

# 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 and connect with others. During these uncertain times of COVID-19, most groups have had to alter their involvement with the community, but most have maintained some level of interaction. Under normal circumstances, 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. In addition to building houses, Habitat works to refurbish current homes for its clients. All kinds of volunteers are needed from skilled and unskilled workers to people who can provide occasional food for work crews. Visit [www.durhamhabitat.org](http://www.durhamhabitat.org) to learn more. Due to COVID restrictions, construction is a bit more controlled than before. As soon as opportunities arise for our participation, I will let you know. Contact: Steve Booth, [spbooth007@gmail.com](mailto:spbooth007@gmail.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, police accountability 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).

**The El Salvador Mission Group** supports a working relationship with our covenant church, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel, in San Salvador, El Salvador. For the past eleven years, this mission group has worked to build relationships through mission trips to El Salvador that have in the past included the building of affordable housing and youth centers. The most recent focus of this group is supporting the Culture of Peace through 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).

(continued on page 2)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Casserole Ministry Rejuvenated	4
Help Walltown Food Pantry Deliver Food to Seniors	4
Families Moving Forward Needs Study Buddies	5
Creation Care Advocates for Zero Waste	5
Mission Baskets: Reality Ministries	6
Senior PharmAssist Offering Medicare Evaluations During COVID	6

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

The **Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group** has been active at WSBC for more than 40 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. During recent years, the group has organized refugee advocacy, support and sanctuary; outreach to the LGBTQ community; participation in the Poor Peoples Campaign; and WSBC's Martin Luther King Sunday worship and other conversations about race and justice. Join us to act on your concerns about peace and reconciliation! To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/social-justice/>. Contact: Gordon Whitaker, [whitakergordon@gmail.com](mailto:whitakergordon@gmail.com).

**Creation Care Ministry (CCM)** welcomes all ages at Watts Street to join as we put our faith into action to confront the climate crisis. We know that the most vulnerable among us – in Durham and around the world - are harmed first and worst by climate change from endangered species to ecosystems. To address this environmental injustice, there are ongoing efforts to decrease greenhouse gases by keeping food scraps and old textiles out of the landfill. We contract with CompostNOW for food composting and host a Green Zone textile recycling bin next to the Mission House. When we reopen, all user groups inside and outside the church will be asked to phase out single-use plastics and Styrofoam to further these efforts in 2020 - 2021. Join this creative and passionate team the second Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. remotely by Zoom or by phone to help with whatever tugs at your heart. Contact: Will Alexander, [w.d.alexander.86@gmail.com](mailto:w.d.alexander.86@gmail.com).

**Walltown Neighborhood Ministries** seeks to bridge churches, non-profit agencies, public and charter schools, and families in the Walltown neighborhood and close vicinity. This

organization is engaged in relationship building and street-level justice activities, partnering together to host a food bank as well as education and training for community organizing. It also nurtures neighborhood youth through educational development programs including Urban Hope, and sponsors activities through the year where churches and agencies come together for worship and fun. WSBC has been involved with this Ministry for many years and is looking for new congregational participation to help connect the church to various events through the year. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/social-justice/>. Contact: Dorisanne Cooper, [dorisanne@wattsstreet.org](mailto:dorisanne@wattsstreet.org) or Kirsten Kruhm, [Kirsten.Kruhm@redcross.org](mailto:Kirsten.Kruhm@redcross.org).

**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/>. Contact: Greg Palmer, [senorpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:senorpalmer@gmail.com).

**The Urban Ministries Casserole Ministry** provides nourishing, tasty meals once a month to families in need of food. Our goal is to provide 20 9x13 casseroles on the third Tuesday toward the time of month when families find their money low and the cupboards empty. A link to *Sign-up Genius* is published in the *Watts Street Weekly* and *The Watts Line*. Instructions and the recipe plus sign-up can be found there. Contact: Emily McCoy, [mccoy6320@gmail.com](mailto:mccoy6320@gmail.com).

The **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. To learn more, visit <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/care-compassion/>. Contact: Gene Downs, [eugene\\_downs@hotmail.com](mailto:eugene_downs@hotmail.com).

(continued on page 3)

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

**W. E. Stanley Mission House** provides a comfortable, peaceful, and nurturing environment to assist in the care of patients and their families who are receiving medical care away from home and need affordable housing assistance. The facility is coordinated in partnership with Host Homes at Duke University Medical Center. To learn more, go to <http://wattsstreet.org/serve/care-compassion>. Contacts: Becky Dodson, [becky.dodson704@outlook.com](mailto:becky.dodson704@outlook.com), or Ginny Wiggins, [vwiggins3@nc.rr.com](mailto:vwiggins3@nc.rr.com).

**Reality Ministries** fosters friendships among people of all abilities marked by mutuality, authenticity, and the reality of Christ's love for all. Reality Ministries offers evening and daytime programs that provide inclusive opportunities for sharing food, fellowship, games, singing, messages from the Bible, service projects, and more for individuals with developmental disabilities, age 18 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. A current activity of this Mission Group is to coordinate a healthy lunch once a month for Daytime Gatherings at the Reality Center, which offers dynamic daytime programming with a variety of enriching activities centered on community and personal growth, as well as a delicious lunch. Members of WSBC congregation have other opportunities to get more involved with this Mission Group and Reality Ministries, including volunteering at Daytime and evening programs, as well as special events such as camps and Reality Farm workdays. To learn more, visit [www.realityministriesinc.org](http://www.realityministriesinc.org). Contact: Cari Furiness, [cs.furiness@gmail.com](mailto:cs.furiness@gmail.com).

**Families Moving Forward** provides transitional housing, meals and other support for families moving from homelessness to permanent or temporary housing. In more normal times, the FMF Mission Group partners with Duke

Memorial UMC and Shepherd's House UMC about one week in ten to provide and share nightly meals at FMF. However, during these uncertain times of COVID 19, outside organizations cannot go into the facility. Therefore, FMF is more reliant on financial contributions to help the families we serve stay fed and housed. To learn more about Families Moving Forward and ways you can support this ministry, visit [www.fmfnc.org](http://www.fmfnc.org). Contacts: Stuart Wells, [stuart.wells@duke.edu](mailto:stuart.wells@duke.edu); Elizabeth Erwin, [Elizabeth.Erwin@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Erwin@unchealth.unc.edu).

**Reentry Faith Team Ministry**, in collaboration with Northside Missionary Baptist Church, has formed a support circle for persons returning to society after incarceration. The work of the Faith Team involves creating relationships across racial and social lines, and thus learning to love the stranger. Together with the Religious Coalition for Non-Violent Durham, those of us participating in the Reentry Ministry believe that it "provides a tremendous opportunity for change and renewal for faith community members and released prisoners."

Our Faith Team is comprised of five volunteers, and our Reentry Partner. Recently released from prison, Reentry Partners are screened and approved for participation in Faith Teams. The Durham Criminal Justice Resource Center along with the director of the Reentry Program at the Religious Coalition for Non-Violent Durham provide training and ongoing assistance to Faith Team volunteers. The Faith Team functions as one component in the structured DCRC programming that assists ex-offenders in adjusting to life out of prison, and altering behavior conducive to criminal activity.

If God might be calling you to express your Christian faith by cultivating an unlikely friendship, this Reentry Faith Team Ministry offers that opportunity. To learn more, visit <https://nonviolentdurham.org/practices/reentry/>. Contacts: Maggie Chotas, [maggiechotas@gmail.com](mailto:maggiechotas@gmail.com); Rebeca Olmedo, [roselolmedo@gmail.com](mailto:roselolmedo@gmail.com); or Whit Trumbul, [Trumbul@mindspring.com](mailto:Trumbul@mindspring.com).

## Casserole Ministry Rejuvenated!

According to the *Feeding America* website, 16.5% of residents in Durham County are food insecure. That alarming percentage equates to about 50,000 people. The problem has been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, and so many agencies are striving to meet the needs in the community.

Watts Street has partnered through the years with Urban Ministries, a non-profit that connects our poor and homeless neighbors to food, shelter and a future. A faithful group of Watts Streeters has provided a meal once a month and continues to do so during this crisis. To add to that, the Casserole

Ministry that was active in years past has been rejuvenated. Many people come to Urban Ministries at the end of the month when money begins to run out. Our goal is to provide families a satisfying meal that can be taken home and warmed.

Each month a recipe will be provided, and a sign-up list offered through Sign-up Genius. The link to this web site will be in *The Watts Line* and *The Weekly*. The due date will be the third Tuesday of the month. For questions, contact, Emily McCoy, [mccoy6320@gmail.com](mailto:mccoy6320@gmail.com) or (919)908-0933.

*An opportunity to help provide food for our community!*

## Help Walltown Food Pantry Deliver Food to Seniors

The Walltown Food Pantry has a plan to get food and supplies to seniors and keep in touch with them through the coronavirus crisis. The Pantry is looking for volunteers who are willing to make grocery deliveries once a month to two or more seniors/disabled residents in Durham through the pandemic. Groceries and cleaning supplies are being delivered on the fourth Thursday of each month between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The next delivery date is Thursday, October 22. The pick-up site is the Beth El Synagogue annex at the southeast corner of Watts and Green Streets. Contact Silvia Belcher at (919)286-0332 for details or Bob Kruhm at [rkruhm@nc.rr.com](mailto:rkruhm@nc.rr.com).



*Walltown Food Pantry Pick-up at Beth El Synagogue. You can help! Next delivery is October 22!*

*Study with a  
Buddy one  
hour a week*

## FMF Needs Study Buddies!

Families Moving Forward (FMF) started a virtual Study Buddies program on September 14. This moves their usual Study Buddies program to an online model. At least 20 consistent volunteers are needed.

Study Buddies occurs on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. The program is open to both NEST children (shelter), and Branching Out children (aftercare). At last count, about 15 kids had registered for the program.

Children will be grouped in pairs of two according to their grade level and will have either one or two volunteer Study Buddies working with them virtually in a breakout room. The plan is to provide academic support to all FMF school-aged children, helping with homework, practicing for upcoming exams, or working on

projects. If a child does not have homework, other assignments will be provided.

Volunteers are needed for one hour each week, serving the same day each week. If you are interested in serving as a Study Buddy, please contact Courtney McLaughlin, Volunteer Engagement Associate VISTA ([courtney@fmfnc.org](mailto:courtney@fmfnc.org)) or for more information please reach out to Olivia Gilmore, NEST Programming Associate VISTA, ([olivia@fmfnc.org](mailto:olivia@fmfnc.org)) - she is the person overseeing Study Buddies this year. As a reminder, all volunteers must be over 18 years old and not enrolled in a DPS school. For other opportunities to support FMF, please go to [www.fmfnc.org](http://www.fmfnc.org).

Stuart Wells  
FMF Liaison  
[stuart.wells@duke.edu](mailto:stuart.wells@duke.edu)

## Creation Care Advocates for Zero-Waste

The Creation Care Ministry (CCM) is launching efforts to educate Watts Streeters in ways to make a difference individually and corporately, and to be an advocate for the environment with our local and national governments. This month CCM is pleased to focus on a local zero-waste community-minded business.

Fillaree, a Durham zero-waste company, offers refillable hand and body soap, cleaning spray, shampoo/conditioner, and laundry detergent by the ounce in refillable containers. Everything is natural and organic. Other sustainable, hypoallergenic products are compostable, e.g., bamboo toothbrushes and dental floss. Fillaree is owned by Alyssa Cherry whose husband, Lynwood, grew up at WSBC and whose family are still members. Check out the Fillaree website at <https://fillaree.com/>. The shop, located at 3117 Guess Road Suite A, is open Wednesday – Saturday from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.; check online for future expanded hours. You may order online for no-contact pick-up or come by and shop wearing a mask and having minimal contact with shoppers.





The mission of Reality Ministries is to create opportunities for adults with and without developmental disabilities to experience belonging, kinship, and the life-changing Reality of Christ's love.

Office Supplies, Coloring Books, Stamps, etc., etc., etc.!  
Items may be ordered from the Amazon Wish List at

[www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/36B9BKK57CP3V?ref\\_=wl\\_share](http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/36B9BKK57CP3V?ref_=wl_share)

## September/October Mission Baskets

Contact Clark Godfrey, [cgodfrey24@aol.com](mailto:cgodfrey24@aol.com)

*"Where every member is a minister"*



### Watts Street Baptist Church Missions Committee

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## Senior PharmAssist Offering Medicare Evaluations During COVID

Senior PharmAssist is working virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. Medicare Open Enrollment Period is coming up - October 15 - December 7. Seniors who want to re-evaluate their prescription drug plan (Part D) can call for an appointment at (919)688-4772. Evaluations will be conducted over the phone or on-line.

Senior PharmAssist is also hosting virtual Medicare Basics events for those new to Medicare or who have questions. To register for upcoming webinars, log on to [www.seniorpharmassist.org](http://www.seniorpharmassist.org) and click your preferred date. The webinars will be held Thursday, October 8, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Friday, November 6, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., and Thursday, December 17, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. To watch a recording of a previous webinar, click [https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ab8xjuwTg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ab8xjuwTg).

**Missions Committee:** 2020-2021 Missions Committee Members include: Karen Barber, Elizabeth Erwin, Clark Godfrey, Karen Kimel-Scott, Bob Kruhm, Laura Lee, Rebeca Olmedo, Lloyd Patillo, Pat Revels. Please feel free to contact any of the members for more information about Watts Street's Missions.