforts included a home restoration project, food drive, park renovations, and a blood-drive. A Scouting Jamboree even provided disabled school children the opportunity to participate in Girl and Boy Scout activities at Seabrook Park.