

Compassion in Action



Refugee Support Mission Group will meet on February 9

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New Mission Group Seeks to Support Refugees

The Syrian Civil War has caused the greatest refugee crisis since the Second World War. Our president and executive branch have responded by closing our borders not only to Syrians, but to potential immigrants from other countries. In their greatest time of need, our country, once a beacon of safety and freedom, has shut its doors and turned away.

In spite of President Trump's executive order limiting entry, in fact in response to it, WSBC members of the new Refugee Support Mission Group will meet on February 9 to explore ways to support refugees. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and is open to all.

The Refugee Support Mission Group first formed in December as interested Watts Street folks began to discuss and investigate opportunities to get more involved in this area. We coordinated with Church World Service and learned of many opportunities.

A call to mission was sounded from the pulpit during worship on January 22, and 15 folks answered that call. Added to the 15 who were already involved in this nascent group, now 30 Watts Street members are on-board with this critical work. Of course, more are welcome! To learn more about how you can get involved, join us on February 9, at 7:00 p.m. In the meantime, please

review the Church World Service web site (<http://cwsrdu.org/get-involved/>) for ways we might help support refugees. Here is an overview:

ADVOCATE: Right now the future of refugee resettlement is in doubt because of the new administration, so advocacy is particularly important. You don't need to wait until our meeting to tell public officials about the importance of the US offering hospitality to refugees, but we may want to take joint action for advocacy, too.

CO-SPONSOR: Several of us have talked about WSBC cosponsoring a refugee family. This would require having six or seven of us who will commit at least two and a half hours per week to working with that family over a several month period.

VOLUNTEER: There are also many opportunities to work with CWS as an individual volunteer. You can learn more on the web site.

RAISE FUNDS: Providing financial support for refugees through CWS is another option we will discuss.

Bring your ideas to the meeting on February 9 or send them to Gordon Whitaker at whitakergordon@gmail.com.

Gordon Whitaker
Logan Wilkins
Peace and Reconciliation
Mission Group

Martin Luther King Day at WSBC

The Rev. Dr. Nelson Johnson inspired the WSBC congregation with an uplifting sermon, “The Challenge – The Church and the Charge,” on Sunday, January 15, Martin Luther King Day. He spoke about how he was inspired by Dr. King’s message of non-violence, which gives us a powerful message for today. “As we scan the horizon of our nation, can there be any question that today we are living in challenging times? In all my years, I’ve never seen an election season like we have just gone through.”

“A spiritual death that King saw 50 years ago, is upon us now,” Dr. Johnson said. “How do we help people move forward out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land? Now it seems we have money and ego over God, compassion and

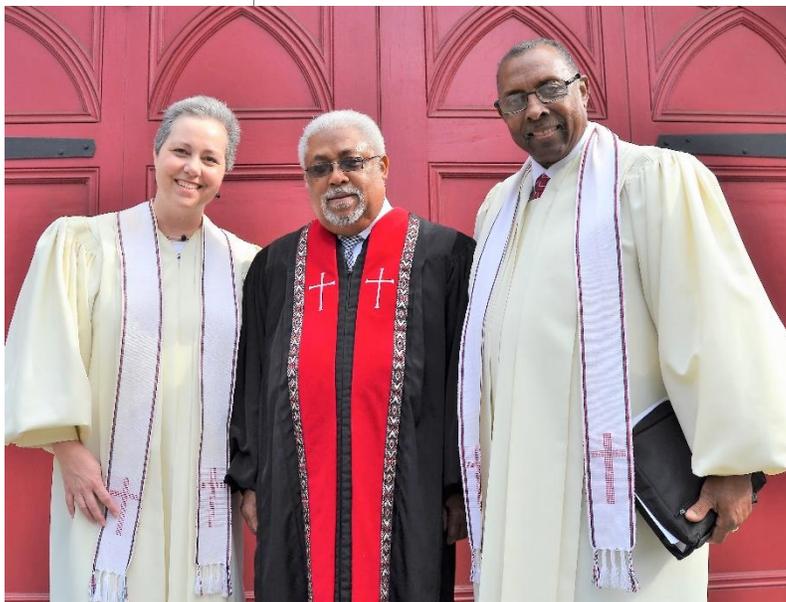
forgiveness. We must remember that God has given us a great gift – the Church. We must be prepared to do the things that need to get done. You have a job to do and you can take the spirit of the Church with you.”

A graduate of NC A&T and Virginia Union University, Johnson serves as pastor of the Faith Community Church and Executive Director of the Beloved Community Center in Greensboro. He has been active in the movement for social and economic justice since his high school days in the 1950s. Though involved in a myriad of initiatives, Johnson centers his efforts on facilitating a process of comprehensive community building, which includes a convergence of racial and ethnic diversity, social and economic justice, and genuine participatory democracy. At the Beloved Community Center, he and his colleagues attempt to bring together the homeless, the imprisoned and those impoverished in the neighborhood as well as other disenfranchised groups in the spirit of mutual support and community.

WSBC was joined by members of St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church to host this city-wide worship service. Durham’s elected officials and community leaders attended the celebration. The service was followed by a lunch and discussion about issues of race and poverty in North Carolina where Dr. Johnson answered questions and spoke further on issues of community justice.

Kathy Pitman
Peace and Reconciliation
Mission Group

“You have a job to do and you can take the spirit of the Church with you.”



Dorisanne Cooper with Robert Daniels, Pastor of St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church, and Nelson Johnson, Pastor of Faith Community Church and Executive Director of the Beloved Community Center in Greensboro, on MLK Sunday at Watts Street.

The WSBC El Salvador Mission Group is leading one of the Sunday School Forums during the month of March. Watch for more information!

Words of Thanks for the Mission House

[The Eckleys and their two boys – ages 2 and 4 – stayed in the W. E. Stanley Mission House for several weeks in August while their premature son was treated at Duke Medical Center. The boys loved the playground!]

We are so thankful for your generosity and hospitality to our family during our baby William's hospital stay this August. What a blessing that house was to us at that time. We will never forget your kindness. We are happy to report that William is home and thriving amazingly! He is the size of an average 4 month old. You would never know how premature and sick he was! Thank you for all you did from the bottom of our hearts.

Please accept our donation to use towards the Mission House. We love what you guys are doing there and hope it blesses many more families in the future.

Love,
The Eckley Family



“We hope you never need us but, if you do, HELP is here.” That statement is frequently spoken by HELP’s ambassadors to civic, religious, and other social groups in Durham in an effort to build relationships and promote its mission to improve physical health and reduce waste. HELP, the Health Equipment Loan Program, is a service of Project Access of Durham County. HELP launched on January 5, 2016, from The Scrap Exchange in the Lakewood Shopping Center. In its first year, HELP exceeded all its initial goals, making **567** loans to **367** Durham residents and collecting **689** equipment donations from the community.

Sally Wilson, Executive Director of Project Access, noted the

importance of the program to the Durham community: “We assist many people who do not qualify for any type of health insurance, so we know those citizens need medical equipment to make their lives easier, to heal quickly and safely, and to ease the burden on caregivers. Others who have insurance, but only a temporary need for equipment, may prefer to reuse, rather than purchase and create waste.”

HELP is supported by volunteers, known as HELPerS, who are crucial to the program’s operations. Individuals who are able to clean, sanitize, repair and/or otherwise handle medical equipment, generally not exceeding 20 pounds, and who can commit to regular weekly or monthly shifts are being recruited. Ask a regular HELPer from WSBC – Emily McCoy (emccoy@nc.rr.com) or Anne Drennan (adrennan@frontier.com) – or call 919-470-7281 for more information.

Ann Drennan

“What a blessing that house was to us at that time.”

*HELP Celebrates
One-Year
Anniversary*

Women's March on Washington

The Women's March on Washington was a worldwide protest on January 21, 2017, to protect legislation and policies regarding human rights and other issues, including women's rights, immigration reform, healthcare reform, the natural environment, LGBTQ rights, racial equality, freedom of religion, and workers' rights. The march drew at least 500,000 people in Washington, and some estimates put

worldwide participation at 4.8 million. At least 408 marches were planned in the U.S. and 168 in 81 other countries (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Women's_March).

A number of Watts Street members traveled to Washington to be part of this historical event. Others joined the Women's March in Raleigh (see article on page 5). Melissa Harrell and Lizzy Ellis-Furlong shared their reactions to being part of the Washington event.

To paraphrase one of the speakers at the women's march in D.C., a march is the place between our reality and the vision we hold of what our world should be and it gives us the energy to work to make our vision the reality.

Roaring - and I do mean roaring - with a half million people, mostly women, certainly energized and healed me from feeling alone and helpless. I think the marchers came away with a desire to make changes and with lots of practical tips to make it so. It was thrilling to be part of a movement that was entirely a grassroots effort. The sea of pink hats were all handmade, not purchased; the signs (many very witty or profound) were homemade. The crowd, of course, was huge and to say we were packed like sardines is an understatement. However, I've never seen such comradery, patience, or good humor in a bunch of people who literally couldn't move.

I can't recommend marching enough, and there are certainly plenty of opportunities now such as the Moral Mondays. It may not change the minds of those in power, but it will change you.

Melissa Harrell

The Women's March on Washington was incredibly powerful. The sea of over 500,000 fellow marchers was very supportive, friendly and overall optimistic. I've heard some critics say that it was a hostile group, but there wasn't a negative interaction with anyone all day. I was so glad for Ava to be part of it as well. I am proud that she is growing up seeing that she has a voice and is learning how to exercise her own power. It was powerful, but I imagined what the crowd would look like if it included everyone: African-American/Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ, immigrants, anti-gun violence, environmentalist groups, etc. This is what I hope is the next step, but it will take each and every one of us to reach out and build bridges.

Lizzie Ellis-Furlong

REAL Durham Interest Meeting

February 22, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. at ReCity, 112 Broadway Street

REAL Durham is an organization that builds relationships across the lines of privilege, race, and class to improve economic stability for everyone. This meeting is specifically geared towards people interested in learning more about what REAL Durham does and how to get involved. Childcare will be provided. For more information please contact Greg Palmer at senorpalmer@gmail.com or Maggie Chotas at maggiechotas@themulberrypartners.com.

Women's March on Raleigh

Eleven of us – nine adults and two children - gathered at Watts Street at 9:15 on Saturday, January 21st to drive together to the Women's March on Raleigh. Many others from Watts Street joined the march with other friends or colleagues from other walks of life. There we joined thousands of people seeking to make our voices heard for equality in all forms. It was a foggy and overcast day, but our spirits were lifted at the sight of so many people! Signs promoted care for the environment, equality for women, equality among races, equality for LGBTQ people, equality for immigrants and other pertinent issues of justice for our world today. It was inspiring to know that so many people were willing to take time to march for

Watts Streeters gather for the Women's March on Raleigh

these issues - such an important day! Our hope is that this is not a one-time response, but that in the face of laws that would seem to promote inequality, we will continue to fight for peace, justice, equality and reconciliation in all areas of life. Indeed, it is what God calls us to do.

Amy Armstrong
Peace and Reconciliation
Mission Group



Chefs to Support Ministry to Durham Homeless Families

Families Moving Forward (FMF) is starting a new kind of fundraiser -- one that is sure to appeal to anyone who loves good food. "Chefs for Change" will host well-known chefs who will donate their time making a meal which will be served at The Rickhouse on Foster Street.

The Chefs for Change Launch Party will be held on Monday, February 20. Admission to the launch party is \$25 per person, and includes nosh along with beer and

wine -- and an announcement of the future chefs. After that, FMF will be holding dinners at The Rickhouse every other month on the third Monday and the cost will be about \$75 per person with proceeds benefitting Families Moving Forward.

For more information, visit <http://familiesmovingforwardnc.org/chefs-for-change>, or talk with Stella Smith (stellapsmith@frontier.com) or Stuart Wells (stuart.wells@duke.edu), FMF coordinators at Watts Street.

Stuart Wells
FMF Mission Group

*Chefs for Change
Launch Party –
February 20*

FCMI Annual Conference March 31

WSBC has long been a supporter of Faith Connections on Mental Illness (FCMI), an organization that seeks to work with all faith communities to welcome, include, support, educate, and advocate for individuals and families



who are living with mental illness. Watts Street members are encouraged to attend FCMI's annual conference at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC, on Friday, March 31, 2017. This year's conference is entitled "Transforming Lives: Overcoming Stigma in Mental Illness." The keynote speaker is Patrick Corrigan, PsyD, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Illinois Institute of Technology. More information about this year's event and online registration can be found at faithconnectionsmentalillness.org. For additional information about FCMI and the conference, contact Ralph McCoy, 919-489-0483, or rmccoy@nc.rr.com.

Ralph McCoy
FCMI Mission Group



Habitat Begins a New Year

Many hands will be needed to make the 2017 project a success!

WSBC has a long history with Habitat for Humanity. The Durham chapter was initiated at Watts Street nearly 32 years ago. Watts Street members have helped build about 16 homes over the years as a result of many people coming together to make a difference in the Durham community.

The objective is not just to build a house, but to give a hand up to a family and help them build a better future in a highly efficient, sturdy and safe home.

The Habitat Mission Group is currently meeting with Habitat to identify a project for the upcoming year. Many hands will be needed to make the 2017 project a success! If you are interested in being part of the new Habitat Build, please contact Steve Booth (919)477-1843 or spbooth@mindspring.com. To learn more about Habitat, go to <http://www.durhamhabitat.org/>.

Steve Booth
Habitat Mission Group

CROP WALK – April 2 – Watch for more information!

Watts Street at Meals on Wheels

Five Watts Streeters (and one friend) joined other volunteers at Meals on Wheels on January 24 to pack 408 meals for Durham County residents who are unable to provide or prepare meals for themselves. This opportunity happens four times each year and all ages are welcome to join the fun and giving! The next event will be April 26 – mark your calendar!

Meals on Wheels is a non-profit agency committed to enhancing the quality of life for eligible homebound adults in the Durham community. Dedicated volunteers deliver hot, nutritious meals each weekday, providing a combination of nutritious meals and social contact that helps individuals remain independent as long as possible. In 2016, MOW delivered over 120,000 meals. Clients reported an improvement in health and many said they felt safer knowing that a volunteer was coming by each day.

Ready to pack meals at MOW – Kathy Kirvan, Bob Kruhm, Ginny Chorley, Becky Dodson, Ginny Wiggins, and Jeanne Kruhm

Meals on Wheels delivers much more than food through the efforts of over 250 volunteers. Volunteers pack meals, load cars, deliver food, type letters, organize supplies, and help maintain the MOW structure and grounds. To learn more about Meals on Wheels or to volunteer, go to <http://www.mowdurham.org/> or contact Bob Kruhm at rkruhm@nc.rr.com.



NCCU Words of Thanks

[The November/December Mission Baskets were designated for the North Carolina Central University Campus Food Pantry.]

Dear Watts Baptist Church,

The North Carolina Central University Campus Food Pantry would like to thank you for your generous contribution of 104 pounds of food! With your support, NCCU Campus Food Pantry is able to address the hunger crisis on our campus. So many of our students, faculty and staff struggle to meet basic needs and face hunger daily. We are so grateful for your donation. Your gift made a real difference in the lives of the NCCU Eagles!

With deep appreciation,
NCCU Campus Food Pantry

Mission Baskets: The Mission Baskets in the side foyer and the Fellowship Hall are collecting donations for outreach kits for Housing for New Hope clients through February. Items needed for the kits include: socks, underwear, deodorant, tooth brushes, tooth paste, bar soap, washcloths, disposable razors, sanitary napkins or tampons, lotion (small bottles), shampoo and conditioner (small bottles). March/April Mission Baskets will be for Reality Ministries; watch for details. Pink cards are in in the pews as an on-going reminder to stock the Mission Baskets. For more information, contact Bill McCraw at bill.mccraw@duke.edu.

Prison Ministry Christmas Celebration at NCCIW

On two evenings during the week before Christmas, the WSBC Prison Ministry served dinner and held a service with all 180 women at the NC Correctional Institute for Women (NCCIW). This was a huge undertaking that required coordination with many other churches. Pastor Sarah Jobe engaged the other churches and arranged catering, meals, and gift bags. The Watts Street group served the meal and provided musical entertainment with Curtis Freeman and Karin Oliver at the piano. Allyn Meredith designed center pieces for the tables and engaged her office staff and the children of WSBC in creating the décor including a personal felt and glitter coaster for each inmate.

On both evenings, Pastor Sarah Jobe filled the Hope Center with the Holy Spirit, and reminded us that God did not show up as a knight in shining armor, but as a tender baby who, when nurtured, blossoms within each of our hearts. At a time when feelings of separation from family, friends and society may be felt most keenly by the women at the prison, it was good to extend a measure of love, joy, peace and hope at Christmastime.

Special thanks to Prison Ministry Mission Group members who joined us at NCCIW: Amy Sauls, Debra Freeman, Curtis Freeman, Jennifer Garst, Ashley Swindoll, Karin Oliver, and Allyn Meredith.

All WSBC members are encouraged to participate in the Prison Ministry. Volunteer training, i.e., Blue Card Training, is offered quarterly at the prison and requires early registration and a background check; the next training is scheduled for March 4, 2017 with **registration required by February 13**. New volunteers and those whose cards expire by May 2017 are required to take this workshop. If you would like more information about becoming a part of this vital mission group, please contact Jennifer Garst by email to jennifer.garst@duke.edu or send a text to 919-971-8797.

Jennifer Garst
Allyn Meredith
Prison Ministry

"Where every member is a minister"



Watts Street Baptist Church
Missions Committee
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Phone: 919-688-1366
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E-mail: wattsstreet@nc.rr.com
Web: www.wattsstreet.org

Volunteers Needed!



Allyn Meredith is joined by her colleagues at Duke Clinical Research Institute (aka The Glitter Brigade) in making a felt and glitter coaster for each inmate.

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.