

Compassion in Action



CROP Hunger Walk 2016!

Thirty-one Watts Streeters plus a four-legged friend braved chilly and wet conditions after worship on Sunday, March 20, to participate in the forty-second Durham CROP Hunger Walk. Fran Langstaff provided the walkers a delicious lunch before the group headed to Duke Chapel where hundreds of other Durhamites gathered to participate in the annual event that combines fun and fundraising to raise money for hungry people throughout the world. Money raised is split between two organizations: 75% goes to Church World Service and 25% stays in Durham County and is used by Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) to help our neighbors in need. This year's

walk put Durham over the \$4M mark for total funds raised. WSBC raised \$2,888 this year! Special thanks to Addison Oliver who organized Watts Street's involvement in this year's CROP Walk with the help of Jennifer Martin and Jenny Leinbach.

For more information about the CROP Walk go to durhamcropwalk.org.

WSBC raises \$2,888 for CROP Walk!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Prison Ministry | 2 |
| Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel | 2 |
| Watts Street on Mission | 3 |
| HELP | 4 |
| Durham CAN | 5 |
| Families Moving Forward | 5 |
| HJ on K March | 6 |
| You Can Vote | 6 |
| WSBC Covenant | 7 |
| Gaza: MAIA Project | 7 |
| Habitat | 8 |

Service of Worship at NCCIW

“...we are precious in God’s sight...”

On Sunday March 7, the WSBC Prison Ministry Mission Group held a joyful service at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women (NCCIW) in Raleigh. The service was led by Pastor Sarah Jobe and centered on Isaiah 43 – “Don’t be afraid for I have ransomed you; I have called you by name and you are mine.”

The seats at The Hope Center were filled with women who received encouragement and felt God’s love as Pastor Jobe reminded us to get down deep in our souls, that we are precious in God’s sight, and honored, and that He loves us. Worship was kicked into high gear with the soulful sounds of Ron’s Band (John, Bill, Darryl, and Curtis, and Ron’s loving spirit), and then the women recited a dramatic and impactful poem about self-image, self-respect, and self-

love. Pastor Jobe followed with the words of Isaiah and the prophecy that we can all hold onto the assurances of who we are in Christ’s eyes, of His love, and of His protection.

After communion, Ron’s Band sealed the deal with more rocking tunes and hymns of the joy of God’s love. “Keep the Devil in the Hole” was requested as an encore. The women filed out of the service with a new found confidence in their steps! Many thanks to Debra, Bill, Sarah, and Nancy for their steady and loving support of this service and ministry.

Please join us in this very important WSBC mission ministry! Contact Jennifer Garst at jennifer.garst@duke.edu for more information. The next Blue Card volunteer training will be in June 2016 and is required in order to enter the prison.

An Easter Message from Our Sister Church

Dear Sisters and Brothers, in Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, North Carolina

May The Grace of The Risen Christ be with each of you in your Church.

With hope in our hearts, we want to wish that the light of the risen Jesus, illuminate your lives and hearts, and encourage you to walk in the way of The Gospel.

That the presence of The Risen, help you to dispel any doubts and the Holy Spirit affirm each of you in your vocation of faith.

We ask that the Spirit of the risen Jesus help us to proclaim together the Gospel of Reconciliation and Peace!!

With Love and Gratitude,

A Very Happy Easter!!

On Behalf of your Sisters and Brothers in Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel in San Salvador,

Miguel Tomas Castro Garcia
Senior Minister.

“...help us to proclaim together the Gospel of Reconciliation and Peace!!”



Second Annual Watts Street on Mission, Saturday, May 30, 2015

Third Annual Watts Street on Mission Saturday, May 21, 2016

Using our Gifts to Serve God and Neighbor

Watts Street On Mission Goals

- 1) Give the Watts Street congregation an opportunity to use their spiritual gifts, talents, and passions in service to the community
- 2) Create a dynamic church-wide, intergenerational experience
- 3) Utilize, promote, and energize our existing Mission Groups
- 4) Explore ways to continue these efforts throughout the coming year

Sign Up Begins April 24

At the All Ages Beach Retreat
In the Hallway Leading to the Fellowship Hall

- Fellowship Hall Projects – cards, baby blankets, kindergarten kits, etc. etc. etc.
- IHN Cleaning Project
- Ellerbe Creek Clean-up
- Reality Ministries Cleaning/Painting
- Meals on Wheels – PB&J sandwiches!
- Prison Ministry Banner and Cards
- Habitat
- Diaper Bank – Packaging diapers for families in need
- Urban Ministries Casseroles
- Retirement Home Visit/Singing
- Voter Registration

Be There, or Be Square!

Volunteer orientation/training in May!

HELP

HELP is looking for donations of time/volunteer hours and equipment. Thanks to the generosity of the Durham community in passing along used health care equipment to their neighbors, HELP (Health Equipment Loan Program) has more than 300 pieces of durable medical equipment available for three-month loans, renewable for persons with long-term needs. Most needed items include wheelchairs, especially bariatric or oversized; tub transfer benches; and rolling walkers with brakes and seats. Please

let friends, co-workers, neighbors, list serves, civic groups, etc., know about this free service to anyone who lives in Durham County.

The next volunteer orientation/training will occur in early May; date and time are not yet determined. Watch for further news and/or contact Anne Drennan, Volunteer Coordinator, at adrennan@projectaccessdurham.org or (919)489-2942 for more information and to complete a volunteer application.

HELP is funded by grants from Duke University Health System Office of Community and Local Government Relations, Durham County Department of Public Health - *RWJF Culture of Health Prize*, and the Durham Merchants' Association Charitable Foundation. Also contributing are area congregations (Watts Street Baptist Church was the first donor), and individuals.

Thanks for spreading the news that "HELP is here!" Connect with HELP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/helpdurhamnc, visit the HELP website, <http://projectaccessdurham.org/HELP/>, or follow us on Twitter @durhamHELP.



Volunteers George and Betty clean health equipment for loan to those in need.

Missions Committee: The Missions Committee is in the process of vetting all organizations and groups that receive funding from WSBC. Watch for information about other needs from these groups (volunteers, event planning, etc) in the next *Compassion In Action*. 2015-2016 Missions Committee Members include: Paula Januzzi-Godfrey, Chair, Susan Brooks, Juliana Caldwell, Marcie Fisher-Borne, Kirsten Kruhm, Fran Langstaff, Jenny Leinbach, Bill McCraw, and Ginny Wiggins. **Ideas for Mission Baskets? Contact Susan Brooks or Bill McCraw. Ideas for Minute for Missions? Contact Fran Langstaff.**

Report from the Durham CAN Assembly

Thirteen youth and adults from Watts Street Baptist Church joined close to 500 delegates at the Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods) Assembly on March 13 at First Presbyterian Church. City and county leaders (many of whom were seeking election that week) were on hand to hear from and respond to the needs of the community as identified by the Durham CAN listening sessions. The specific issues addressed were youth empowerment, affordable housing, and immigrant-police relations.

Watts Street youth group member, Rachel Sauls, and her *a cappella* group from Jordan High School provided music as the delegates arrived. Rachel has been an active leader on the Durham CAN Youth team, which was founded last fall. Thanks to the research, hard work, and advocacy of

the Durham CAN Youth team, our elected officials ratified an agreement on Sunday to audit the Durham Public Schools counseling system, fill current vacancies with bilingual counselors, and direct significant funding to improve middle and high school counseling services.

Watts Streeters attending the Assembly included Fran Langstaff, Clark Godfrey, Emily McCoy, Ralph McCoy, Amy Armstrong, Rob Womack, Hannah Sauls, Rachel Sauls, Jonathan Sauls, Amy Sauls, Addison Oliver, Aria Oliver, and Kelly Sasser. For a news report on the Durham CAN Assembly, please visit <http://www.indyweek.com/> and search "CAN Assembly." For further information about Durham CAN, you may contact Bob Kruhm at rkruhm@nc.rr.com.

Thirteen Watts Street members attended the Durham Can Assembly on March 14.

Breaking News! Durham CAN Metro Council Meeting
Thursday, April 14, 2016, from 6 to 7:30 pm, Watts Street Baptist Church

There is still work to do, join us to decide on:

1. Press conference on community-police relationships
2. Accountability action on school counselors
3. Meeting with developer on affordable housing proposal

Families Moving Forward Makes Progress

Families Moving Forward (Genesis Home and IHN coming together) continues to make great progress! The construction on the building on Queen Street is well underway. The goal is to move the staff from Roxboro Street into their new digs by mid-summer and to consolidate all the families there. More good news is that in the past month five families have moved into their own homes!

But more volunteers are needed for Circles of Support, mentoring, and more. For further information about Families Moving Forward and volunteer opportunities, check out the Families Moving Forward website - <http://genesishome.org/> - or contact Stuart Wells, stuart.wells@duke.edu, or Elizabeth Forshay, Elizabeth.Forshay@unhealth.unc.edu.

FMF needs volunteers!

WSBC Joins HK on J March

On February 13, 2016, eleven Watts Street members braved cold, windy weather to march in the 10th annual Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HK on J) rally in Raleigh. This is a mass assembly to show commitment to the agenda of the NAACP and its 150 Moral Monday coalition partners and to show lawmakers that they are being held accountable to the people of North Carolina. The HK on J assembly focuses on voting rights, a cleaner environment, medical care, education and equality on many important issues.

People from all over the state joined in this march. Watts Street members participating were: Chuck Clifton, David Heist, Bob Kruhm, Jonathan and Jenny Leinbach, Ralph and Emily McCoy, Barb and Dick Rumer, Rachel Sauls, and Joy Salyers.

For more information about HK on J, go to <http://www.hkonj.com/about>. For information about WSBC involvement with HK on J, contact Gordon Whitaker, whitakergordon@gmail.com



Eleven Watts Street members joined the HK on J March in Raleigh to advocate for “liberty and justice for all.”

You Can Vote! Voter Registration Training

The Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group is sponsoring a voter registration training given by *You Can Vote* following Wednesday Night Supper on April 27. This opportunity is available to anyone who is interested in learning more about the new voter registration laws but, more importantly, is available for those who are planning to participate in voter registration during Watts Street on Mission on May 21st. There will also be other occasions to volunteer with *You Can Vote* before the November election.

“*You Can Vote* is a grassroots coalition working to inform citizens of their right to vote and to help them overcome recently legislated barriers to voting in North Carolina. We train and mobilize volunteers to educate, register and empower all NC citizens to successfully cast their ballot” (<http://www.youcanvote.org/>).

Everyone interested in participating in the WSOM voter registration project on May 21st is encouraged to attend this training.

For more information, contact Emily McCoy, emccoy@nc.rr.com.

*Voter Training
Information for
WSOM!*

Reflecting on the Watts Street Baptist Church Covenant

[This article is from the perspective of Fran Langstaff, a member of the Denominational Relations Committee. To see a copy of the WSBC Covenant, please go to <http://wattsstreet.org/welcome/about-us/covenant/>.]

Several of us just completed a March Forum on our Church Covenant. This forum was presented by the Denominational Relations Committee and led by our own covenant experts, Curtis Freeman and Jim Drennan.

We examined Watts Street’s two previous covenants, as well as some covenants of other churches and denominations, but focused on our present covenant, which was adopted in 1997. The major question was, “How well are we living into our covenant?” It was interesting to see how the individuals graded themselves and the church on the items we agreed to by covenant. I believe that everyone graded the church, as a whole, as doing

a better job than each of us is doing individually. Statistically, it would be interesting to see how all the members would grade the church and themselves on living into our covenant. The next time we read the covenant in church, think about how well you feel our church and you, personally, are living into this covenant.

We also discussed whether it was time to update our covenant. Are there things that we would now remove from the covenant? Are there things that we would at this point in our church life wish to see included? This, of course, is a discussion for the entire church body. Think about it.

“How well are we living into our covenant?”

Gaza: MAIA Project

In the February edition of *Compassion in Action*, there was an article about the desalination units installed in Gaza with funding from WSBC and friends. We thought members would like to see the sign recognizing WSBC’s gift and some of the precious children who are benefiting from clean water and people who care about them.



Habitat Celebrates Another Build!

Saturday, March 19th, celebrated the completion of another Habitat Mission project for WSBC! Watts Street partnered with Trinity Avenue Presbyterian and Triangle Presbyterian Churches to build a Habitat House for the Burgess family at 206 Roberson Street. With this celebration, the family can now have a place to call “home,” thanks to the many who worked to complete this project.

The Durham Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, initiated at Watts Street, marks its 31st year in 2016. Watts Street has helped build about 16 homes over the years as a result of many people coming out and spending three hours on a Saturday working, listening, learning, seeing and believing that what we are doing for the new and future homeowners of Durham is making a difference. We are helping to provide affordable housing to good families in our community and living by the teachings of our Lord. Our mission is not just to build a house, but to give a hand up to a family and help them build a better future in a highly efficient, sturdy and safe home.

As a part of Watts Street on Mission, the Habitat Mission Group

Welcome Home! WSBC celebrates another Habitat build.

will participate in a build on North Hyde Park Avenue. This is a great exploring opportunity for people who think they might be interested in joining this ministry. There is always room for more Watts Streeters who want to learn more about Habitat’s mission and how WSBC and other congregations participate. And it is a good opportunity to learn new skills and construction tricks!

The current plan is to begin another Habitat project in the fall of 2016. Contact Steve Booth (spbooth@mindspring.com or 919-740-9877) with questions about our work with Habitat and sign up for the Watts Street on Mission Habitat project to explore this opportunity.

“Where every member is a minister”



**Watts Street Baptist Church
Missions Committee**

800 Watts Street.
Durham, N.C., 27701
Phone: 919-688-1366
Fax: 919-688-7255
E-mail: wattsstreet@nc.rr.com
Web: www.wattsstreet.org



**Watts Street on Mission sign-up begins April 24 at the Beach Retreat
and in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall**