

Compassion in Action



Missions Connections During the Coronavirus Crisis

As we begin to acclimate to these days of “social isolation,” many of us are already thinking about ways we can continue to care for our neighbors who are most vulnerable. We have several people who are in contact with our missions partners in the community and will continue to provide updates on how we can participate in missions work.

To find the current needs that our missions is addressing, visit this section of the church website: <http://wattsstreet.org/caring-for-our-neighbors-during-covid-19/>.

Upcoming opportunities involve participating in the virtual CROP Walk (see page 6); providing

needed supplies for McDougald Terrace (see page 5; providing meals for Urban Ministries (see page 4) and Families Moving Forward (see page 2); and finding ways to provide food for the Walltown community, Meals on Wheels, and families from Merrick Moore Elementary School (see page 6).

As needs change, we will update the website to help you stay informed. And if there is a specific need that you would like to see addressed, contact Clark Godfrey, Bob Kruhm, Greg Palmer, or Kelly Sasser.

Greg Palmer, Chair
Missions Committee
senorpalmer@gmail.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WSBC Missions Lunch	2
News from Families Moving Forward	2
Poor People's Assembly	3
Urban Ministries	4
Mission Baskets	5
CROP Walk	6
Caring for Our Neighbors During COVID-19	6

Missions Committee: 2019-2020 Missions Committee Members include: Greg Palmer, Chair, Elizabeth Forshay, Clark Godfrey, Bob Kruhm, Laura Lee, Joy Turner, Dan Winn, Lloyd Patillo, Karen Kimel-Scott, Henry Koonce. Please feel free to contact any of the members for more information about Watts Street’s Missions.

WSBC Missions Lunch Celebrates Good Work

On March 8th, the Missions Committee hosted a lunch following worship to bring together members of the congregation and those working directly with Missions Groups. The event allowed us to hear what is currently being done, as well as discuss needs and ways to collaborate and connect.

After dividing into four groups based on missions themes - food and shelter, education, advocacy, and equity and community - the groups shared stories of their missions experiences. It was a great way to learn about a variety of projects. A

After the lunch several attendees expressed excitement over the connections that are being made through missions both in the community and among congregation members that are working together. The lunch also resulted in some new ideas, including keeping an online master calendar of missions opportunities and having quarterly mission lunches within each of the missions theme areas to continue to find ways to connect with others across Mission Groups.

Greg Palmer, Chair
WSBC Missions Committee
senorpalmer@gmail.com

*Many ways to
connect across
Mission Groups*

About Families Moving Forward

Families Moving Forward (FMF) continues to stay open as a shelter for homeless families during the Coronavirus and Durham's Stay Home Ordinance. The main concern of the FMF staff right now is providing food for the families at the shelter, and they are asking organizations that are scheduled to

provide food to continue to do so as a drop-off. Watts Street is scheduled to provide food April 27-30, but we are not sure at this point exactly how that will happen or if we will be called on to step up before that time. Stay tuned for more information!

Stuart Wells
FMF Liaison
stuart.wells@duke.edu

*FMF continues
to shelter
homeless
families*

Poor People’s Assembly Goes Digital!

The Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group was excited to encourage you to attend the June 20th rally of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival in Washington, DC. Several of us went a couple of years ago and it was a tremendous experience. However, since we first hoped to issue that invitation, our world has changed in more ways than we can count. In this time of social-distancing and being community to those most at risk for COVID-19, so many gatherings and plans have been cancelled or changed. The Poor People’s Campaign has not cancelled their rally, but it will be digital. That means you have NO reason not to join in! We’ll be sharing more information as it becomes available, but this is what we currently know:

The Mass Poor People’s Assembly & Moral March on Washington is going digital! On June 20th, we will hold the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low-wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation’s history. A global pandemic is exposing even more the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. On June 20, the 140 million poor and low-wealth people across this nation will be heard!

We hope you’ll be a part! If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Amy Armstrong (amy.armstrong@gmail.com) or Gordon Whitaker (whitakergordon@gmail.com)

Amy Armstrong
Peace and Reconciliation
Mission Group

More information to come! We hope you’ll be a part!



Urban Ministries: We Can Do This!

The Sojourners Class has provided meals for Urban Ministries for years. But things have changed due to the COVID-19 virus. The Sojourners can no longer go to the Urban Ministries facility to cook and serve and clean up – at least not right now. So, change of plans for the March 19 event!

- David Goodman and Greg Palmer assembled casseroles and mixed fruit salads to store in the refrigerator at WSBC on Wednesday night (after wiping down the counters with Clorox wipes and putting on their rubber gloves).
- Rebeca Olmeda and Susan Brooks dropped off desserts on Thursday.
- Ralph McCoy, Lisa Rhodes, Clark Godfrey, Paula Junizzi-Godfrey and Greg Palmer cooked the casseroles on Thursday and assembled 200 (compostable) containers of cool items – fruit salad, green salad, bread and dessert. Then they boxed up the casseroles in separate containers, loaded everything up in four vehicles, and made a delivery to Urban Ministries.

Besides wiping down the counters and wearing gloves, the participants practiced social distancing as much as possible. A successful alternative and one that may be necessary for a month or two.

Urban Ministries has had to make huge adjustments in their efforts to feed the homeless due to this virus outbreak, restricting services and increasing expenses.

Watts Street is scheduled to provide the evening meal every third Thursday. The next date is Thursday, April 16. If you can help with grocery shopping, food prep, cake or brownie baking, packaging, or delivering, please contact Greg Palmer at senorpalmer@gmail.com.



Meals were assembled at Watts Street and delivered to Urban Ministries. Help for the next event – April 16 – is needed!



**HELP US HELP OUR MCDUGALD TERRACE
NEIGHBORS!**



MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- **Baby bottles**
- **Women's deodorant**
- **Kid's toothpaste**
- **Lysol wipes**
- **Laundry detergent (small sized containers, please)**
- **Hand sanitizer**
- **Tissues**
- **Toilet paper**
- **Paper towels**
- **Adult body wash**
- **Adult shampoo**
- **Mouthwash**
- **Hand soap**
- **Trash bags**



March/April Mission Baskets

clarkgodfrey820@gmail.com

Join Team Watts Street for a “Virtual” CROP Walk!

This year’s CROP Walk is **Sunday, April 5**. We won’t be gathering at Duke Chapel this year but there are still ways to participate as a fund-raiser or donor! Durham CROP Walk donations are used to support hunger alleviation programs. 75% of the money raised supports the work of Church World Service and 25% stays in Durham County and is used by DCIA (Durham Congregations in Action) to help our neighbors in need. **To volunteer or to sponsor our team, visit www.wattsstreet.org or contact River Price (riprice96@gmail.com).**

“Where every member is a minister”



Watts Street Baptist Church

Missions Committee

800 Watts Street.

Durham, N.C., 27701

Phone: 919-688-1366

Fax: 919-688-7255

E-mail: wattsstreet@nc.rr.com

Web: www.wattsstreet.org

Caring for Our Neighbors During COVID-19

MEALS ON WHEELS: Volunteers at the Meals on Wheels’ Ross Road facility prepared over 5,000 meal packets last on Friday, March 20, to deliver to clients for the 3/23-4/3 time period.

Volunteer in Person: If you can volunteer to pack meals (using social distancing) or make deliveries, you’ll need to fill out an application at mowdurham.org/volunteer. Starting April 6, Meals on Wheels will need many more drivers every Monday.

Volunteer at Home: If you can make phone calls to check on Meals on Wheels clients, email Britt@mowdurham.org, and they will give you instructions.

Donate: Go to mowdurham.org. By selecting COVID-19, funds will go to the current efforts! Donations will help cover the extra cost of shelf stable meals.

WALLTOWN FOOD PANTRY: The Walltown Food Pantry has a plan to get food and supplies to seniors in the neighborhood and to stay in touch with them through the Coronavirus crisis. All the packing and deliveries have been made for March. Watts Streeters can join this effort for April.

Volunteer: The School for Conversion is pairing young people with elders to facilitate regular check-ins and supply deliveries to elders on quarantine. The next delivery date is Thursday, April 23. Here is a video to orient volunteers to social distancing protocols to keep everyone safe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jqr0ubacURQ&t=4s>.

Contact: Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, jonathanwilsonhartgrove@hotmail.com.

MERRICK-MOORE ELEMENTARY: Thank you to several Watts Streeters who donated money for gift cards to Food Lion and Wal-Mart for families at Merrick-Moore Elementary before DPS began providing meals. Paula Januzzi-Godfrey delivered the gift cards and snacks to over 35 families, many of whom are living in extreme poverty.

Update: DPS is now providing lunch for students but they are not reaching all students (some families are not leaving their homes while others are working and not able to pick up the food in the time frame it is available). In addition, the children also still need breakfast and supper.

Donate: Contact Paula Januzzi-Godfrey at januzzi@gmail.com to find out how to donate for gift cards.