

# Compassion in Action



Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2010

## Upcoming Events: Get Involved!

- **Supper Garden Workday**  
Feb. 27, 8:30-11:00 AM, see Environmental Mission Group, p. 2.

### Mission Baskets

- February-March: pillows and cleaning supplies for IHN clients. Cleaning supply needs include paper towels, laundry detergent, Dove soap, and dish detergent.

### Help Wanted

- In February and March, help **buy, sort and deliver food** to our Walltown neighbors. See p. 4.
- **Walltown Street Reach** this summer: contact Jen Phillips (contact info on p. 1).
- AIDS Care Team requests continuing **prayers** for a positive, healthy life for our care partner, especially comfort & strength for him during quarterly doctors' appointments.
- **Durham CAN** needs Action Team Members. See p. 2.
- Latino Ministry needs **help with computer classes, childcare & refreshments** during classes, See p. 3.
- IHN needs new **volunteer hosts and cooks**. See p. 2.
- **Backpack program** needs volunteers for shopping, packing, and delivery. See p. 2.
- **Casserole Ministry**—See p. 4.
- R&R is forming a **new care team**. See p. 4.

**AIDS Care Team**  
Greg Palmer  
Phone: 489-3236  
senorpalmer@gmail.com

**Durham CAN**  
Bob Kruhm  
Phone: 544-3719  
rkruhm@nc.rr.com

## Missions and Tough Economic Times

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.

In these difficult economic times, when all church committees are being asked to cut their budgets, the Missions Committee has grappled with difficult decisions. We want to give you a brief look into our thought process as we continue to evaluate how to divide a shrinking budget.

In the short term, we have determined to give highest priority to supporting programs that provide shelter and/or food for people.

They are a key to survival not only to the homeless but to the growing ranks of the unemployed and working poor.

To insure that we make thoughtful and well-informed decisions about how we use our resources, we have undertaken a review of each organization that receives funding through a line item of the Missions budget. As we meet we will look with fresh eyes at each of these organizations/programs and consider appropriate funding levels. This discussion started at the beginning of February and will continue into March.

Since members of the Missions Committee are only temporary caretakers of WSBC's mission resources,

we welcome your input into our review process and participation in mission outreach. To make it easier for you to share your thoughts if you wish to, here is a list of Mission Committee members:

- Chuck Clifton, chair
- Bill Baker
- Holly McKinney
- Annella Rockson
- Robin Rogers
- Barbara Rumer
- Elizabeth Sasser
- Stuart Wells
- Lisa Williams
- Jennifer Wilkins

In tough economic times, the needs of those we serve are greater than ever. Whatever time and/or resources you have to share will help somewhere. Please get involved!

## Mission Group Contact Information

**El Salvador**  
Clark Godfrey  
Phone: 490-8435  
cgodfrey24@aol.com

**Environmental**  
Laura Webb Smith  
Phone: 403-0566  
laura.webb.smith@gmail.com

**Habitat for Humanity**  
Steve Booth  
Phone: 477-1843  
spbooth@mindspring.com

**IHN**  
Stuart Wells  
Phone: 687-4338  
stuart.wells@duke.edu

**Kostroma**  
Slav Rumyantsev  
Phone: 723-1313

**Latino**  
Liz Lutz  
Phone: 383-1987  
lizlutz@juno.com

**Walltown**  
Jennifer Phillips  
Phone: 361-3032  
jenbmcduke@yahoo.com

**Peace & Reconciliation**  
Amy Armstrong  
Phone: 237-1673  
amy.armstrong@gmail.com

**Reconciliation & Reentry**  
Kirsten Kruhm  
Phone: 605-7023  
KruhmK@usa.redcross.org

## Environmental Mission Group

### January Climate Change Summit with Youth

The Environmental Mission group led a 2-session study on global warming for the youth's Wednesday night service learning. The youth learned about the issue and then prepared for a mock international climate summit. Different youth represented roles like auto industry, environmentalists, developing nation (they chose to be cow herders from Somalia), politicians from the U.S., and fishermen. They plan to follow up with a project and fundraiser to promote reusable bags.

### February Forum "Restoration: The Land. Our Souls."

In these forums, planned and arranged by the Environmental Mis-

sion Group, participants can explore Biblical principles of restoring the land and how our spiritual lives are enhanced through restoration. Topics range from Bible study to urban gardening, to wetlands restoration, and end with stories from the WSBC supper garden.

### Supper Garden Work Days: February 27, 8:30-11:00 am (March date TBA)

Join members of the Environmental

#### Join the CROP Walk!

The March 21 CROP walk raises money to fight hunger in Durham and around the world. Please consider walking or sponsoring a walker. Contact Susan Brooks or Clay Chandler.



Mission Group at 408 Englewood Avenue as we prep beds for the growing season. Come for as long as you can, and bring a shovel and gloves.

### Carbon Fasting: A Lenten Devotional Guide

Members of the Environmental Mission group compiled a devotional guide for Lent that invites WSBC members to join them in a carbon fast. Entries will include original reflections from WSBC members, Bible verses, prayers, artwork and practical suggestions to inspire our Lenten journey.

### Earth Sunday April 25

Watch the Watts Line to learn about upcoming activities related to Earth Sunday.



## AIDS Care Team

Contact Stuart Wells (see p 1). The AIDS Care Team recently took on a new care partner with HIV and other health issues. The group has been very active with him, enjoying lunches, a potluck, and movies together. The team has also provided support and transportation for trips to the doctor. In upcoming months more activities -- board game nights, trips to a gallery, movies, etc. -- will be scheduled to get to know our care partner better and provide social and emotional sup-

## Backpack Program

WSBC neighbor, George Watts Montessori Magnet Elementary School is the beneficiary of a new mission initiative, the Backpack Program. For 14 Watts students this program can mean the difference between being hungry and well-fed on weekends. Every Friday each of the 14 receives a backpack filled with non-perishable food for the weekend. On Monday they return the backpacks, which are refilled the next Friday.

The November mission basket collec-

tion for the Weekend Backpack Program gathered enough food for 14 children for 5 - 6 weeks. Many thanks to Jeanine Wheless for leading the program and to WSBC members who generously gave to the effort! Volunteers are needed throughout the school year for grocery shopping, packing backpacks, delivering backpacks to the school, etc. For more information about how you can get more involved, contact Jeanine (382-9363 home, 452-2671 cell).

## IHN

IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) provides temporary shelter to homeless families. WSBC partners with Duke Memorial to host families at Duke Memorial for one week out of about every 8-10 weeks. During our week, WSBC needs to provide volunteer evening (5:30-8:30) and overnight (8:30 PM -7:00 AM) hosts and cooks for evening meals.

## Durham CAN

At the last Durham CAN Assembly, five research action teams were identified. These action teams will focus on youth employment; active living; housing; immigrant families and the economy. Four WSBC members are currently participating in one of these community groups. If you wish to join an action team, contact Bob Kruhm at 544-3719 or [rkruhm@nc.rr.com](mailto:rkruhm@nc.rr.com).

## Haiti Relief Newsflash!

The loose offering from the MLK Sunday service, which was designated for Haiti Earthquake relief through Church World Service, netted \$5224.81!

## Peace and Reconciliation



In December members of Peace and Reconciliation (P&R) hosted UNC students who shared their experiences visiting Rwanda and learning about reconciliation in context of a society rebuilding following the conflict between Hutus and Tutsis.

On January 4, we hosted the monthly prayer vigil for Peace in the Middle East. It was another opportunity to talk about justice and reconciliation leading towards a deeper peace than might be possible when issues are not addressed.

After the MLK Sunday service, we hosted a Chili Luncheon and discus-

sion with Vernon Jordan, guest preacher. Following a service that included many local politicians and the participation of many from St. John's Baptist church, the discussion was lively, inclusive and informative.

This year for the February Forums P&R sponsors a four-week forum on Restorative Justice. Kacey Reynolds, along with some wonderful guest speakers, will help us gain insight into what Restorative Justice means. This forum, *Restorative Justice 101: Finding God in healing circles, coffee shops and hard answers*, will hopefully help us learn more about this topic and what it

means for us.

Looking forward, P&R hopes to provide opportunities to help WSBC engage in conversation about the multi-faceted issues surrounding immigration and immigrants. We plan to host some Friday night movies that deal with these themes and then follow with discussion. If you are interested in participating in this or have ideas for movies please let us know. P&R welcomes others with concerns for peace, justice and reconciliation in Durham and beyond to join and share those ideas with us! Please contact Amy Armstrong (contact info. on page 1).

## Youth Service Learning

Every Wednesday night, after church supper, our youth gather for "Youth Service/Learning." While Sunday Night Youth Group is inward-focused (faith & fellowship), Wednesday Night Service/Learning is outward-focused (missions & service). We spend our time learning about the needs in our community and world and discovering how God might be calling us to respond. In recent months we've participated in an inter-faith dialogue with Muslims from Turkey, organized a hunger awareness campaign, engaged in debate over the separation of Church and State, and held a mock-summit on Global Climate Change.

But we do more than talk about service: we've also sent notes and care packages to college students, raised \$1,340 at the Second Hand Treasures



fund-raiser for Youth Summer Missions, helped glean 84,000 pounds of sweet potatoes at YAM JAM, assisted with Advent Adventures for children, sang Christmas carols at Croasdaile, and served supper to 222 guests at Urban Ministries. In the coming months, we'll be preparing for the Youth and Senior Adult Sweetheart Banquet, leading a Chapel Service at the Murdoch Center, and walking in the Durham CROP Walk for World Hunger. And we're especially excited about the summer of 2010: going to the PASSPORT Youth Missions Camp in Georgia and taking a senior high mission trip to El Salvador!

## Latino Ministry (Reino Hoy)

The Latino Ministry is preparing to partner with St. John's Baptist Church in Walltown to hold a Computer Literacy Program for Latino families in Walltown. Upon completion of the course, the families will receive a computer and the opportunity to teach other Latinos. Volunteer jobs are available to plan the program, teach the program, serve refreshments, offer childcare for other family members, and, most of all, practice hospitality with our

Latino neighbors in Walltown. Your commitment can be short term or long term. The ability to speak Spanish is helpful but not mandatory.

Latino Worship will happen as follows:

- Tuesday, Feb. 9, 5:15 - 7:00 pm, in the WSBC Fellowship Hall. Light supper and childcare provided.
- Sunday, March 14, 5:30 - 7:00 pm in the St. John's Baptist Church

Fellowship Hall. Light supper and childcare provided.

Because the computer program will be located at St. John's, Latino worship will also be at St. John's until further notice. Regardless of location, WSBC is a partner in this endeavor, so please consider playing a part. For more information, contact Liz Lutz ([lizlutz@juno.com](mailto:lizlutz@juno.com) or 383-1987).



**Watts Street Baptist Church Missions Committee**  
 800 Watts Street  
 Durham, North Carolina 27701  
 Phone: 919-688-1366  
 Fax: 919-688-7255  
 E-mail: [wattsstreet@nc.rr.com](mailto:wattsstreet@nc.rr.com)  
 Web address: [www.wattsstreet.org](http://www.wattsstreet.org)



*Where every member is a minister*

**Reconciliation and Reentry (R&R)**

The R&R team at WSBC has been on hold lately, but for good reason: Our partner has been so busy working six days a week, taking on overtime, etc., that he has little free time for meetings.

At the beginning of our partnership, we met often, to build relationships and offer support, friendship and help with transportation, finances and other issues.

Now we're ready to start a new team with a new partner. If you might be interested, or for more information, contact Kirsten Kruhm at [KruhmK@usa.redcross.org](mailto:KruhmK@usa.redcross.org) or Ron Landfried at [ronlandfried@yahoo.com](mailto:ronlandfried@yahoo.com)

The R&R Ministry is a one-year partnership between recently released offenders and congregational faith teams. Since 2004, 14 teams in Durham have partnered with 28 newly released prisoners and three teenagers. Of those, only three adults have re-offended, a 10 percent recidivism rate. Overall, recidivism in N.C. is near 50 percent after three years.

**Walltown Happenings**

Walltown Neighborhood Ministries has had a busy winter and Watts Street folks have played an active role along with volunteers from All Souls Church, St John's Missionary and some community residents. In December, 60 families each received two bags of groceries and a holiday fruit basket. Special thanks go to Paula Januzzi-Godfrey and the teachers and students of Central Park Elementary School for donating over 10 boxes of food!

In February and March, volunteers are needed to help with buying, sorting and delivering food to our Walltown neighbors. If you'd like to help, please contact Sylvia Belcher Hayes at [Sylviah664@aol.com](mailto:Sylviah664@aol.com) or (919) 258-2524. Sylvia is the youth minister at St. John's Baptist Church in addition to running Walltown Neighborhood Ministries Food Bank program.

Monthly Food Needs (Drop off is in the Fellowship Hall under the table.)

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Rice (Small Bags)         | Rice Dinners    |
| Cereal                    | Canned Goods    |
| Soup (No Broth or Tomato) | Oatmeal         |
| Spaghetti Sauce           | Boxed Potatoes  |
| Canned Meat (Tuna, etc.)  | Stuffing        |
| Boxed Mac and Cheese      | Spaghetti "O's" |
| Canned Fruit              | Ravioli         |
| Grits                     | Spaghetti       |
| Peanut Butter             | Crackers        |
| Dried Beans and Peas      | Pasta           |
| Oodles of Noodles         |                 |

**Street Reach events this summer:** If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jen Phillips at [jenbmcduke@yahoo.com](mailto:jenbmcduke@yahoo.com) or (919) 491-7160.

**More Missions News**

**One World Market**

On Sunday, December 6, One World Market welcomed Watts Street members for our annual alternative holiday shopping event. One World Market sells hand-made crafts and artwork created by craftspeople from 50 countries and regions of the United States that are struggling economically.

Laura Wendell, executive director of One World Market, reported that a generous crowd from WSBC came to do their Christmas shopping and generated almost \$2,600 in sales in just a few short hours. Shoppers were fueled by cookies provided by the Missions Committee. Thank you to Susan Harward and Lisa Williams for baking the cookies.



**Casserole Ministry**

Make a difference for our neighbors at Urban Ministries by joining the Casserole Ministry!

Here's how it works: Bonnie Griffin supplies the casserole recipe and an aluminum tray to WSBC members. Members prepare the casserole at home per Bonnie's instructions and then return the tray to a freezer in the fellowship hall. The freezer is designated solely for this purpose. Bonnie transports the casseroles to Urban Ministries once a month for a meal that serves hundreds of people.

Urban Ministries is so appreciative of this new outreach from our church, and Bonnie is thrilled with Watts Street members' willingness to help! About 40 casseroles are needed each month. For more information about how you can be involved, contact Bonnie at 220-2414.

**Share Your Christmas**

During the Christmas season, WSBC members responded generously to requests to provide gifts for six families and four soldiers serving overseas, a total of 26 people. Two of the families were from the Walltown neighborhood as were the soldiers. The rest were IHN families. Every request made was fulfilled.

In addition, with help from Jeanine Wheless and several Sunday School classes, children from the Backpack program at George Watts Elementary School received \$20 gift cards.

Gifts given included clothes, grocery store gift cards, Leap Frog educational games, toy trucks and children's books among many things.



Thanks to Michelle Roach for leading this very successful effort!