

# Two Centuries of Service Continue

By Erin Schulte

With a goal of continuing to build on our previous two centuries of service, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is undertaking several special service and outreach projects in conjunction with its bicentennial in 2008.

Three mission trips to the Gulf Coast are planned to rebuild housing destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. PC(USA) churches have contributed about \$35 million dollars toward this end, and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – our denomination’s disaster response arm – has made a long-term commitment to help rebuild communities in Louisiana and Mississippi that were devastated by the storms.

FAPC will be doing two trips to New Orleans – one over the President’s Day weekend, and the second trip the first weekend in May. We will also return to Pearlinton, Miss., in October; two other FAPC mission trips served Pearlinton in 2006. A brochure with all the details and the application form are on the Mission Trip Committee Web page, which can be reached via FAPC’s Outreach site.

For those who want to contribute to the rebuilding effort but won’t be able to attend any of the trips, a “200 Club” funded by members of the church contributing multiples of \$200 will go to help support



**Women’s Association members** make surgical dressings in the “war relief workroom” for British children during World War II.

*Photo: From the upcoming book A Proud Heritage, A Pictorial History of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church*

bicentennial activities, including the mission trips. Those contributing smaller amounts can “buy” parts of a balsa wood house we are building to represent our collective commitment to missions, outreach and promoting our bicentennial’s message of Two Centuries of Service.

More broadly, FAPC members will be asked during the bicentennial year to recommit themselves to service by making a pledge of their time to one of the established FAPC outreach ministries, such as the homeless shelter, Meals on Heels, or the Bowery Mission. V