

## **Report on February 2007 Livingston CARES Trip to Biloxi**

Prepared by Beth Godfrey, Trip Leader

Twenty-three residents of Livingston County traveled to the Gulfport/Biloxi area to serve at God's Katrina Kitchen from February 18-24, 2007, through Livingston CARES. The trip was organized by Rev. Beth Godfrey of Central Presbyterian Church and it included 15 folks affiliated with the congregation and 8 community members. HOPE Unites coordinated the administrative aspects of the journey.

At God's Katrina Kitchen our group both worked a daily kitchen shift from 1:30-8 p.m. and also participated on home renovations. The Kitchen feeds roughly 1000 per day from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., taking only two ½ hour breaks to change out breakfast for lunch and lunch for dinner. Participants of the February trip found our experience enhanced by not only helping to rebuild homes and getting to know

homeowners, but also the opportunity to interact with and serve the immediate need for food for other volunteers, the homeless, the working poor, and day laborers in and around the Kitchen. Hot meals were pulled off every single shift we observed the whole week we stayed at the Kitchen, which is major feat. The homes we worked on varied from working class or poverty line four room structures to upper middle class houses, most of whom on all levels were not adequately compensated by their insurance or federal insurance and therefore needed help with the labor to rebuild their homes.

Many who served in our trip plan to go back and continue to help rebuild. Two already have plans and Rev. Godfrey hopes that sometime next year CPC will lead in another Cares trip to Harrison Country.

### **February 2007 Livingston CARES Work Trip Participants:**

Jerry Alonzo  
Kate Alonzo  
Karen Bailey  
KC Bailey  
Dan Dimpfl  
Sue Dimpfl  
Shannon (Jean) Fuller  
Beth Godfrey  
Linda hatheway  
Bill Hawkins  
Nita Hawkins  
Debbie Hoops

Donna Hoops  
Chris Lynch  
Mitzi Lynch  
Pam Maxson  
Bernie Sweeney  
Carrie Sweeney  
Julie Sweeney  
Rick Taylor  
Chris Thompson  
Tom Thompson  
Tom Wilson