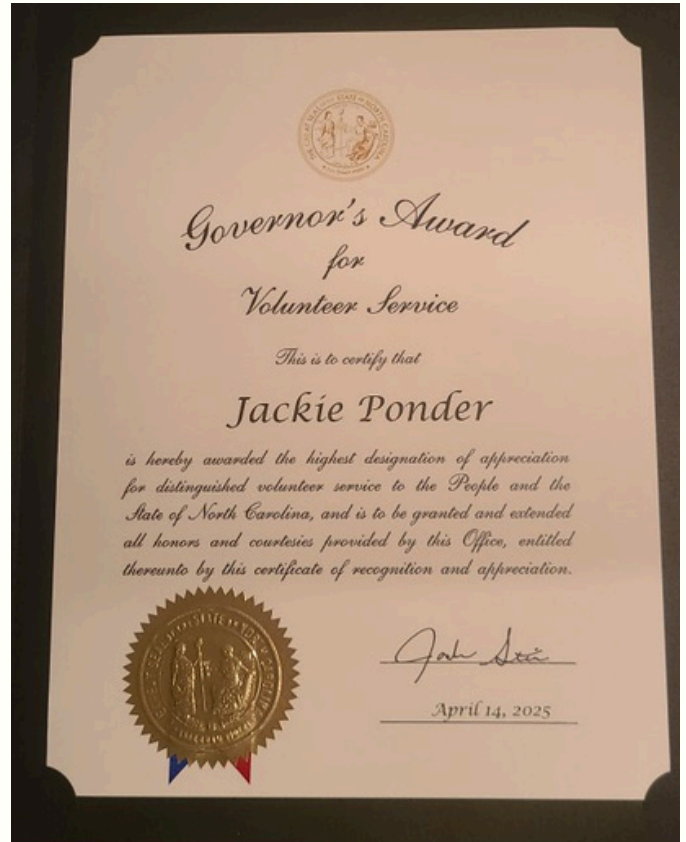


# THE SAINT TIM'S TIMES

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SAINTS

Jackie Ponder has received the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for establishing the Unnatural Resources Fair/Institute almost 34 years ago. The institute is committed to educating the community on creative reuse, reduce, and recycling discarded materials. She says, "Without the help of thousands of residents making entries, hundreds of volunteers, supportive sponsors, the URI Board, friends, and very supportive family's continuous help, this award wouldn't have been possible. Thank you to all.





Spark'Dwell is a spirit and service learning experience in Winston Salem, NC. Participants engage in a week of relationship-building, education, story-telling, and service alongside formerly or currently homeless individuals. In doing so, participants will better understand the complexity of the systems and institutions perpetuating injustice and inequity, how the church is responding as Matthew 25 people, and ways that they can continue to advocate for justice in their communities. What follows are reflections from our week as a team: Anthony, Desmond, Helen, Leigh, Lou, Martha, Parker, Riley, Sebastian, Thad, and Wells.

## SPARK'DWELL

This year's theme is **(un)rest** with a focus verse of 2 Chronicles 15:5.

*In those times it was not safe for anyone to go or come, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. NRSV*

Our first night, we were asked what comes to mind when we think about unrest, and here are a few of our answers...

*Not being able  
to settle down*

*To let go of something  
that you are holding onto*

*There is always something  
that needs to be done*

*You are always  
working*

# Pilgrimage: Through the Margins

On Monday everyone takes a Journey Through the Margins, where a counselor leads their small group through an experience that anyone might face, and yet is extra challenging for some. Examples from our group this year include getting clothes for a job interview and then going to apply for the job, trying to find temporary housing when you were new to town with nowhere to stay, seeking addiction services, and trying to fill a prescription. A few takeaways from today...

- Be grateful for what you have because you don't know the struggle others go through to have what you do.
- It was a helpful reminder how important public libraries are to our communities. The library was filled today with people taking respite from the heat, working on computers, reading, spending time with their kids, and who knows what else. We got to use it to complete part of our project in the AC.
- I felt sad due to what our counselor and others go through. I also felt stressed because of the many papers we had to fill out in order to apply to the place for help.
- I learned a lot from what our counselor was saying, and the things I felt like gave me motivation in life to keep going. Like when things get hard it's okay, you can find a way through.



Headed out to find temporary housing



Is this a good Target interview shirt?



Filling out a 17 page application in the public library

## Through the week...

There were 47 people including our group of 11 at Spark'Dwell this week. We represented 4 churches and 4 states (Minnesota, Iowa, SC, and of course NC). The large group is split into service groups (7 this week) which have between 5-8 people representing 2-3 churches. These small groups travel together for the week through the Monday journey and subsequent service sites. Below you'll find a reflection from our representatives in each group, answering the question: **what was your favorite service site and/or day and why?**



Illuminators (Thad/Sebastian)  
 We went to Horizons every day. It is a home for people of all ages with physical disabilities. On Tuesday we got to go with Zae, a counselor. This day felt most special because we got to bond with everyone in care and also with Zae. His music brought out the best of us all, including Paul who loves MJ (Michael Jackson). (Add on) It hit me because he brought out the best of me talking about how proud he was of me including my personality.





Torches (Lou/Helen/Martha). The day that spoke to us the most was our pilgrimage with James on Monday. His story found a special place in our hearts by talking about his current and past history. We don't want to share his story since it is not ours to tell, but it was important to us. Then on Wednesday we got to dance and learn new dances with him at the block party. It was great to see him again.





### Match Boxes (Parker/Wells/Riley)

We enjoyed our visit to Vienna Village to spend time with the elderly residents. We made them ice cream sundaes, even though it was 10 o'clock in the morning. Afterwards, we played Uno and chatted with them. Despite the difference in ages, everybody had a great time.





Flint Rods  
 (Anthony/Desmond/Leigh)  
 We went to Project:Re3 Hope Center on our final service day. We liked that they provide a variety of things that people need: food, clothing, cleaning supplies, etc. They even get meat delivered to give out. Everything is free and they serve 30-40 families every Wednesday and Saturday. We stocked shelves, unloaded a truck delivery and cleaned out a storage area to make room for toys for families to shop for gifts at Christmas.

## What are we bringing home?

*That my light  
should always  
shine bright.*

*How many people are  
still experiencing  
troubles that the  
organizations that  
we helped have never  
reached?*

*People that live in the  
margins are still people,  
and they deserve our love,  
respect, and help when we  
can give it.*

*Be grateful.  
Be kind.*

*What would the  
residents be like  
without their  
disabilities? How  
many more  
disabled people  
are there in our  
area without help?*

*How do people with  
housing insecurity keep  
going? How are they so  
strong?*