

## Job Prospects Bright for NCC Nursing Students



Members of the Class of 2009 of the New Community School of Practical Nursing with NCC chief of staff Kathy Spivey, back row, far left, and school director Ellen Boddie, back row, third from left.

### First combined day and evening ceremony produces largest class

The New Community School of Practical Nursing saw its largest group of students ever participate in a ceremony at St. Rose of Lima Church where they basked in the joy of reaching a milestone in the rigorous program that required not only commitment, but

sacrifice.

Family members and friends of the 70 students, many carrying colorful floral bouquets or congratulatory balloons, packed the church sanctuary for the Pinning & Capping ceremony, anxiously awaiting the moment their loved one or friend's name would be called. All had worked diligently to meet the demanding core requirements of the 16-month program that puts them on the road to becoming Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's). At least 21 students, by the time of the ceremony, had already taken and passed the tough, state-licensing exam that allows them to work as an LPN. All have found jobs.

Student Paulette Holt, a 52-year-old Irvington grandmother, said she plans to take her licensing board exam next month. She said the nursing program was challenging, but well worth it.

"Just being able to say to my children and grandchildren that this is my accomplishment means a lot," she said. "It was very challenging, just getting this far was a blessing." Holt and the other students, all dressed in white and some carrying candles, entered the church in a processional down the center aisle to the gospel favorite, "We've Come This Far by Faith," played by Willie Martin. The ceremony, for the first time, combined students from both the day and evening programs. As school director Ellen Boddie looked on, she recalled how difficult it was for some students to focus solely on their studies.

"Some worked full time jobs and still came to school. They've had some really rough times," she said, noting some experienced the death of family members and even personal sickness, but continued to persevere.

The good news is that despite the gloomy job picture, Boddie is confident that close to 100 percent of the LPN students will find jobs. A large part of that is due to a continuing

