

# Compassion in Action



*60 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes*

## "I was a stranger and you invited me in..."

At a Wednesday night Youth Service/Learning last fall, the Watts Street youth learned a lot about the Syrian refugee crisis. Currently, there are 4 million Syrian refugees and another 6.5 million displaced within Syria. Worldwide, there are close to 60 million people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes – making this the biggest refugee crisis since World War II.\*

We also learned about the difficult process of earning refugee status, the challenges refugees face in their new country, the backlash in our own country towards refugees, and the scriptural and theological reasons why people of faith should welcome refugees.

In response, the youth sponsored an Epiphany Night All Ages Service Project for Refugees on January 6. On a night when we celebrated the Magi bringing gifts to the refugee Jesus, we collected 26 comforters/blankets, 37 sets of bed linens, 51 sets of bath towels/hand towels/wash

cloths, and nearly 150 hygiene kits to be distributed to refugee families through the Durham office of Church World Service (CWS). They were thrilled and said it was their largest single donation ever! Many of these items will be used right away as CWS welcomes 33 refugees to the Triangle in the next three weeks. Thanks to the Watts Street church family for a beautiful act of hospitality.

The following Wednesday, Ellen Andrews, director of CWS's Durham Immigration and Refugee Program, spoke with us about how we can get involved beyond simple donations. Ellen encouraged us to stay informed about refugees, talk with friends to help sway public opinion to a more welcoming stance, contact our political leaders to advocate for refugees, pray, join a CWS Welcome Team, teach ESL classes, etc. For more information, please see the CWS article on page 2.

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*Epiphany Night All Ages Service Project for Refugees*

\*For more information on the refugee crisis from the *New York Times*, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/18/world/60-million-people-fleeing-chaotic-lands-un-says.html? r=0>

## Join CWS in Welcoming Refugees to Durham!

*[This article was written by Ellen Andrews, Director, Durham Immigration & Refugee Program, Church World Service, as a follow-up to a presentation she made on Wednesday evening, January 13.]*

The world's current humanitarian crisis has been at the forefront of news coverage over the past months; recent figures show that 60 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homes. Refugee resettlement to other countries is the most durable immediate solution to this issue, allowing for displaced people to support themselves and their families and rebuild their lives. The United States has a strong tradition of welcoming refugees through resettlement, and the Triangle is the destination for hundreds of arriving refugees each year.

Church World Service's (CWS) Durham Immigration and Refugee Program opened in 2009, and has since resettled over 1,200 refugees into our community, hailing from all over the world. When refugees arrive in Durham, CWS finds and furnishes housing for them, picks them up at the airport, orients them to the community, and enrolls children in school and adults in English and job classes. The foundation of the U.S. refugee resettlement program is that refugees must be self-sufficient through employment as quickly as possible, so the focus quickly turns to looking for work.

CWS counts on community partners to join us in welcoming refugees to Durham. In early January, WSBC youth collected and organized the largest donation of linens and household supplies CWS has ever seen! Many of these items have already been lovingly placed in a new arrival's apartment, welcoming them to their new home. How else can WSBC members get involved with refugees?

1) Volunteer with CWS or form a Welcome Team! Volunteers help to orient refugees to the community and teach them English. Welcome Teams partner with CWS Durham to provide more extensive services to new refugees over a three month period. For more information, visit [www.cwsrdu.org](http://www.cwsrdu.org).

2) Practice cultural competency, and be intentional! Learn about the countries our new neighbors are coming from, and how to communicate with English language learners in a way that promotes understanding. For more information, visit <http://www.culturalorientation.net/>.

3) Stay informed about refugees and refugee issues, and communicate your support for refugee resettlement to your representatives. For up to date news and action alerts, visit [www.rcusa.org](http://www.rcusa.org).

## Join the 2016 CROP Hunger Walk

**March 20!** Join the CROP Walk fun and help feed the hungry!

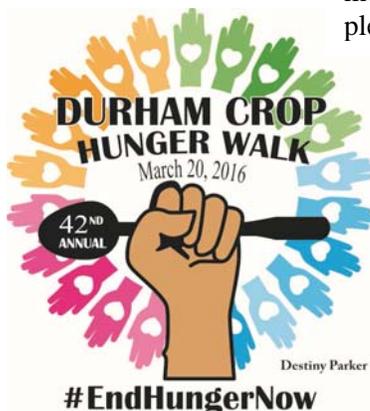
Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 20, 2016! Once again, WSBC will be joining thousands of others in the annual Durham CROP Hunger Walk. In 2015, WSBC raised a total of \$3,239, about 93% of the 2014 amount. Our goal for 2016 is to raise even more money with more walkers and more pledges of support!

CROP Hunger Walks are sponsored by Church World Service and are the largest fundraising events for the organization. More than 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in CROP Hunger Walks each year. A unique aspect of these events is that up to 25% of the money donated is given to local hunger fighting agencies. In Durham

that 25% is redistributed by Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) to help our neighbors in need.

The goal for the Durham CROP Hunger Walk this year is to have more than 2,000 walkers and raise more than \$180,000. Join the fun and help feed the hungry!

Many thanks to Addison Oliver for taking the lead to organize this event at WSBC, and to his helpers Jenny Leinbach and Jennifer Martin. Look for more information to sign up to participate at Wednesday Night Suppers and in the *Watts Weekly*. If you would like to help our volunteer leaders, please contact Jennifer Martin at [jmartinmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:jmartinmitchell@gmail.com) or Addison Oliver at [addisonoliver8@rocketmail.com](mailto:addisonoliver8@rocketmail.com). For more information about the CROP Hunger Walk, go to <http://durhamcropwalk.org/>.



## New Year's Eve Service at NCCIW

[This article is written from the perspective of Nancy Lehman, Bill Salyers, and Pat Revels.]

For the last five years, the WSBC Prison Ministry Mission Group has rung in the New Year with the inmates of the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women (NCCIW). This year's event centered around the theme of *Gifted and Grateful*. This incredibly special service was part variety show, thanks to emcee Dan Schwankl, whose jokes would make Kelly Sasser proud; part talent show, as the ladies of the NCCIW shared a rap song written for the occasion, performances by the choir, and the most moving performance by the NCCIW dance team. The soulful renderings of Curtis Freeman had the ladies on their feet, and the NCCIW choir joined in for an extremely moving collaboration. And Debra Freeman read two beautifully moving poems, as well. Although she was unable to attend this service, Jennifer Garst, who has led this mission group since its inception, had lovingly prepared gift bags and ice cold bottles of Coke as a special treat for the ladies. Their faces lit up with joy as they entered the Hope Center. As always, Pastor Jobe led these ladies in fervent and heartfelt prayer and celebration. One inmate sang, *Mary, Did You Know*, as a member of the dance team signed an

interpretive dance. There were not many dry eyes in the room. And the ladies were captivated by the masterful words of "Pastor Bill," as Bill Salyers shared his insightful words of hope and challenge for the New Year. "God gives us nuts, but God does not crack them for us (Hans Christian Andersen), ... God gives us many gifts. Among them are family, friends, spouse, lovers, church. But each of these become nuts we must learn to crack before they feed our souls and keep us on the new path away from the mess we make of our life... Gifts are anchors... Anchors keep us safe, and sometimes anchors hold us back..."

New members, Kathryn Aldrich and Pat Revels, were deeply moved at the caring and connections established between our group and the ladies of the NCCIW. These ladies are so very appreciative of our time, our gifts, and our prayers. They move us so very deeply with their warmth and the gifts they so willingly share with us.

All who wish to join this moving ministry are welcome. For more information about the Prison Ministry Mission Group, please contact Jennifer Garst ([jennifer.garst@duke.edu](mailto:jennifer.garst@duke.edu)).

*God is never done with us as his children.*

## Meals on Wheels

Three brave Watts Streeters (Bob and Jeanne Kruhm and Clark Godfrey) gathered at Meals on Wheels on January 26 in spite of the snow and ice. They helped pack 461 meals for the elderly and homebound. Watch for the next opportunity to join this time of service and helping others.



## Desalination Units Installed in Gaza!

In the summer of 2014, WSBC began a campaign to raise funds for desalination units to help provide safe drinking water for children in Gaza. Watts Street members and friends donated over \$17,000 for the Maia (Arabic word for water) Project, and it was finally completed in October 2015!



One water desalination unit is located at the Mughraka Co-Ed Primary School in Gaza. Mughraka is a farming area south of Gaza City mostly inhabited by Bedouins. The school has 1400 students that come in morning and afternoon shifts due to overcrowding. Another unit was installed in the Women's Union Kindergarten, located in Gaza City, which has 150 students. Signs have been installed with both units indicating that Watts Street Baptist Church donated these units so the children at these schools know that they have connections with people around the world who care about children and are committed to justice.

For further information about this project, please contact Emily McCoy, [emccoy@nc.rr.com](mailto:emccoy@nc.rr.com).

*Children at the Mughraka Co-Ed Primary School line up to get clean water from a desalination unit paid for by donations from WSBC members and friends.*

## HELP is here!

HELP, a new **Health Equipment Loan Program**, opened for donating or borrowing equipment on January 5, 2016, inside The Scrap Exchange, located at 2050 Chapel Hill Road, The Shoppes at Lakewood. There is plenty of good equipment to loan so please pass this information to anyone living in Durham County who needs to borrow walkers, canes, crutches, wheelchairs, bedside commodes, raised toilet seats, tub and shower benches and chairs, etc. Bob Roghelia, Mitch Heflin, Emily and Ralph McCoy, Anne Drennan, Bebe Guill, Tina Ward, and Ann Stickel are directly involved from WSBC and available to answer questions regarding this program. Connect with HELP on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/helpdurhamnc](http://www.facebook.com/helpdurhamnc), follow on Twitter @durhamHELP, or visit the Help website at <http://projectaccessdurham.org/HELP/>.



*Health equipment available for loan!*

## Race – A Powerful Lie

[This article is written from the perspective of Gordon Whitaker.]

“...we are all of God’s One image, recipients of God’s One Salvation, ...united with Jesus as One family of Abraham; **we are One!**”

On January 17, the Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler preached about the power of a lie: the lie that human beings can be meaningfully divided into separate races. Dr. Sadler is Associate Professor of Bible at Charlotte’s Union Presbyterian Seminary and one of the leaders in North Carolina’s Moral Monday movement. He was WSBC’s guest preacher on Martin Luther King Sunday.

Dr. Sadler took as his text the story of the serpent, Eve, and Adam. The serpent told a lie, but the people believed it and acted on it to the great suffering of humankind.

“Race” is such a lie. Scientifically there is no biological basis on which “races” of humans can be identified. Dr. Sadler noted “that there is more genetic difference within any supposed ‘racial’ group than between any two ‘racial’ groups; that what we look like on the outside says very little about our genetic make up because the genes that govern our appearance are relatively few and transmitted independent of other factors that shape our identities.”

And yet the lie of race has great power and causes great suffering. Because people believe “lighter is better” and other racial stereotypes, we treat each other unjustly.

Dr. Sadler charged us to “admit once and for all that race is not real and stop living into our fears of others of different colors! We have to take off the goggles of ‘race’ that make people look like monsters and hide the image of God in Others! We

have to confess the fact that we have often failed; failed to stand up for the equality of all, failed to argue for the rights of all, failed to stand with Others when they have been victims of the hatred and ignorance, failed to address the issue of race as we have passively condoned if not actively accepted it.”

He concluded: “Though we proudly claim our diverse colors and backgrounds; though we boldly love the diverse skin that God has put us in; we are all of God’s One image, recipients of God’s One salvation, baptized with Christ’s One baptism, united in the Savior’s One flesh, united with Jesus as One family of Abraham; **we are One!** This is our story as Christians!

***So we can boldly proclaim against the darkness of this world that, ‘Race is a lie and it is time that we stopped telling it! That race is a lie, and it’s time we stopped believing it!’”***

Following worship more than a hundred members of the congregation gathered for lunch and discussed ways to overcome the lie of race in our own lives here in Durham. We were pleased to have as our guests many community leaders and others. The Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group sponsored the lunch and discussion. Table donations of \$282 were collected for Walltown Neighborhood Ministries Food Bank. For more information about the Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group, please contact Gordon Whitaker, whitakergordon@gmail.com.

**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 Januzzi-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 or Bill McCraw. Ideas for Minute for Missions? Contact Fran Langstaff.**

## Peace and Reconciliation Sounds a Call

*[On Sunday, February 6, Amy Armstrong Sounded a Call on behalf of the Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group, extending an invitation to the congregation to join the 10th Annual Moral March on Raleigh, HKonJ People's Assembly. While the Call focused on the Moral March, it also included an invitation for members of the congregation to join this group as it seeks to fulfill its mission. For more information about the march, please go to [http://www.hkonj.com/moral\\_march\\_on\\_raleigh](http://www.hkonj.com/moral_march_on_raleigh). For more about the mission group, contact Gordon Whitaker at [whitakergordon@gmail.com](mailto:whitakergordon@gmail.com).]*

I am here today to Sound the Call for the Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group. Peace and Rec, as we are commonly called, draws our inspiration from Micah 6:8, "God has told you what is good and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

Doing justice...loving kindness... walking humbly with our God. It can sound so simple, but can quickly become overwhelming in light of so much injustice, hatefulness and self-centered pride in our world today.

Throughout the years, the specific focus of Peace and Rec has shifted based on the interests of the active participants. We have

sought justice in a wide variety of areas such as: peace in the Middle East, racial equality, equal rights for LGBTQ people, immigration issues, and getting out the vote.

Today we would specifically like to invite you to join us Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, for the annual HKonJ march in Raleigh. Everyone is welcome to join us as we march for equality within our own state.

And you are also welcome to join us on the third Monday of each month when we gather in the church library at 7:00 p.m. to continue to seek ways to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

*"...do justice..love kindness..walk humbly with your God."*

## Families Moving Forward Update

Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (DIHN) and Genesis Home are excited to announce that they have merged to form **Families Moving Forward**, effective December 31, 2015! The staff and board of FMF are grateful for your prayers, your financial support, and your personal involvement as volunteers. FMF serves families in the crisis of homelessness, and is putting increased focus on children, as well as on "aftercare" for families once they move to permanent housing. If you have

already participated through DIHN or Genesis Home in the past, or if you would like to learn more about the numerous new service opportunities at Families Moving Forward, please consider coming to a Families Moving Forward Information Session on Thursday, February 18 from 6 - 7 p.m. at 300 N. Queen Street. RSVP to [tasha@genesishome.org](mailto:tasha@genesishome.org). You may also contact Stuart Wells ([stuart.wells@duke.edu](mailto:stuart.wells@duke.edu)) or Elizabeth Forshay ([Elizabeth.Forshay@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Forshay@unchealth.unc.edu)) for further information.

*FMW  
Information  
Session:  
February 18*

## A Letter from Rebound

[WSBC made a contribution of \$1,500 to Rebound in 2015 plus \$1,192.75 from a Minute for Mission Offering. For further information about Rebound, please go to <http://www.rebound.org> or contact one of the Board Members from the WSBC

Every school year in Durham, thousands of student days are lost when high school students are suspended from school. Researchers call these “lost instructional days,” but we know that suspended students are at risk of losing much more than a few instructional lessons: they lose ground academically; they lose connection with teachers and other caring adults in the school; and they lose focus on their goals. On a personal level, students who have made a mistake can lose the ability to see themselves as someone who can be successful. Out of school suspension often creates a loss of adult supervision, resulting in risky behaviors while students are out of school. Some students will eventually lose touch with school altogether.

Frequently, suspensions result from the misbehavior of students who are feeling lost already. Too many students come to school having experienced major trauma, such as abuse, poverty, living with violence, or the death of a loved one. Others struggle with more common issues of adolescence, such as peer relationships, decision-making, and academic expectations or frustrations. Whatever the reason behind the behavior, a student who has received an out of school suspension needs a place to regroup and reconnect.

Rebound, Alternatives for Youth exists to transform these days of losing into days of finding. Students on short-term suspension (1-10 days) voluntarily come to Rebound, the only option available to them, to find support. Students find caring adults at Rebound who see students for their strengths, not their mistakes. With a certified Durham Public Schools teacher they find help getting on track with schoolwork. Through group activities they find ways to name their own strengths and goals. In individual counseling sessions, they find the root causes behind their actions and develop alternatives for themselves. Students suspended for fighting find common ground through conflict mediation provided by the Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center. School re-entry conferences help students and parents find adult allies back at school and assure schools that students are ready to return. Families find a safe, productive place for their teenagers to spend the day while out of school and, if needed, referrals for further services.

The nurturing environment that Rebound provides can only be created through the consistent presence of caring and qualified professionals. For that reason, Rebound’s staff is our biggest asset and biggest expense. Rebound partners with Durham Public Schools and the Durham Juvenile Crime Prevention Council; these partnerships supply about half of our budget, with the rest being made up of grants and private donations.

Since serving our first students in 2013, Rebound’s capacity has grown exponentially each year, but we are still a small operation that cannot serve all the students who need us. In the coming year, Rebound would like to expand in two ways: increasing our services from 4 days a week to 5 days, and adding an additional staff position to improve day-to-day services. Both of these changes require more funding from private contributors.

You can help suspended students regroup, reconnect, and rebound. With a click of the Donate Now button below, you can help turn lost school days into found opportunities.

Your support will make a real difference to a small, growing organization, and, more importantly, to the students we serve.

Thank you so much for your help.

The Board of Directors of Rebound, Alternatives for Youth: Erwin Byrd, Teka Dempson, Lizzie Ellis-Furlong, Megan Gray, Lloyd Patillo, Amy Rublein, Shirley Thoms, Jennifer Hardison Walters, and Julie Wells

*“Rebound, Alternatives for Youth exists to transform these days of losing into days of finding.”*

## Minute for Mission in 2015

On the second Sunday of each month, the Missions Committee invites a local mission partner or one of WSBC's denominational affiliates to present a Minute for Mission. The objective is to inform the congregation and also to involve members in the work of these organizations. The loose offering on these Sundays is given to the presenting organization. If the loose offering is less than \$750, the difference is provided from the Mission's Discretionary Fund. A total of \$12,043.75 (including \$874 in direct contributions) was donated through the Minute for Mission offering in 2015 to the following organizations:

January - Senior PharmAssist - \$750.00  
 February - American Baptist Churches-USA - \$1,460.75  
 March - Faith Connections on Mental Illness - \$750.00  
 April - Rebound, Alternatives for Youth - \$1,192.75  
 May - Urban Hope - \$1,145.75  
 June - Urban Ministries - \$750.00  
 July - Durham CAN - \$750.00  
 August - Reality Ministries - \$750.00  
 September - Alliance of Baptists - \$750.00  
 October - Baptist Peace Fellowship - \$750.00  
 November - NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship - \$1,120.50  
 December - El Salvador Scholarship Fund - \$1,449.50 (total of \$3,000 with addition from Missions Discretionary Fund)

While the amount that each of us contributes on a Minute for Mission Sunday may be small, these offerings are very meaningful and very appreciated by the groups we support. Most of these groups help people here in the Durham area, but the El Salvador Scholarship Fund contribution is very important to our sister church in El Salvador in helping to educate children in their area. Offerings to our three denominational affiliates help us spread God's love and gospel throughout the world through their mission programs. Some of us remember from our childhood Sunday School lessons how Jesus told us to "go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15). And in Acts 1:8 "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In our world, that would translate to "in Durham, North Carolina, the United States and to the ends of the earth." Give as you are led and are able.

For more information about Minute for Mission or to offer suggestions, please contact Fran Langstaff, M4M Coordinator, at [franlang@msn.com](mailto:franlang@msn.com).

## Mission Baskets Make a Difference

*"...let's continue to make an even greater impact ...in 2016!"*

Watts Street has a long history of gathering needed items for various organizations to help the less fortunate and especially the children in our community. In 2015, donations to the Walltown Food Bank and Urban Ministries provided food, clothing, toiletries and other items for redistribution within the community. Donations to Book Harvest, Diaper Bank of NC, Crayons to Calculators, and the

NCCU Food Pantry provided support for children and students. Many thanks for all the generous donations in 2015 and let's continue to make an even greater impact on the Durham community in 2016! If you know of an organization that needs our help please email Susan Brooks, Mission Baskets Coordinator, at [susan.brooks@dpsnc.net](mailto:susan.brooks@dpsnc.net) or call (919)730-7644. Again, thanks for all of your support!

# About the W. E. Stanley Mission House

The W. E. Stanley Mission House is operated in conjunction with the Duke Medical Center Host Homes Program. The house has also been used by the Apples Group from UNC as they do community service in the Durham area.



*Arabella Agston*  
*Dianna Davis*  
*Theresa Jones*  
*Quincy van Amberg*  
*Edwin*  
*Kentelyn Buffe H*  
 KAREN ORTIZ  
 Thanky Kelly!!  
 & Virginia!!  
 This trip wouldnt have been the same without this house!  
 LITTLE SUCKMAK

Dear Members of Watts St. Baptist Church,  
 Thank you for providing housing for us as we learned about education at Northern High school this week. We've learned so much during our stay, but we also formed friendships with one another that will last us a lifetime. We cannot think of a better way that we could have spent our first week of winter break. This experience has been invaluable and has better prepared us to leave our mark on the world. Also, we had a blast meeting you all at the Christmas play and hope we will see you next year!

Love,  
 APPLES

December 10, 2012  
 Watts Baptist Church  
 800 Watts Street  
 Durham, N. C. 27701

Dear Congregation,

From the bottom of our hearts, we just want to say thank you for graciously providing housing while we, the family of Penny Locklear, dealt with the severe illness of a loved one; words will never be able to describe the gratitude that we feel for your congregation. Our family will forever be indebted to the generosity you exhibited.

After nearly three months in different hospitals and countless surgeries, Penny is home and doing great! Although many doctors were skeptical of her condition, God intervened and made known that He is in control. We look forward to the day we can return to Durham and personally thank you'll and the many others who played a part in the care of Penny and her family; for without God and the support of Christian friends like you, we would not be where we are today.

We pray that God will truly bless your church in a great and mighty way!

Sincerely,

*Marie Lowery*  
 Marie Lowery

We want to thank everyone for letting our family stay at your lovely home. It means so much to us. + helped us a ton during our hard time with our baby. Thank you for the plants + goodie + gift card for Christmas. Thank you so much for your prayers also.

Thank you  
 The LaBoone Family

## More Words of Thanks

**Threshold:** “Threshold has had a tremendous year because of you and your generosity. Your kindness gave 21 of our members the opportunity to keep using our Clubhouse ... Without you, those 21 individuals could have experienced setbacks in their rehabilitation...” (Threshold was created by WSBC member Shirley Strobel; in 2015, WSBC made a contribution of \$6,000 to help support Threshold.)

**Washington United Church of Christ:** “Thank you so very much for your unexpected and generous gift of \$500 in honor of Tate Arges. We are grateful ... On behalf of Rev. Pam DeFusco and especially the children who will benefit from your gift, thank you.”

**Durham Congregations in Action:** “Thank you for your donation to DCIA. Your partnership keeps our work going to bring religious communities together for healing poverty, racism and violence in Durham.” (WSBC made a 2015 donation of \$7,013 to DCIA.)

**Reality Ministries:** “We are so grateful for the partnership with Watts Street Baptist. Thank you for all your gifts – presence, cooking, prayer, financial. Thank you.” (WSBC donated \$1,500 to Reality Ministries in 2015 plus \$750 donated through a Minute for Mission offering, and also prepared and served 12 meals.)

**Alliance of Baptists:** “Because of your investment, the Alliance of Baptists is strong and vibrant ... Our work starts with partner congregations.” (WSBC made a 2015 contribution of \$4,500 to the Alliance of Baptists plus \$889 donated through a Minute for Mission offering.)

*“Where every member is a minister”*



### Watts Street Baptist Church Missions Committee

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## An Invitation to Lunch at Reality Ministries

*[The Reality Ministries Mission Group works to support individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in our congregation as well as through Reality Ministries. They also help to plan other activities at Reality Ministries.]*

Would you like to feel good while doing good? Then join the Watts Street Reality Ministries Mission Group as they serve a delicious and nutritious lunch to the folks at Reality Ministries on the first Wednesday of each month. Sometimes part of the Reality "kitchen crew" helps in the kitchen, and other times they are busy with their other activities. Sometimes there are birthdays to celebrate - birthdays are wonderful and a big deal at Reality. It is a chance for each member of the group to tell the "birthday person" what they like and appreciate about that person.

The staff and volunteers at Reality are so dedicated, patient, and passionate about working with participants in the Daytime@ RC program. Daytime participants are so loving and appreciative of our preparing their lunch and joining with them at the meal. It is awe inspiring!

Lunch at Reality is not a huge time commitment and you are guaranteed to get more out of it than you put into it. For more information, please contact Cari Furiness at [cs.furiness@gmail.com](mailto:cs.furiness@gmail.com).

*Lunch is a joyful time of sharing at Reality Ministries.*

