



WSBC Missions and Community Connections 2023-2024

*Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.
1 John 3:18*

Welcome! At Watts Street Baptist Church, we are guided by love to take action in our world. Our mission work grows out of specific promises we make in the church covenant: to promote peace and justice wherever we touch other lives, and to feed, house, and befriend the needy.

Our missions are grassroots efforts carried out by Mission Groups that form and disband in response to changing needs and spiritual callings. Periodically, we will “sound a call” during worship for a new Mission Group. We also occasionally re-sound a call to invite others who feel led to join an existing Mission Group. These questions guide the formation of a Mission Group:

1. Is this good news?
2. Does this mission seem impossible to accomplish? Is there a good chance we will fail?
3. Will this work lead to building relationships and making connections with our community neighbors?

If we can answer “yes” to these questions, that is a good sign that the Spirit is leading us to undertake the mission!

The Missions Committee

This committee is the administrative arm of missions at Watts Street providing the following support to the church’s mission efforts:

- Coordinating and publicizing mission activities
- Serving as a sounding board and incubator for new missions
- Planning and managing the annual mission budget and monthly mission offerings

Members serve staggered terms of two years, with one renewal term possible. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month, and **meetings are open to all members of the church**. If you have questions about the Missions Committee, please contact Clark Godfrey, clarkgodfrey820@gmail.com.

Missions Giving

The **budget for the church’s missions** reflects in part the work of Mission Groups. Where our members commit their energies, the church also provides financial support for their efforts. Watts Street Baptist Church strives to give a significant portion of its budget to local, national, and international mission partners.

In addition to our annual budget, we invite the congregation each month to participate in a **Mission Basket Collection** (food or other physical donations) and the **Minute for Mission** (special offering) as a way to spotlight and support organizations who share our sense of Mission and are doing good work in the community.

“Sounding the Call” for Watts Street Mission Groups



Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods) works in a non-partisan fashion across racial, religious, ethnic, class, and geographical lines for positive, non-violent social change in Durham. WSBC has been involved with Durham CAN since 2005 and issues addressed in recent years include affordable housing, evictions, criminal justice reform, gun violence, public transportation, and jobs. Every CAN campaign begins with listening where participants come together to share stories that affect their lives, families, and communities and then choose goals that they can all support. CAN then presents these community priorities to candidates and elected officials and calls on them to take specific actions. Visit: www.durhamcan.org
Contact: Bob Kruhm,
robertkruhm@gmail.com



Public Education Partners is a group from Watts Street that supports schools, teachers, children, and families in various ways. Based on requests from select adopted schools, we serve by volunteering, gathering supplies, and providing financial support. We are currently in partnership with two schools, Glenn and CC Spaulding Elementary Schools.
Contact: Paula Januzzi-Godfrey,
januzzi@gmail.com



Creation Care Ministry (CCM) welcomes everyone at Watts Street to practice our faith by confronting the climate crisis. CCM acknowledges that the most vulnerable among us are harmed first and worst by climate change, from endangered species and ecosystems to our neighbors in Durham and around the world. To address this environmental injustice, CCM offers inspiration and opportunities for concrete action to care for all of creation. The group's current areas of focus are on reducing waste through composting, hosting a textile recycling bin, and elimination of single-use plastics and Styrofoam in our church building and homes; educational webinars; establishing a pollinator garden; and building a partnership with Urban Community Agronomics at Catawba Trail Farm. Join this creative and passionate team for monthly Zoom meetings.
Contact: Will Alexander,
w.d.alexander.86@gmail.com



Voices for Love In Action explores how Watts Street members can use our voices to build Beloved Community and live into the quote by William Sloan

Coffin, “The world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.” This group is called to continue the 40-plus year prophetic ministry of the Watts Street Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group by using education and non-violent action to combat systemic discrimination based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. Activities include coordinating Watts Street’s participation in the Durham Pride Parade, hosting Lunch & Learn Events (responses to Gun Violence, the Durham HEART program, etc.), connecting with peace efforts in Israel/Palestine and around the world, hosting the MLK Service with St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church, and developing creative ways for our church to communicate our commitments to peace, justice, love, and action. Contact: Kelly Sasser, kelly@wattsstreet.org



The Racial Justice Mission Group is a new group that grew out of some foundational work during the pandemic. Racial injustice is a massive problem, and this group seeks ways to make pieces of the problem better near to home while working toward systemic justice. Some of the equity work, learning, and relationship-building this group has been part of has included sharing responsibility with St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church for an annual MLK service and luncheon/discussion open to the public; offering a church-wide book study of the

book, [White Too Long](#); offering ways for church members to engage in a large variety of racial equity learning and actions during Lent 2021; partnering with both the Creation Care Mission Group and Catawba Trail Farm to produce a webinar on Environmental Justice and seeking ways to support and learn from the farm; maintaining an Anti-Racism Free Library Book Box, and offering church members a chance to participate in a Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope in Durham. New members are enthusiastically invited to guide the work of this group. Contact: Barb Rumer, barb.rumer@gmail.com

Reality Ministries

creates 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. 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. We support the Kingdom of God Sunday School class, which strives to nurture those who learn differently and all who prefer or enjoy encountering the messages in scripture through stories, art, music, and different forms of prayer, no matter age or ability. This Mission Group periodically coordinates healthy meals for participants of the programs at the Reality Center and supports other Reality events such as Community Worship, Reality Farm, etc. Visit: www.realityministriesinc.org Contact: Cari Furiness, cs.furiness@gmail.com

Scouting helps youth develop outdoor skills, self-confidence, leadership, citizenship, and a commitment to service. Watts Street is honored to sponsor



Scout Troop 440 (grades 6-12) and Cub Pack 440 (grades 1-5). Watts Street members can help in ways both large and small: volunteer as regular leaders, help with an occasional event, teach a skill, be a merit badge counselor, serve on the church's Scout Committee, etc. Scouting has a strong youth protection policy which includes volunteer screenings and trainings. Contact: Worth Lutz, worthlutz@mindspring.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 for guests at the Urban Ministries shelter. All WSBC members are welcome to help prepare the meal and/or serve it once each month. Contact: Greg Palmer, senorpalmer@gmail.com

W.E. Stanley Mission House

provides free housing accommodations for patients receiving out-patient care and their families. The facility is operated in conjunction with the Host Homes Program at Duke University Medical Center. Volunteers are needed to help clean and maintain the house between guests and to offer welcome and orientation for the guests. Contact: Becky Dodson, becky.dodson704@outlook.com or Ginny Wiggins, vwiggins3@nc.rr.com



Walltown Neighborhood Ministries



seeks to engage and empower residents and partners of Walltown to create connections where every person can achieve educational, economic, physical, and spiritual well-being. Watts Street members assist with the Walltown Food Pantry by shopping, sorting and bagging, and delivering food and other supplies to elderly residents in Walltown and surrounding areas. There are also opportunities to help with Street Reach, other community events, advocacy, and a Christmas Angel Tree. To learn more, visit www.walltownneighborhoodministries.org. Contact: Bob Kruhm, robertkruhm@gmail.com



Welcoming and Affirming

is called to promote LGBTQ+ inclusion among Baptist churches and denominations. As WSBC re-aligned our relationships with our denominational partners in 2020, we established a mission group for LGBTQ+ advocacy in Baptist life, along with an annual budget to support this work. The work of this new group could take a variety of forms. It could be as straightforward as simply researching the various groups promoting LGBTQ+ inclusion in Baptist life and providing additional funding for some of those groups. Depending on the groups' time and energy, our work could be much more ambitious and creative: perhaps working towards the formation of a local or regional chapter of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, funding a seminary/divinity school scholarship, or helping produce a film to celebrate the ministry of welcoming and affirming congregations. Contact: Michael Arges, mikearges@gmail.com

Ongoing Mission Activities



Affordable Housing/Eviction Relief has been identified as one of our area's biggest needs. Last year, Watts Street members offered prayers, advocacy, and financial support for families evicted from nearby apartments. Watts Street also helped launch the Durham Tenants Legal Power Fund to give tenants an opportunity to appeal their eviction status. We are learning more about the need for affordable housing in our community and looking for ways to respond with compassion, including through initiatives led by Durham CAN, DCIA, Legal Aid, and more. Contact: Bob Kruhm, robertkruhm@gmail.com or Jan Williams, jan.adams.williams@gmail.com

AIDS Support Team

offers practical and emotional support to people in our community living with HIV/AIDS. The Team is currently paired with one care partner and provides support through individual contact and social activities including dinners, movies, and other outings. Team members completed a training program through the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina. Contact: Greg Palmer, senorpalmer@gmail.com



Bull City Fair Trade (formerly One World Market), founded by Watts Street 30 years ago, is located at 811 Ninth Street. This store sells certified Fair-Trade crafts from artisans in developing countries at fair market prices and continues to be a sponsored mission at WSBC. Each year in early December, a before-Christmas sale is sponsored at BCFT. On a designated Sunday, WSBC members are allowed to purchase any item in the store at a discount and in return support this non-profit store. Contact: Paula Januzzi-Godfrey, januzzi@gmail.com



Durham CROP Walk is an annual spring event where "Team Watts Street" joins thousands of people from the community to raise awareness and resources to reduce hunger in Durham and around the world. (The fund-raiser supports the efforts of Church World Service and Durham Congregations in Action.) Our team walks from the church parking lot to Duke Chapel and back in solidarity with those who walk long distances for food or clean water. Contact: Kelly Sasser, kelly@wattsstreet.org



The El Salvador Mission Group focuses on our covenant relationship with Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel, in San Salvador, El Salvador. Since 2007, Watts Street members have partnered with Emmanuel to build affordable housing and youth centers, cultivate the Culture of Peace, participate in dialogues about faith and social justice, sponsor scholarships for school children, and develop relationships with our siblings in Christ at Emmanuel. Contact: Clark Godfrey, clarkgodfrey@gmail.com.

Families Moving Forward

provides transitional housing, meals, and other support for families moving from homelessness to permanent or temporary housing. The Faith Perspectives Sunday School class is providing a meal at FMF once a quarter and welcomes volunteers. Contact: Karoline Barkjohn, karoline.barkjohn@gmail.com



Meals on Wheels

provides Watts Street members with meaningful opportunities to deliver meals, make wellness phone calls, and develop friendships

with senior adults and at-risk clients across Durham. Contact: Bob Kruhm, robertkruhm@gmail.com



Children at Watts Street are learning how to use their gifts and talents to help others. Projects include Confetti Soup, the Children's Sabbath Mission Offering, Catawba Trail Farm, the CROP Walk, and more! Contact: Esther Soud Parker esther@wattsstreet.org

Youth at Watts Street are actively involved in service/learning throughout the year. Some of our favorite experiences include YAM JAM (gleaning), Parktown Food Hub, Urban Ministries, the Diaper Bank, Walltown Food Pantry, the CROP Walk, and Catawba Trail Farm. In the summer of 2023, our youth engaged in two week-long service/learning experiences: Spark'Dwell in Winston-Salem, NC (focusing on radical welcome with neighbors who experience homelessness) and a Senior High Trip to El Salvador (focusing on building relationships with our sister church in San Salvador and learning about the Culture of Peace). Contact: Kelly Sasser, kelly@wattsstreet.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTION	WSBC MISSION GROUPS/EFFORTS	WSBC MISSION BUDGET
FOOD AND SHELTER	CROP Walk Affordable Housing Eviction Prevention, Rent Relief Families Moving Forward Urban Ministries Walltown Food Pantry	NC Baptist Men Disaster Relief Families Moving Forward Meals on Wheels Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing/Eviction Relief Urban Ministries Housing for New Hope Walltown Neighborhood Ministries CROP Walk
CARE AND COMPASSION	AIDS Care Team Hannah Ministry Public Education Partners Reality Ministries Scouts W.E. Stanley Mission House	AIDS Care Team Baptist Children's Homes Scout Pack and Troop #440 Senior PharmAssist Threshold Durham Crisis Response Center Healthy Families Durham Communities in Partnership Reality Ministries WE Stanley Mission House
SOCIAL JUSTICE	Durham CAN Reconciliation and Re-Entry Racial Justice Voices for Love In Action Welcoming and Affirming	ARISE Collection/Prison Ministry for Women Religious Coalition for Non-Violent Durham Campus Ministry NCCU Durham Congregations in Action Durham CAN Capital Restorative Justice Project Racial Justice Group/Catawba Trail Farm Rutba House Southerners on New Ground Baptist Joint Committee AWAB Affirming Network of CBF Baptist Peace Fellowship Voices for Love in Action Mission Group Welcoming and Affirming Mission Group
CREATION CARE	Creation Care Ministry	Creation Care Ministry
BEYOND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY	Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel (El Salvador) Denominational Relations	Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel El Salvador Mission Group NC Council of Churches Bull City Fair Trade Church World Service Denominational Partners Scholarships/Educational Partners

What does the Lord
require of you?



But to **DO** *justice*
and to **LOVE** *kindness*
and to **WALK** *humbly*
with your God?

Micah 6:8