

Compassion in Action



Volume 1, Issue 3

September 2009

Upcoming Events: Get Involved!

- **NC Pride Parade**—9/26
Contact Amy Armstrong.
- **Divan Group**—interfaith dialogue (see p. 3)—Wed. nights 10/7 & 10/14. Contact Amy Armstrong.
- **Yam Jam**—October 17
Contact Kelly Sasser. (ALL ages welcome; see p. 3)
- **IHN**—Oct 18-24 To help with food contact Stella Smith; to host, contact Stuart Wells. **Urgent need!**

Mission Baskets

- September: Walltown Food Pantry

Help Wanted

- Reconciliation & Re-entry needs more people to create a new **support team for a recently released prisoner**. Contact Kirsten Kruhm.
- AIDS Care Group needs new members to create a **new care team**. Contact Marsha McKinley.
- Walltown Neighborhood Ministries needs **help buying, sorting, and distributing food**. Contact Jennifer Phillips.
- **Latino Ministry** needs assistance (see p. 3). Contact Jose Luis Villaseñor, Scott Hovey, Mary Sagar, or Liz Lutz.
- **Peace and Rec.** needs new members to share ideas on peacemaking & reconciliation. Contact Amy Armstrong.

AIDS Care Team

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WSBC Joins Work to 'End Poverty Durham'

Compassion in Action (CIA) is WSBC Missions Committee's newsletter. Our goal is to keep you better informed about the many ways that your mission resources (money, people, facilities) are put to work as members of WSBC reach out to the world. To give maximum space in this issue to the many missions going on here, this column will now turn to two **End Poverty Durham (EPD)** initiatives.

EPD is an interfaith group of leaders who meet every month with two purposes: 1. to make congregations aware of Durham's crisis of poverty and 2. to develop a plan to eliminate poverty (within 25 years). Mel Williams is a founder and convener of EPD, which has been meeting at WSBC for the past three years.

Durham has a 23% child poverty rate and a 14% adult poverty rate, all in the shadow of a prosperous city. EPD has now launched two initiatives to combat the shameful poverty among us.

Durham Economic Resource Center (DERC) is both a "low income Costco" and a job training center. The distribution center, located at 118 Hunt Street, offers products at drastically reduced prices. Non-profit agencies, congregations, and organizations may purchase a membership (\$100) which entitles the constituents to shop at DERC using vouchers made available by the member agencies. But the major purpose of the distribution center is to attract low income residents for job training. DERC has now had 19 people com-

plete the first of three training modules. Jackie Brown, a member of Union Baptist Church, is DERC's new CEO. She has an MBA from Duke and is a terrific leader. The goal is eventually to train 100 people for living wage jobs. The center is modeled after a very successful center in Greensboro. After presentations to our WSBC Missions Committee, DERC received a \$4000 grant from the WSBC Mission Endowment Fund; DERC is also placed in our WSBC 2010 budget for \$600. (One WS member has already pledged an additional \$600 to match the missions allocation.)

The second EPD initiative is a **faith-based child poverty initiative (CPI)**. Working collaboratively (*cont. on p. 4*)

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International
More news to come on International Mission Groups for El Salvador and Kostroma. Stay tuned!

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Environmental Mission Group Teaches All Ages at WSBC

The Environmental Mission Group has been hard at work keeping up the supper garden. A huge thanks goes to Michelle, Greg, Abbie, and Vaughn Old for their daily tending of garden #1. Thanks to the Lutz family and Bob Hellwig for work at garden #2. Also thanks to those who have contributed to workdays, watering, and pesto making: Patty Arges, Anne Claire Broughton, April Gustine, David Heist, Jeanne Kruhm, Jenny Leinbach, Laura Webb Smith, and Ann Tamariz.

This fall, mark your calendar for the "Going Green One Step at a Time" Wednesday night series:

Sept. 16: Steven Hren, co-author of "The Carbon Free Home" offers practical tips on how you can reduce

your energy consumption.

Sept. 23: Anne Claire Broughton leads a viewing and discussion of a talk by Self-Help CEO Martin Eakes on how social justice and caring for the environment intersect.

Sept. 30: Durham County Master Gardeners Lynne Nelson and Susanna Chabinak-Uhlig share tips on backyard and worm composting.

On a Sunday morning late in the summer, children's Sunday School classes took a trip to visit garden #1. They had a worm dig, planted seeds, toured the garden, played a seed game, and talked about what was growing.

The garden is meant to be for everyone at WSBC. All are welcome to

come and work in the garden and take home some fresh vegetables. Right now pumpkins, winter squash, tomatoes, broccoli, spinach, lettuce, eggplant, peppers, and sweet potatoes are growing.

A chicken coop is in the works, and at some point the group will have eggs to share.



Thomas Park discovers eggplant.

IHN Stories: Hosting Three Displaced Families

Watts Street and Duke Memorial hosted three displaced families during our joint Aug. 16-22 Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) week, including one family directly impacted by the weak economy. The moms and their children (eight in all) were appreciative of the IHN "safety net" and the chance to make a new start. The families benefit from a safe harbor and the network's case management services.

The effort this time benefited from the work of nine Watts Street hosts

and about a dozen food preparers, counting all the Boy Scouts who pitched in. Special thanks to newcomer Bonnie Griffin, who served as a host one evening.

The Duke Memorial van driver picking up guests at the Day House on Saturday night found only one of the two families expected. The other family had gone on an errand and hadn't returned. After getting the first family to the church, the driver took the van to look for the second family. Sure enough, he found them walking down

the street near the Day House. Their car had broken down, and they were trying to figure out how to walk to the church.

A second highlight of the week: two of our guests got jobs, at a call center for Aetna in Cary. This makes for interesting adjustments by the IHN staff, but is really great for our guests to be able to have income and look toward transitioning out of IHN and back to their own apartments when possible.



Building Bridges to El Salvador



WSBC team of 12 people returned from their nine day mission trip to El Salvador on August 9. Members of the team were Clark Godfrey, Paula Januzzi- Godfrey, Amy Armstrong, Joy Turner, Jason and Margaret Mathes, Jason Godfrey, Lexi Conley, Greg Palmer, Ed Parrish, Melissa Godwin and Annella Rockson. They worked with groups from Canada and from the local commu-

nity of Alegria to build five houses. Pastor Miguel Castro and his wife, Lidia, from our sister church Emmanuel, took the WSBC team on a tour of San Salvador, highlighting the history of El Salvador and the impact of Bishop Oscar Romero. The team also visited with the families and students that WSBC provides scholarships for each year. The families were gracious hosts

and shared their gratitude for the school supplies from the mission baskets and for the scholarship support. Education is clearly valued by this community.

Our WSBC team was grateful to be with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador and to be able to continue the ministry of "building" relationships.

Peace and Reconciliation

The Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group actively seeks ways to be peacemakers in Durham and throughout the world. They do this through ongoing discussions, offering forums for WSBC members and by participating in activities outside the church.

This year the group offered a February Forum on racism in the church and led Wednesday night discussions on peace in the Middle East and on racism.

The Peace and Reconciliation Group is also organizing Watts Street's participation in the annual NC

Pride Parade on September 26. All interested WSBC members are invited to join in this festive event, whether walking with the group or waving from the sidelines.

On two upcoming Wednesdays (October 7 and 14) Peace and Reconciliation will host interfaith dialogue with the Divan Group, a group of Muslims from Turkey. On the first night they will show a movie about a recent trip to Turkey and share some of what they do. The next week they will return to have Wednesday night supper with us. Everyone will be encouraged to stay in the fellowship hall following

dinner for discussions around the tables.

Recent Peace and Reconciliation discussions have included ways to become involved regarding immigration, concerns about violence and children, and the possible start up of executions in North Carolina. Because much of this group's work is done through discussions that raise ideas and issues, they are always seeking new members who bring new ideas and focus. For more information, contact Amy Armstrong.



Youth Servant Leaders: Here, There, and Everywhere!

On August 16, the church family heard the Watts Street youth share about their incredible experiences at the PASSPORT Youth Missions Camp in Boston this summer. But did you know the Watts Street youth were also actively involved in service/learning projects right here in Durham? The youth offered outstanding leadership with the children at Vacation Bible School, labored in the community garden at SEEDS, painted a ceiling at Habitat, sorted sweet potatoes at the Food Bank, cleaned up Sunday School classrooms for the new year, and served supper to over 250 people at Urban Ministries. All total,

the youth contributed nearly 780 hours of service to their neighbors this summer. Thanks to the Watts Street youth for being "doers of the Word"!



Food Bank

SEEDS



YAM JAM is October 17! For a service project like no other, come join in the NC Gleaning Network's 19th Annual Yam Jam. Last year we helped gather up over 125,000 pounds of sweet potatoes for food banks and soup kitchens statewide. Our team of youth and adults will meet at WSBC at 7 AM (juice & donuts provided) and head out to a farm in Johnston County. We'll work from 8-12, stop for lunch at the State Farmers' Market in Raleigh, and return by 2:30 PM. You'll need to bring work gloves, layers of clothing, water bottle, money for lunch and a signed liability form. Sign up with Kelly Sasser.

Latino Ministry

The Latino Ministry is ready to start its call and mission! Initially, WSBC members may participate in three options: *worship service, small group* and *fund-raising*.

Worship will be every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:15-7:15 PM, with a light supper in the WSBC Fellowship Hall, then worship, with communion, in the Chapel. Jose Luis Villasenor and Scott Hovey will officiate. Services are open to all. Child

care will be provided after supper. WSBC members are invited to help make this new mission a reality!

After the worship service becomes established, the Latino Ministry will develop small groups to reach out to the community. The first small group will focus on hospitality to our Hispanic neighbors. Each group will learn how a small group functions, experience one way to become a Christian community, and reach out

to others with confidence! Members of the small groups may come from anywhere in the Raleigh/Durham area. WSBC members are especially invited.

The Latino Ministry welcomes people who can do the fund-raising that is necessary for this mission to succeed. WSBC members are invited to do this or to support this mission financially.

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Where every member is a minister

EPD, cont fm p. 1

with the Durham Partnership for Children, CPI has now received funding from various congregations to employ a part-time coordinator, Frances Dyer, a member of White Rock Baptist Church. Frances, a lawyer, is a founder of the child development center at White Rock. Her CPI job is to mobilize Durham congregations to give priority to providing services for children, age 0 to 5. Following a survey of 50 congregations, Frances is contacting leaders of congregations with a challenge to help dramatically increase the well-being of children in these formative years when brain development is crucial. The goal is to work preventively to minimize problems that show up when the children reach teen age--- drugs, gangs, school dropouts, etc. Frances hopes to lead Durham congregations to declare 2010 "The Year of the Child." Our WSBC Missions Committee has supported the child poverty initiative with a \$3000 grant from the Mission Endowment Fund.

Walltown Happenings

The Walltown Mission Group co-sponsored the annual Street Reach on July 17th at Northside Baptist Church in Walltown. The event featured the dedication of the Walltown Tool Shed. The tool shed is a shared community resource for Walltown neighbors to borrow home and lawn equipment. Special thanks to the Self Help Credit Union for sponsoring this program. Lavett Sadler with Self Help has done a great job getting this program going. In addition, there was great entertainment (see photo), face painting (see photo), and a cookout for over 200 neighbors.



The Watts Street Walltown Missions Group has worked with Walltown Neighborhood Ministries to provide food for 50 families the last week of every month. This September, we are having a special food drive. Grocery bags with a list of items needed are in the vestibule by the sanctuary and under the table in the fellowship hall. Please take a bag and fill it with non-perishable goods and return by the end of the month. We've had great success with the program this summer. Thank you all for your support! If you would like to become more involved with the Walltown Missions Group, please contact Jen Phillips at (919) 491-7160 (cell) or jenbmcduke@yahoo.com.

More Missions News

AIDS Care Team

During the first half of 2009 our five member care team has continued to provide consistent emotional support to our CP (Care Partner). We have enjoyed several social outings and assisted him with household tasks. For the last two months our team has been especially present with our CP following hernia surgery, the process of making the difficult decisions to cease full-time work due to increasing functional deficits, start the Disability application process and return to his home state to live with family. In the last few weeks we have helped with packing and loading the moving truck. Financial assistance provided has been in the form of gift cards to Food Lion and Walmart and for moving expenses.

We will miss our CP, with whom we have walked for four years, but look forward to partnering with a new CP.

Durham CAN

The next Durham CAN Public Delegates Assembly will be held on Sunday October 18, 2009 from 3-5 p.m. at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Durham. <http://www.pilgrimucc-durham.org/>. The Delegates Assembly will introduce the Municipal Agenda of Durham CAN which is directly related to the results of the house meetings being held by congregations and organizations throughout the city. Hundreds from member institutions, elected officials, leaders from the private sector and candidates for public office will attend the assembly.

At recent WSBC house meetings, the main issues discussed were food, jobs and housing, issues growing in importance in these difficult economic times.

For details about the house meetings and the October 18 Delegates Assembly, contact Bob Kruhm at 544-3719 or visit the Durham CAN website www.durhamcan.org.

Habitat for Humanity

On August 8th the WSBC Habitat group celebrated the dedication of our church's 10th Habitat home with a wonderful dedication to the family of La Toya Lyons (La Toya, Rhonni, Imani and Decaree). The home is two stories, four bedrooms, 2.5 baths and is certified as a Green constructed home.

Thanks to an excellent start by the Durham Blitz Builders on April 18, and our wonderful Watts Street volunteers, we completed this home in a quick four months. Steve Booth thanks our members who helped on Saturdays building or supplying snacks for our crews. He is already counting down to our next house in two years.

