



Inside This Issue:

INTEGRITY IN MISSION

Exploring Wesleyan heritage of works of mercy and works of piety. . .page 6

HOPE FOR CHILDREN: SMALL CHANGES

ALLOW FOR NEW HOPE

Eastern PA Conference to help build orphanage and provide rural health ministry in Africa. . .page 7

YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Applications being accepted to Mission Peace India trip. . .page 10

TOOLS FOR MINISTRY

A recap of the January 24 Tools for Ministry event. . .page 11

Record number of mission teams mark 2008



A family from New Orleans stands in front of the home built for them by a VIM team from First United Methodist Church in Lancaster.

by Ben Botti*

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference continues to be active in Volunteers in Mission, and set new marks for participation in 2008. Forty-five conference churches sent out 74 teams made up of 1300 people to 11 different states and 9 different countries. In

reality, though, the actual number of participants may be twice as much.

Sending Volunteers in Mission around the world

Forty-one Teams went to the Gulf Coast for Katrina recovery: 22 to Mississippi, 14 to Louisiana and 5 to Alabama.

Nineteen Teams went to 8 other states within the Continental U.S.: 1 each to Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and South Carolina; 3 to West Virginia and 10 to Pennsylvania. All of the Pennsylvania teams served within

Continued on page 8

Dorothy Watson Tatem appointed to East District

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson has appointed The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem to be a conference superintendent. She will serve in the East District beginning July 1, 2009. Dr. Tatem will succeed the Rev. Dr. Alfred Maloney, who is retiring.

Dr. Tatem grew up in the Mt. Sinai Holy Churches of America, Inc., a Pentecostal church that is an offshoot of the Methodist Church. In this denomination, women have been giving leadership as pastors and lead bishops since the 1920's, and so she grew up experiencing strong women as leaders.

The urge to preach and nurture persons as disciples of Jesus Christ came to Dr. Tatem for the first time while she was in graduate school, and then re-surfaced while she was teaching high school in Philadelphia. "God loved me into my call to ministry," Dr. Tatem said. "My life was blessed on every front, and the love of God so great! The very thing I do, I do in response to divine love."

"I told my husband of my calling, and he said, 'Yes!' I told my pastor, Dr. Claude Edmonds, pastor of Tindley Temple, and he

said, 'I know – I've been waiting for you to tell me!'"

"When I was called to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church," Dr. Tatem said, "it was nothing strange to see women in leadership. In God's mind, God's not hung up on gender, but rather whether you are an obedient servant doing what you are called to do."

At the beginning of her second year in seminary, Dr. Tatem's husband was tragically killed in an auto accident. She related that she continued in pursuing her call. "I couldn't say, 'I'm out of here.' Like I knew my name, I knew I was called to ordained ministry."

Dr. Tatem presently holds the position of director of the Office of Urban and Global Ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Through this ministry Dr. Tatem serves approximately 115 local congregations located in the eighteen urban areas of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, consulting with churches to accomplish long-range planning,



Rev. Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem

organizational training, coaching, providing seed grants for ministry, facilitating the general church program Strengthening the

Continued on page 11