

Many of our favorite memories of South Church revolve around our participation in a number of “Adult Mission Trips.” Words that come to mind as we reminisce about those trips are:

**Camaraderie** - what better way to get to know ourselves and each other than working to achieve a common goal together. New friendships were also formed with other workers, especially the participating home owners. Bruce formed quite a bond with one homeowner in Gulfport, MS who shared his remodeled Hurricane Katrina damaged home with a number of the crew members.

**Skills** - sharing old skills and acquiring new skills. Laura became quite adept at caulking and our daughter, Heather, helped Judy Benton work on a tile floor for the kitchen in the little house in Biloxi, while Bruce helped to make a window seat in their remodeled living room. Laura and others of our crew learned how to put siding on the tornado damaged house in Springfield MA.

**Hard work and sweat** went hand in hand as we shoveled and distributed dirt around the tornado hit house in Springfield. Laying a floor in Biloxi on a warm Mississippi day proved both challenging and possible with a team of South Church workers!

**Sleeping and talking together** on Church floors in Yarmouth and Springfield and being treated to bunk beds in Biloxi and Galveston. Air mattresses often proved challenging - especially if they developed an air leak!

**Sharing a delicious shrimp boil** with grateful home owners in Biloxi after a job well done to help them get back their home after Hurricane Katrina. The boil cooked all afternoon in a huge pot outside tantalizing us with its wonderful smell as we tried to complete our jobs before calling it quits for the day and the job. Yum!

**Caring and sharing stories** with folks who were so grateful for whatever help we could offer. We usually came away feeling that we had benefitted as much as the homeowners.

**Gratitude to South Church** and the folks who organized all these opportunities for us to share in the Mission of our church.