

Compassion in Action



Find a Place to Do God's Work!

Watts Street Baptist Church has a number of Mission Groups that follow the interests of its members as they seek to fulfill God's calling to care for others. Some groups are very active, others are small, but all have room for more hands and hearts. Below is a list of active mission groups along with a brief description and contact information. If you are not already involved in a Mission Group or are looking for a fresh (or additional) direction, please do some exploring and find a place to do God's work!

Missions at WSBC follows its members' interests in fulfilling God's calling

Habitat for Humanity was started in Durham with help from several Watts Street members including Worth Lutz, Dick Chorley, and Wallace Hare. Habitat continues to build homes for low income families throughout the year, and Watts Street continues to have special building projects each year. All kinds of volunteers are needed from skilled and unskilled workers to people who can provide occasional food for work crews. Crews work Saturdays from 8:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 3:30. There is a group of retired folks who call themselves "The Geezers" who work every Thursday beginning at 8:30. Visit www.durhamhabitat.org to learn more. Contact: Steve Booth, steve@dhtinsurance.com or spbooth@mindspring.com.

Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods) is a coalition of organizations committed to working on issues of concern to participating individuals or member organizations. Durham CAN works in a non-partisan

fashion across racial and ethnic lines for positive, non-violent social change in Durham. Issues to be addressed over the next two years include affordable housing, jobs and living wages, education and opportunities for youth. WSBC has supported Durham CAN since 2005. Visit www.durhamcan.org to learn more. Contact: Bob Kruhm, rkruhm@nc.rr.com.

El Salvador Mission Group supports a working relationship with our covenant church, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel, in San Salvador, El Salvador. This mission group works to extend this relationship through mission trips to El Salvador that have in the past included the building of affordable housing. The most recent focus of this group is supporting the Youth Centers there and sponsorship of scholarships for local children to attend public schools and universities. To learn more visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/international/>. Contact: Clark Godfrey, cgodfrey24@aol.com.

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Prison Ministry Mission Group offers four or five worship services each year at the Raleigh Correctional Center for Women where WSBC member Sarah Jobe serves as chaplain. Each worship service ends with a time of sharing food and fellowship. This group, started in 2011, consists of a core group of WSBC members who have undergone required training at the prison in order to go into the prison multiple times each year. The group also needs individuals who will provide food for the services. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/social-justice/>. Contact: Jennifer Garst, Jennifer.garst@duke.edu.

Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group has been active at WSBC since the 1980s on issues of peace and justice both here and abroad. Operating at times on "cutting edge" issues, this group seeks to build peace and advance justice through education and non-violent action. The members work to foster a reconciled community and strive to combat systematic discrimination. We seek to enact our faith that behind every human face is the face of God. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/social-justice/>. Contact: Gordon Whitaker, whitakergordon@gmail.com.

Environmental Mission Group seeks to carry out God's call to care for all of creation. It has promoted sustainability within our congregation and sponsored events to encourage thinking about faith-ecology connections. Members of the group donate time and energy in sponsoring educational sessions on "green" living, experiential lessons for kids, invited speakers, and recycling bins. Visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/environment/> to learn more. Contact: Scott Job, earthscott@gmail.com.

Walltown Mission Group has maintained a longstanding relationship with Walltown Neighborhood Ministries and the Walltown

community. Grounded in relationship building across racial and socio-economic lines, WNM seeks to educate congregations about community matters, and support local organizing efforts, including a food bank for Walltown residents. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Dorisanne Cooper, Dorisanne@wattsstreet.org.

Urban Ministries of Durham Community Café is supported at WSBC by the Sojourners Sunday School Class as they prepare and serve one meal each month at Urban Ministries. All WSBC members are welcome to help prepare the meal and/or serve it once each month. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/food-shelter/>. Coordinator for this project is David Heist, david.heist@gmail.com.

Reconciliation and Re-Entry Mission Group creates partnerships between an individual leaving prison (the "partner") and six to eight members. The objective is to help those leaving prison meet the challenges of finding jobs and affordable housing, avoiding substance abuse, and forming good relationships. The team works with Durham's Criminal Justice Resource Center to identify a person who is receptive to such a partnership. This group is currently waiting for a new R & R partner to be assigned to WSBC. As a way of staying engaged and involved with this issue, members of this group attend vigils throughout the year to support community members facing the tragedy of losing a loved one to violence. Visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/social-justice/> to learn more. Contact: Kirsten Kruhm, Kirsten.Kruhm@redcross.org or 919-605-7023.

AIDS Support Team offers practical and emotional support to people in our community living with HIV/AIDS. The Team is paired with one care partner and provides support through.

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Find a Place to Do God's Work (continued)

individual contact and social activities including dinners, movies, and other outings. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/care-compassion/>. Contact: Greg Palmer, senorpalmer@gmail.com.

Reality Ministries' mission is to create opportunities for teens and adults with and without developmental disabilities to experience belonging, kinship, and the life-changing Reality of Christ's love. Reality Ministries offers evening and daytime programs that provide opportunities for sharing food, fellowship, games, singing, messages from the Bible, service projects, and more with individuals with developmental disabilities age 14 and over. The WSBC Reality Ministries Mission Group partners with Reality to develop opportunities for welcome and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our congregation and our community. A current activity of this Mission Group is to coordinate a healthy lunch on the first Friday of the month for Daytime @ Watts Street. This new Reality Daytime program started this fall and is being held at Watts Street every Friday. Hosting Daytime at WSBC provides the congregation with lots of opportunities to get more involved with this Mission Group and Reality Ministries. Watts Street members can: (1) volunteer to be present with and assist the group for part (or all) of the day on Fridays, (2) volunteer to help cook lunch for the Reality group, (3) lead the group in an activity that you love (yoga, music, etc.) or teach a particular skill (knitting, magic tricks, etc.). And if Friday is not a good day for you to volunteer, you can join the Daytime group at the Reality Center on any other day of the week (Monday-Thursday). Another opportunity is with Reality Works, geared toward helping our friends find meaningful work and develop their work skills. Visit <http://www.realityministriesinc.org> to learn more. Contact: Cari Furiness, cs.furiness@gmail.com.

REAL Durham (Relationships Equipping Allies and Leaders) supports individuals and families as they move out of poverty and into self-sufficiency by creating authentic relationships across race and class lines. Program Leaders (those in poverty) and Allies (community volunteers) work together to accomplish career, financial, and life goals as set forth by the Leaders. In addition, the program focuses on the ways that institutionalized racism has caused poverty for many people and addresses these issues through a variety of outlets. WSBC mission team members can serve as Allies or help with other aspects of the program. To learn more, visit www.realdurham.org. Contacts: Greg Palmer, senorpalmer@gmail.com or Maggie Chotas, maggiechotas@themulberrypartners.com.

Families Moving Forward (from the merger of Genesis Home and the Interfaith Hospitality Network) is a new organization providing transitional housing, meals and other personalized support for families with children as they move from homelessness to permanent housing. The FMF Mission Group currently partners with Duke Memorial United Methodist Church and Shepherd's House UMC about one week in 10 to provide and share nightly meals at the former Genesis Home location. To learn more, visit <http://www.familiesmovingforwardnc.org>. Contacts: Stuart Wells, stuart.wells@duke.edu; Stella Smith, stellasmith@frontier.com; or Elizabeth Forshay, Elizabeth.Forshay@unhealth.unc.edu.

W. E. Stanley Mission House provides a comfortable, peaceful, and nurturing environment to assist in the care of patients and their families who are receiving medical care away from home and need affordable housing assistance. The facility is coordinated in partnership with Host Homes at Duke University Medical Center. Contacts: Becky Dodson, rdodson1@nc.rr.com or Ginny Wiggins, vwiggins3@nc.rr.com.



HELP continues to need volunteers and special equipment donations

HELP is recruiting equipment repairers. These volunteers check donated equipment for missing parts and safety, follow strict procedures for repair and sanitization, make minor repairs and/or determine that equipment needs to be sent for recycling. Training is provided. Equipment repairers are asked to work a minimum of eight hours each month in two to four hour shifts.

Donations of tub transfer benches and oversize/bariatric items, e.g. wheelchairs, rollators and bedside commodes, are needed now for loan to the general public. Larger items, e.g.

beds, lift chairs, Hoyer lifts, etc., can be handled directly by HELP through the network of social work/practitioner contacts.

HELP is pleased to have a continuing relationship with The Scrap Exchange to re-energize the Lakewood area of Durham. Come by and visit on Tuesdays between 10 – 2 p.m. or Fridays between 2 – 6 p.m. Any person who has an ID or document listing a Durham County address may borrow items. For more information, contact Anne Drennan at (919) 489-2942 or adrennan@projectaccessdurham.org.

El Salvador Sunday at One World Market

The WSBC El Salvador Mission Group invites you to join us on Sunday, October 16 between 12:00 and 5:00 p.m. to shop and support Cal Pipil Youth Center in El Salvador. There will be original artwork sent from artists at Cal Pipil, as well as

other items from El Salvador, and of course, the wonderful items at OWM every day. Coffee from El Salvador will be available to sample and to purchase. For more information, contact Paula Januzzi-Godfrey, januzzi@projectaccessdurham.org.

Missions Committee: 2016-2017 Missions Committee Members include: Paula Januzzi-Godfrey, Chair, Juliana Caldwell, Kirsten Kruhm, Jenny Leinbach, Jason Mathes, Bill McCraw, Allyn Meredith, Amy Sauls, Joy Turner and April Walton. Please feel free to contact any of the members for more information about Watts Street's Missions.

Peace and Reconciliation Supports the LGBTQ Community

[This article is written from the perspective of Amy Armstrong.]

In August and September the Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group found two ways to help others in and around the Durham LGBTQ community learn of our stance as a welcoming and affirming congregation. During the annual North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, from August 12 – 20, we set up an information table that included information about Watts Street in general and an invitation to join us for *Out and About* and for the NC Pride parade. This year we were also able to have beautiful brochures available through the North American Baptist Peace Fellowship entitled "Queer & Faithful: Questions People Ask LGBTQ People and Christian Faith."

The second event took place on Saturday, September 24, as a group of Watts Streeters again walked with our float in the NC Pride Parade. It is always great to hear people along the parade route thank us for being a church that chooses to be welcoming and affirming of LGBTQ people when other churches choose to do

the opposite. We find that participating in these large, community events helps some who may have been ostracized by the church, know that there are communities of faith - even Baptists - who recognize that God loves LGBTQ people as they are and affirms us in our faith and gifts.

For more information about the Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group and its work with the LGBTQ community, contact Gordon Whitaker, whitakergordon@gmail.com.

Watts Streeters join in the NC Pride Parade on September 24.



Mission Baskets: The Mission Baskets, located in the side foyer and in the fellowship hall, collect supplies for various organizations. Through October, the Mission Baskets are collecting non-perishable food items for the Walltown Neighborhood Ministries Food Pantry. Please check the Watts Line for information about the November-December Mission Baskets. For more information, contact Bill McCraw, bill.mccraw@duke.edu.



Update from Rebound

[Watts Street has supported Rebound since its pilot program in the 2012-2013 school year. In 2016, the WSBC budget included a \$1,500 donation to Rebound.]

Rebound: Alternatives for Youth is looking forward to a third year in full operation, providing a safe and supportive space that keeps students connected to school during a suspension. Rebound opened for students on Monday, September 12 with referrals already coming in from schools and families for students who need Rebound's services.

Rebound had many successes in the 2015-16 year, including serving students on 265 individual suspensions, hosting successful conflict mediations for 42 students, and matching 17 students with community mentors.

A special note for Watts Street is that Elissa Rumer, is interning with Rebound

this year. Elissa was raised in the Durham Public School System, attending DPS Magnet Schools from 2nd through 8th grades. She is active in the Durham community, acting as a youth leader for Watts Street's youth group and a youth choir mentor. Elissa is passionate about working with the youth population in Durham. She hopes to work with at-risk youth in an effort to keep them out of the prison pipeline and instead, help to keep them connected with the Durham community.

For more information about Rebound, including the Annual Report Snapshot for 2015-2016, go to <http://reboundnc.org/> or contact Amy Rublein at amy.rublein@gmail.com.

You Can Vote!



Melissa Harrell, Ralph McCoy, Lisa Rhodes, and Emily McCoy were part of the You Can Vote campaign on September 25.

Raising voter awareness is a project of the Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group. On Sunday morning, September 25th, seven members of this group, who were trained by *You Can Vote*, conducted a campaign before Sunday School and after worship to provide an opportunity to register to vote and update addresses. Information was also provided about dates, times and locations for early voting. Participants included Ralph and Emily McCoy, Melissa Harrell, Lisa Rhodes, Gordon Whitaker, Fran Langstaff, and Maggie Chotas. For further information about early voting, contact Emily McCoy, emccoy@nc.rr.com or go to www.youcanvote.org.

Ron's Band Inspires at the Women's Prison

[This article is written from the perspective of Nancy Lehman.]

On Thursday, September 25, 2016, Ron's Band, composed of Darryl Powell, Bill McCraw, John Lehman, and Curtis Freeman, entertained the ladies at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh. Nancy Lehman and Karin Oliver were also there as members of the Prison Ministry Mission Group. As always, the ladies were most welcoming and responsive to the music. There was a good bit of clapping along, as well as hoots and hollers for the band. Bill Salyers, a favorite speaker for the inmates, had an unfortunate fall, and was unable to attend. Pastor Sarah Jobe stepped in at the last minute, and delivered the sermon of a lifetime. Based upon the

Biblical text Jeremiah 32, where Jeremiah buys a field, Sarah coined the phrase, "You've got to invest, to be blessed." Indeed she did invest. Her energy and enthusiasm was palpable. At the end, Sarah made the call, and thirteen women came forward to profess Jesus as Lord. There were lots of tears of joy, and the band was outstanding! Unfortunately, cameras are not allowed, so you have to be there, to see the appreciation, and feel the energy and the joy. We all have to "invest, to be blessed." Amen.

For more information about the Prison Ministry, please contact Jennifer Garst, jennifer.garst@duke.edu

"You've got to invest, to be blessed."

Meals on Wheels Day - Tuesday, January 27

The WSBC Missions Committee and Senior Adult Coordinating Council announce another opportunity to help assemble and pack meals at Meals on Wheels of Durham. The next MOW event is Tuesday, January 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All ages are welcome to participate. We will car pool at 8 00 a.m. from the Urban Avenue parking lot to the MOW facility at 2522 Ross Road. Please RSVP to Bob Kruhm at rkruhm@nc.rr.com or call the church office to sign up.

Durham CAN Metro Council Meeting

The Durham CAN (Churches, Associations, Neighborhoods) Metro Council met on September 19, 2016, continuing the discussion of a number of items including affordable housing and Souls to the Polls. The affordable housing discussion included the development of property on Jackson Street and two city-owned parking lots on East Main Street, each site to include housing for families below 60 percent of the area median income. The Souls to the Polls discussion centered on a planned march to begin at First Presbyterian Church on October 22 in collaboration with other groups. For more information about Durham CAN, go to <http://www.durhamcan.org/> or contact Bob Kruhm, rkruhm@nc.rr.com

Families Moving Forward (FMF) Seeks “Study Buddies”

All school-age children at Families Moving Forward attend “Study Buddies” Monday through Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. whenever school is in session. Dedicated volunteers commit to being a Study Buddy once a week for the entire semester or school year, helping children staying at the FMF House on Queen Street with homework, test preparation and projects. Volunteers must be high school graduates with basic knowledge of core subjects - most of the Study Buddy children are in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Although FMF needs volunteers every night (Monday through Thursday) they are in “dire need” on Thursday nights. Your help will change the trajectory of a child’s life. Please contact Tasha Melvin at 919-683-5878 extension 28 with any questions.

As of late September, FMF was serving 16 families, with five openings. Six families recently moved into permanent housing. Three of those families moved into Goley Point, a permanent supportive housing site newly opened by the Durham Housing Authority. The goal is for FMF to gradually move to an all-emergency model of assistance for homeless families with children.

FMF is promoting the requirement for Safe Sanctuary classes and background checks for all volunteers who are working

with children. A VISTA member will be following up with congregational coordinators to be sure all volunteers have completed their congregation’s version of the class and/or have already passed a background check. Some congregations have opened their Safe Sanctuary classes to FMF volunteers to make it relatively easy to complete this requirement. An upcoming class will be offered on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 6-8 p.m. at Calvary UMC.

The new FMF organization, formed from the merger of Genesis Home and the Interfaith Hospitality Network, provides transitional housing, meals and other personalized support for families with children as they move from homelessness to permanent housing. Our church’s FMF Mission Group currently partners with Duke Memorial United Methodist Church and Shepherd’s House UMC about one week in 10 to provide and share nightly meals at the former Genesis Home location. To learn more about FMF, visit www.familiesmovingforwardnc.org or contact Stuart Wells, stuart.wells@duke.edu; Stella Smith, stellasmith@frontier.com; or Elizabeth Forshay, Elizabeth.Forshay@unchealth.unc.edu. FMF’s Catherine Pleil will be our Wednesday night guest speaker on October 12, 6:30 p.m.

“Where every member is a minister



Watts Street Baptist Church Missions Committee

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