

Habitat for Humanity Home Dedicated

After seven Sundays of working on construction, the Habitat for Humanity house at 914 Plainview Drive, Atlanta, Ga., was dedicated on December 2, 2007. The house was a joint effort between the Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic conferences.

"It's a blessing because you all could have been anywhere else, but you were here with us, helping us," said new homeowner Angela Kendrick, a single mother with three daughters.

This was the first venture for both conferences

in partnering to connect with the Atlanta community in this manner.

The project began on October 14, 2007, and volunteers from both conferences joined each Sunday to build the house.

Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, says he hopes to partner with South Atlantic Conference for more projects in the future, especially in preparation for the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta.

—BY MARTIN KNOPPER
AND REBECCA BROOKS



MARTIN KNOPPER

Vanard J. Mendingball (left), South Atlantic president; Ollie Clemons, Atlanta, Ga., Berean Church coordinator; Chris Donovan, Georgia-Cumberland project coordinator; and Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland president, receive plaques of thanks from Atlanta Habitat for Humanity.

Hospice Benefit Held in Bristol

The Family Life Center at the Bristol, Tenn., Church was transformed into a fine dining establishment on December 2, 2007. The first Truly Christmas program brought together

48 women from the church and community for a festive meal and spiritual program. The proceeds from the event were dedicated to the Hospice House at Wellmont Regional Medical Center

in Bristol. It was a way of showing the church members' gratitude for the ministry that the hospice caregivers had shown to two church families recently.

The idea for Truly Christmas was inspired by the memories that organizer Debbie Begley had from her experience with the program at the Peachtree City, Ga., Church.

"God really put it on my heart," said Begley. "We wanted to do something special for the women of our church and also reach out to our community."

Along with fellow coordinator Vanessa Morenings, Begley and a crew of volunteers spent many hours organizing, cooking, and decorating.

Each hostess sponsored

and decorated one of the nine tables and invited guests to join them at their table. A white-shirted staff of 18 men from the church and community served the meal.

After dinner, everyone moved to the sanctuary for a Christmas program of music and scripture readings.

Joyce Peak, the charge nurse at Hospice House, spoke about the enormous physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits of hospice care. When the members presented her with a check for \$1,170 and the promise of more that had been pledged, Peak responded, "I don't know what to say except 'Thank you! Thank you!' This is a really great thing that you are doing."

—BY SCOTT BEGLEY



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Joyce Peak (center) was presented with a \$1,170 gift for Hospice House by benefit coordinators Debbie Begley (left) and Vanessa Morenings (right).