

# 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. WSBC partners with other congregations with the goal of building one house every year. This year's build will be in recognition of Watts Street's 30 years of building! All kinds of volunteers are needed from skilled and unskilled workers to people who can provide occasional food for work crews. Crews work the first and third Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30, and there is a group of retired folks who call themselves "The Geezers" who work every Thursday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Visit [www.durhamhabitat.org](http://www.durhamhabitat.org) to learn more. Contact: Steve Booth, [steve@dhntinsurance.com](mailto:steve@dhntinsurance.com) or [spbooth@mindspring.com](mailto: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. To learn more visit [www.durhamcan.org](http://www.durhamcan.org). Contact: Bob Kruhm, [rkruhm@nc.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:cgodfrey24@aol.com).

**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

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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](mailto:jennifer.garst@duke.edu).

**Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group** has been active at WSBC for more than 35 years 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 based on race, class, gender, or sexual orientation. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/social-justice/>. Contact: Gordon Whitaker, [whitakergordon@gmail.com](mailto: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. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/environment/>. Contact: Scott Job, [earthscott@gmail.com](mailto:earthscott@gmail.com).

**Walltown Neighborhood Ministries** seeks to bridge churches, public and charter schools, and families in the Walltown neighborhood. This organization is engaged in street-level justice activities such as Project TURN. It also nurtures neighborhood youth through educational development programs including Urban Hope and Walltown Aspiring Youth. WSBC has been involved with this Ministry for many years, but is in need of new congregational participation. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/social-justice/>. Contact: Rob Womack, [rwomack@frontier.com](mailto:rwomack@frontier.com).

**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](mailto: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. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/social-justice/>. Contact: Kirsten Kruhm at [Kirsten.Kruhm@redcross.org](mailto:Kirsten.Kruhm@redcross.org).

**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 individual contact and social activities including dinners, movies, and other outings. Team members complete a training program through the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/care-compassion/>. Contact: Greg Palmer, [senorpalmer@gmail.com](mailto: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 to welcome and support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our congregation and our community. This Mission Group coordinates a healthy lunch on the first Wednesday of the month for Daytime @ the RC, the daytime program at the Reality Center. Another opportunity is with Reality Works, geared toward helping our friends find meaningful work and develop their work skills. To learn more, visit <http://www.realityministriesinc.org>. Contact: Cari Furiness, [cs.furiness@gmail.com](mailto:cs.furiness@gmail.com).

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### Find a Place to do God's Work (continued)

**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. Circle Leaders (those in poverty) and Circle Allies (community and church members) work together to accomplish career, financial, and life goals as set forth by the Circle Leaders. In addition, the program focuses on 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 provide food for weekly meeting meals. To learn more, visit [www.realdurham.org](http://www.realdurham.org). Contacts: Greg Palmer, [senorpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:senorpalmer@gmail.com) or Maggie Chotas, [maggietchotas@themulberrypartners.com](mailto:maggietchotas@themulberrypartners.com).

**Genesis Home** and **Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)** will be merging within the next year (see article

on page 4). Both organizations seek to provide transitional housing, meals and other support for families moving from homelessness to permanent or temporary housing. The IHN Mission Group currently partners with Duke Memorial Methodist Church about one week in ten to provide and share nightly meals and overnight shelter. To learn more about IHN, visit <http://www.dihn.org> or contact Stuart Wells, [stuart.wells@duke.edu](mailto:stuart.wells@duke.edu), or Stella Smith, [stellasmith@frontier.com](mailto:stellasmith@frontier.com). To learn more about Genesis Home, visit [www.genesishome.org](http://www.genesishome.org), or contact Elizabeth Forshay, [Elizabeth.Forshay@unhealth.unc.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Forshay@unhealth.unc.edu) or Robin Coull, [robincoull@yahoo.com](mailto:robincoull@yahoo.com).

Please note that there are several other ways to get involved in WSBC ministries and community organizations that WSBC supports. Watch for updates on this list and more information following our Missions Committee Retreat that will take place in August 2015.

## HELP Launches!

*[WSBC contributed \$5,280 from the Mission Endowment Fund to assist in the launch of HELP (Health Equipment Loan Program). Earnings from the Missions Endowment Fund are designated to help start new mission initiatives.]*

*Many thanks to WSBC for a funding boost through the Mission Endowment Fund.*

HELP for Durham, a new service of Project Access of Durham County, is being launched through the efforts of Bob Roghelia, Bebe Guill, Anne Drennan, Mitch Heflin, Emily and Ralph McCoy, and other Durham citizens. HELP will offer free durable medical equipment for loan to uninsured and underinsured

residents of Durham County. Opening is targeted for January 2016 inside the Scrap Exchange at Lakewood Shopping Center, 2000 Chapel Hill Road. The goal is to promote a healthy Durham community by 1) providing recycled and refurbished small equipment, e.g., bedside commodes, walkers, wheelchairs, canes, crutches, tub benches, etc., to reduce barriers to recovery; 2) improving mobility, comfort, dignity, and quality of life during periods of recuperation; 3) allowing recuperation at home instead of in the hospital; 4) reducing stress on patients, family members and caregivers; and 5) reducing the needless discarding of equipment into landfills.

Watch for news of an opportunity to donate equipment in October. For more information, talk to anyone on the planning team.



## El Salvador Visit

The El Salvador Mission Group is excited to be sending a small group of WSBC members to visit our sister church Emmanuel Baptist and their Cal Pipil Youth Center August 1-7. Pastor Miguel has requested our assistance in supporting the youth center. Margaret and Jason Mathes and Greg Palmer will lead the group, and Rebeca Olmedo will serve as translator. Teddy Leinbach will be working on a project to create a short video with the Cal

*Cal Pipil and WSBC,  
March 2015*



Pipil leaders that will help with fundraising efforts, and Abigail Lutz will be going along to lead youth in art projects that can be brought back to Durham to sell. One World Market in Durham has agreed to host a fundraising event this fall for Cal Pipil, which will include selling coffee from El Salvador and artwork from the youth in El Salvador. Watch for more details to find out how you can support these efforts along with our El Salvador mission group to help sustain the Cal Pipil Youth Center!

*Note: Because of the current wide-spread and unpredictable violence in San Salvador, the El Salvador Mission Team has made the difficult decision to postpone this trip, originally planned to begin on Saturday, August 1. The Mission Team remains committed to this mission. They have tentatively postponed the trip until December, hoping that the violence will have subsided by that time. By postponing, they will also have more time to focus on raising support for the center. Please keep this team and the people of El Salvador in your prayers, specifically praying for a resolution to this gang violence*

## Genesis Home and IHN Plan to Merge

Genesis Home and Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) — Durham-area organizations that focus on helping the homeless — expect to finalize a merger agreement by the end of this year. The new agency, as yet unnamed, will provide temporary emergency shelter for 100 families per year, help families find sustainable sources of income and move into permanent housing, and address the root causes of homelessness to break the cycle of poverty. Merging the two organizations will not only provide assistance to more families, but will also allow expanded and enhanced services.

Community volunteers will be critical to the success of the new organization. IHN will transition away from its current church

*Community volunteers will be critical to the success of the new organization.*

rotation service model, but many new opportunities will be available. WSBC has a long history of supporting IHN and Genesis Home, both financially and with volunteers. Our intention is to continue this support with the new organization. For further information, please contact Stuart Wells (stuw615@aol.com) or Stella Smith (stellasmith@frontier.com), IHN liaisons. Other sources are Elizabeth Forshay (Elizabeth.Forshay@unchealth.unc.edu), or Robin Coull (robincoull@yahoo.com), Genesis Home liaisons. For more information about the merger, go to [www.heraldsun.com/lifestyles/faith/x219731440/Durham-homeless-aid-groups-to-merge](http://www.heraldsun.com/lifestyles/faith/x219731440/Durham-homeless-aid-groups-to-merge).

## Senior PharmAssist Update

*The following article is an excerpt from a letter from Joe Daly, Development and Communications Director for Senior PharmAssist, updating WSBC on this organizations' activities. WSBC will make a donation of \$825 to Sr. PharmAssist in 2015. The January Minute for Missions raised \$750 for this organization.*

...your investment allows older neighbors to remain as healthy and engaged as possible – for as long as possible. To recap, Senior PharmAssist (SPA) helps Durham residents 60 and older:

- Pay for needed medicines if they have incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level
- Use their medications safely, effectively and cost-effectively
- Tap into other community resources, such as home delivered meals, medical transportation and Medicare subsidies, that can help them remain independent
- Make informed decisions every year about Medicare drug and health insurance coverage so individuals can balance access with affordability

SPA is Durham County coordinating site for the state Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). As such, we provide reliable, objective advice to any age/income Medicare beneficiary in Durham regarding health and drug insurance decisions. During this year's seven-week annual election period (AEP), our staff and trained volunteers counseled 1,071 seniors and younger Medicare beneficiaries, a 19.5% increase from last year – and a 113% increase from 2010.

For the sixth consecutive AEP, two-thirds of those seen with a Part D drug plan chose to switch coverage for the new year, saving a projected average of \$983 on medication expenses for 2015. Seniors with the most limited income saved nearly \$2,000 on average!

Thanks to ever-growing need and effective outreach, SPA has provided one-on-one care to 1,872 individuals thus far in FY 2015, surpassing last year's total of 1,720 helped. With three weeks to go in our fiscal year, we have a waiting list of 41 seniors who need our financial assistance and other services. We're eager to get those individuals the care they need but do not have sufficient resources to enroll them all at once.

Over the next 10 years, the population 60 and older in Durham is predicted to grow by 42% to nearly 70,000. While friends and family provide most caregiving in this country, other services are often needed. Many are shocked to learn that Medicare does not pay for long-term care. Only 6-8% of Americans 45 and older have insurance for this purpose. Thus, many seniors are forced to spend down to poverty, so that Medicaid will pay for their institutional care. This is neither sustainable nor desirable, as the vast majority of seniors would prefer to age well in place.

We must think creatively and work collaboratively – locally, regionally and nationally – to meet the challenges posed by the "Silver Tsunami." We are optimistic moving forward that SPA is part of the solution and can play an even larger role in reducing healthcare costs and improving outcomes for seniors. Thank you for supporting that vision and for making a meaningful difference for seniors and their families today.

*"We hope to assist more than 2,000 individuals in FY 2016, which begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. As a point of reference, the year that WSBC first gave to SPA (2000), we helped a total of 539. Thank you for helping us respond!"*

## Hands on Opportunity at Meals on Wheels

The WSBC Missions Committee and Senior Adult Coordinating Council offer another team opportunity to help assemble meals at Meals on Wheels of Durham. **The next MOW event is Tuesday, September 22**, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. All ages are welcome to participate. We will car pool from the Urban Avenue parking lot to the MoW facility at 2522 Ross Road. Please contact Bob Kruhm at rkruhm@nc.rr.com or call the church office to sign up.

## Walltown's School for Conversion

The relationship between Watts Street Baptist Church and Walltown Neighborhood Ministries strives to bring about the realization of God's Beloved Community in Durham. Emerging from our long-running support of Walltown's Rutba House, the School for Conversion seeks "the conversion of the world that is into the world that ought to be." As described on the School for Conversion website ([www.schoolforconversion.org](http://www.schoolforconversion.org)), the people of the School for Conversion, "believe God has already done all that is needed to save us from ourselves. We believe another world is possible, and we believe that we work and pray for a new world as we learn to follow the way of Jesus." In working towards the Beloved Community, the School for Conversion helps us all to unlearn habits of social division.

Members of WSBC are invited to bring about the beloved community through participation in and support of the following activities:

- sharing a meal with the WAY (Walltown Aspiring Youth), a middle-school mentoring group
- hosting an enrichment field trip for the WAY (could be a fun activity, such as zip lining or rock climbing,

or an educational opportunity, such as visiting an office or worksite to learn about a career path)

- helping create a Freedom Library (<http://www.schoolforconversion.org/freedom-library>) for the WAY by donating books from their wish list
- sponsoring a group of WAY students or Project TURN, a program that teaches classes inside prison

In an effort to cut off the school-to-prison pipeline, the WAY would like to add emphasis to field trips for middle-school youth for fun or educational opportunities. Of particular interest are trips related to STEM related fields such as robotics, computer programming, computer animation, and comic book creation. Creative imaginations are also asked for ideas which may convert the biases of those who construct the pipeline that they may see our children as God sees them.

Contact Carynne McIver, Operations Director, with questions about any of these opportunities, or to get involved (919-578-3834 or [carynne@schoolforconversion.org](mailto:carynne@schoolforconversion.org)). Rob Womack, liaison to the Walltown Mission Group, is also available to address questions (919-682-6549 or [rob@robwomackcounseling.com](mailto:rob@robwomackcounseling.com)).

*Opportunities to connect with the Walltown Community*



*Students at the WAY with mentor Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove*

## Durham CAN Update

Watts Street Baptist Church was recognized for a decade of financial and leadership support of Durham CAN during the Assembly roll call of delegations at St. Philips Episcopal Church on June 16. Affordable housing, public safety, education and jobs were among the heavy topics raised during the Public Assembly.

Durham County commissioners and city staff in attendance agreed to take

action regarding increasing affordable housing options in the city. Potential efforts include using city-owned buildings for affordable housing, creating job training opportunities for housing related jobs, and the city applying for low-income housing tax credits.

Community police relations and written consent from police officers to conduct searches were also on Durham CAN's radar. "Hopefully I can get some insight into what we can do to continue to build trust in this community," Durham Police Chief Jose Lopez said. Lopez agreed to meet with the organization to discuss the police department's written consent policy.

The July 12 Minute for Mission was presented by Bob Kruhm on behalf of Durham CAN. Thanks to the generosity of WSBC members, this offering provided a donation of \$750 which was matched by individual donors and an anonymous foundation. For more information about Durham CAN, please contact Bob Kruhm, rkruhm@nc.rr.com.

*The WSBC delegation to the Durham CAN Public Assembly on June 16 included Bob and Jeanne Kruhm, Dot O'Brien, and Bill Salyers.*



## Habitat Plans a Celebration

The Habitat Mission Group is on track to begin another build this fall joining Trinity Avenue Presbyterian and Triangle Presbyterian Churches in a build that celebrates the beginning of Habitat in Durham at WSBC. Habitat has not announced the start date and location, but that information should be available soon. This will be a great

opportunity to provide another deserving family with a beautiful and well-built home, as well as work side by side with two great congregations and the homeowner. Both skilled and unskilled workers are needed. If you are interested in joining this celebration with the Habitat Mission Group, please contact Steve Booth at (919)477-1843 or email [spbooth@mindspring.com](mailto:spbooth@mindspring.com).

*Celebrate 30 years of Habitat! Sign up for the WSBC build!*

## The Revolution of 2015?

*“I’ll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action.” - James 2:18b*

“Revolution” has been in the air with the Watts Street youth this summer! The theme of the PASSPORT Youth Missions Camp in Danville, VA was “Revolution” as we were challenged to live boldly, put faith into active practice, draw others to God and love so that all are included in the Kingdom of God. In New York City, our high school youth experienced a week of urban immersion with Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries where we learned about the Social Gospel and how Walter Rauschenbusch believed, “Christianity is in its very nature revolutionary.” During our Sunday night gatherings, we have been reading excerpts of Shane Claiborne’s *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical* and have wondered together with Shane, “What if Jesus meant all those things he said...it could turn the world upside down!”

In addition to PASSPORT and the Senior High Urban Immersion trip to NYC (which the congregation will hear about in detail at the August 16 Youth-led Service of Thanksgiving), the Watts Street youth have also been

engaged in some revolutionary activity here at home. Through our mid-week service/learning activities, the youth took a significant leadership role with Vacation Bible School, led a chapel service at the Murdoch Center in Butner, prepared and served a meal for 80 people at Reality Ministries, wrapped over 4,000 diapers at the Diaper Bank, and, at this writing, have upcoming projects with the Food Bank and Urban Ministries.

During a summer when the national and world news has been full of racism, violence, and chaos, the Watts Street youth have quietly been working on a revolution. Mother Teresa said, “We can do no great things, just small things with great love.”

*WSBC Youth Group makes a difference at the Diaper Bank*



*“Where every member is a minister”*



**Watts Street Baptist Church  
Missions Committee**

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**Missions Committee:** The congregation is encouraged to seek information from Mission Committee members and to provide feedback on current or possible mission projects. 2015-2016 Missions Committee Members include: Paula Januzi-Godfrey, Chair, Susan Brooks, Juliana Caldwell, Marcie Fisher-Borne, Kirsten Kruhm, Fran Langstaff, Jenny Leinbach, Bill McCraw, Bill Salyers, and Ginny Wiggins. **Ideas for Mission Baskets? Contact Susan Brooks. Ideas for Minute for Missions? Contact Fran Langstaff.**