



2024

YEAR IN REVIEW

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From The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year, I'm struck by the way our work at DurhamCares highlights the relationship between community and justice. These verses come to mind:

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." - Isaiah 1:17

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2

Our call to seek justice and our call to community are clear. But in practice, they often leave each other out. We are drawn into community practices that isolate us or fail to work against injustice, and we are pulled into justice movements that fail to deepen our relationships with others.

This year, DurhamCares went through a strategic planning process where we simplified our mission statement: our mission is to work toward a more caring, connected, and just Durham. We believe community is essential for seeking justice, and we believe God's vision of community embodies and pursues justice.

Put another way, our care for each other and connection to each other sustains us in the work of pursuing justice, and is even a part of that work. DurhamCares's mission highlights their inseparability: we move people to care, bring them together, and work collectively to seek justice in our city.



As you read the testimonials below, you will see the way the Pilgrimage and Genesis journey deepen relationships and inspire the work of justice, the way that Locked in Solidarity confronts mass incarceration in community with others, and the way that collaboration is essential to the impact that comes from Freedom School, Mt. Level Community Partnership for Racial Justice, and Bull City Madness. These are just a few examples of how we are fostering community as we pursue justice.

With joy and enthusiasm, we invite you to be part of it. Come join the work, and come join the community. Sign up for our newsletter, come out to our events, register for the pilgrimage, join one of our groups. And please consider making a monthly or one-time gift so we can continue to carry on this vision. Our work is very important right now, and we are grateful for all of you who are part of it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reynolds Chapman'.

REYNOLDS CHAPMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vision

WE ENVISION A CITY
WHERE ALL RESIDENTS
LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS.

Mission

TO WORK TOWARD A MORE
CARING, CONNECTED, AND
JUST DURHAM.

Values

WE ARE MOTIVATED AND
GUIDED BY THE LIFE AND
WORK OF JESUS CHRIST.

WE VALUE COLLABORATION
THAT IS INCLUSIVE,
EQUITABLE, AND HOLISTIC.

WE LISTEN TO ALL VOICES,
PARTICULARLY THOSE ON
THE MARGINS.

WE EDUCATE, TRAIN,
AND EQUIP OTHERS.

DURHAM Pilgrimage OF Pain & Hope

A journey of visiting Durham's historical sites, hearing from elders, and reflecting on the Biblical story to discover how Durham's story, our stories, and God's story are woven together.

Erica Stark participated in the Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope through the BRIDDDGE program at Duke Divinity School. Since then she has been a student leader, taking incoming students on the journey.

“I've now experienced the pilgrimage three times with three different groups, and it is incredible to see the transformation.”

“It really encourages conversation. The reflection is not just internal. When we open it up...and ask if anyone has anything to share, the authenticity and the vulnerability and the brave space that allows that to happen is just transformative for them.”

“One of the most powerful things about the BRIDDDGE program and the partnership with DurhamCares is the relationships that are built in experiencing this together. Some of my best friends now I met during the pilgrimage through BRIDDDGE, the BRIDDDGE and DurhamCares collaboration. And that's what Durham Cares is about: building community, everywhere. So it's just something that you don't expect, but it's a lifelong benefit that I will forever be grateful for.”

Erica Starke

DURHAMCARES BOARD
MEMBER AND MASTER OF
DIVINITY STUDENT AT DUKE
DIVINITY SCHOOL



By The NUMBERS:

Number of Pilgrimages this year: 8
Number of Pilgrimage participants: 122
Total Pilgrimages to date: 60
Total Pilgrimage alumni to date: 903

THE Genesis Journey

The Genesis Journey is a first step to the pilgrimage – a half-day spiritual journey where participants are introduced to the themes of the Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope by encountering a place in Durham with a posture of listening and learning.

Kit Chappell is part of More Than Neighbors, a group of people from multiple churches seeking racial understanding and healing

“Our racial healing team called ‘More than Neighbors’ formed two years ago. We decided we wanted to learn more about the actual history of Durham and the racial issues surrounding Durham in the past...There are members on our team who did not grow up in Durham. There are some of us who grew up in Durham or the surrounding county, who were totally, like myself, unaware about a lot of issues that faced the Black community years ago, and even today.”

“The Genesis Journey was very specific as to actual events that happened in Durham. And it was easy to walk through and understand. And it felt more alive when you actually walked the journey where these issues had taken place... When I learned about the [Carolina Theater] protests, I was really shocked, because I attended movies at the Carolina Theater and never realized those protests were happening...When we actually walked the walk at the Carolina Theater

that our Black friends had walked back then, we actually came up the steps on the outside, and, you know, we entered the way they would have entered, and went to the top balcony. And I felt like I was experiencing something, I mean, I was just shocked. I had been there in the theater probably at the same time that my neighbors were being treated that way. I was totally surprised that it was going on, and also it was very humbling.”

Kit Chappell

MORE THAN
NEIGHBORS RACIAL
HEALING GROUP



By The NUMBERS:

4 Number of Genesis Journeys
55 Number of Genesis Journey participants

LOCKED IN SOLIDARITY

A week of prayer, awareness, and action around mass incarceration, in collaboration with other organizations in Durham.

“In each of our cities we have this racialized history that has created the layout of our cities. What DurhamCares does is it brings people on a journey to understand that so we can do something different.”

“If you’re anything like me, you can watch a documentary, read a book, watch a video online, get inspired, and learn about these things, but you’re doing it apart from community. It’s not an embodied experience. Locked in Solidarity, you’re with other people, you realize that it’s not you and your nonprofit or church, but it’s you and people that you’ve never met before that are showing up and caring about this.”

“By DurhamCares putting on these events, it’s allowing these misconceptions to be dissolved and for another story, a new narrative, to be surfaced.”

The Locked in Solidarity SCHEDULE:

- **Sunday:** Church pledge to highlight mass incarceration
- **Tuesday:** Better Together: Stories from Jubilee Home
- **Thursday:** Prayer Vigil, Solitary Confinement Exhibit, March to Durham County Jail
- **Friday:** Celebration of Our Common Humanity

Bill Defulvio

PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR AT STEPUP DURHAM

CIC DIA



SCAN TO WATCH TESTIMONY



Locked in Solidarity is one of many DurhamCares events to educate and connect the community - to theologically frame challenges in our city and move people to compassion, collaboration, and action.

By The NUMBERS:

23 Total Number of Community Events 2024

973 Number of Attendees at DurhamCares Community Events

Mt. Level Community Partnership for Racial Justice

The Mt. Level Community Partnership for Racial Justice (MLCPRJ) unites churches and individuals to bring about racial justice in our community and our world. DurhamCares serves as the partnership's fiscal sponsor and provides assistance with operations, publicity, and sustainability.

“DurhamCares is instrumental in helping us to understand community, to understand Durham and where we fit in the story of Durham, where Durham fits in the story of the country, the nation, and even the world. So DurhamCares plays this special role in helping us to see where we fit in the larger story, God's larger story, God's vision of Beloved Community, and how we belong together in that story.”

“DurhamCares has been with the partnership from day one, and very important in the planning, in organizing the activities, the events, in helping to promote and providing resources, wonderful resources, the technology for our meetings, meeting spaces, and of course, as our fiscal agent... we couldn't do the work we do without DurhamCares.”

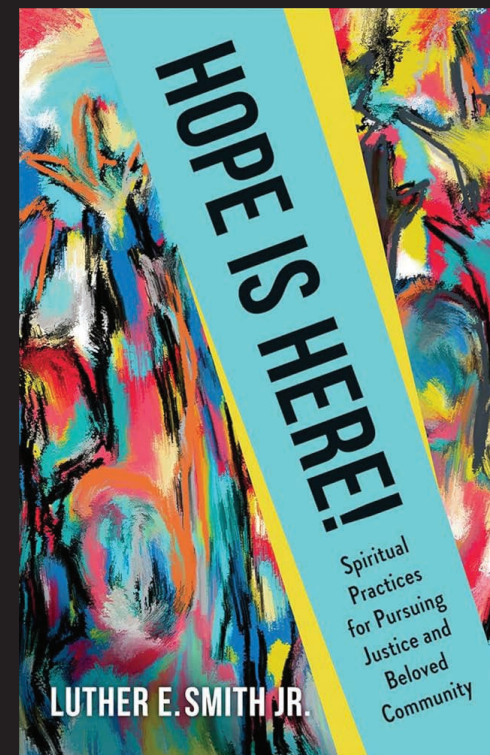
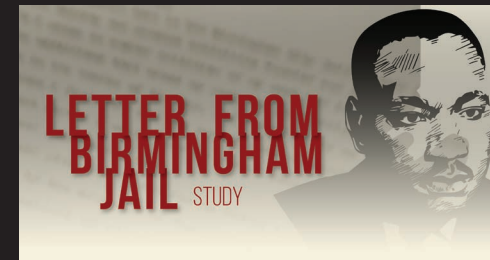
Dr. Deborah Boston
CO-FOUNDER OF MT. LEVEL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE



Over the past year, the partnership has:

Led a Civil Rights pilgrimage to Alabama

Led two discussions groups - Martin Luther King Jr's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," and Hope is Here by Luther Smith



Sacred Fire: A Durham Pentecost Celebration



Hosted CDF Freedom School

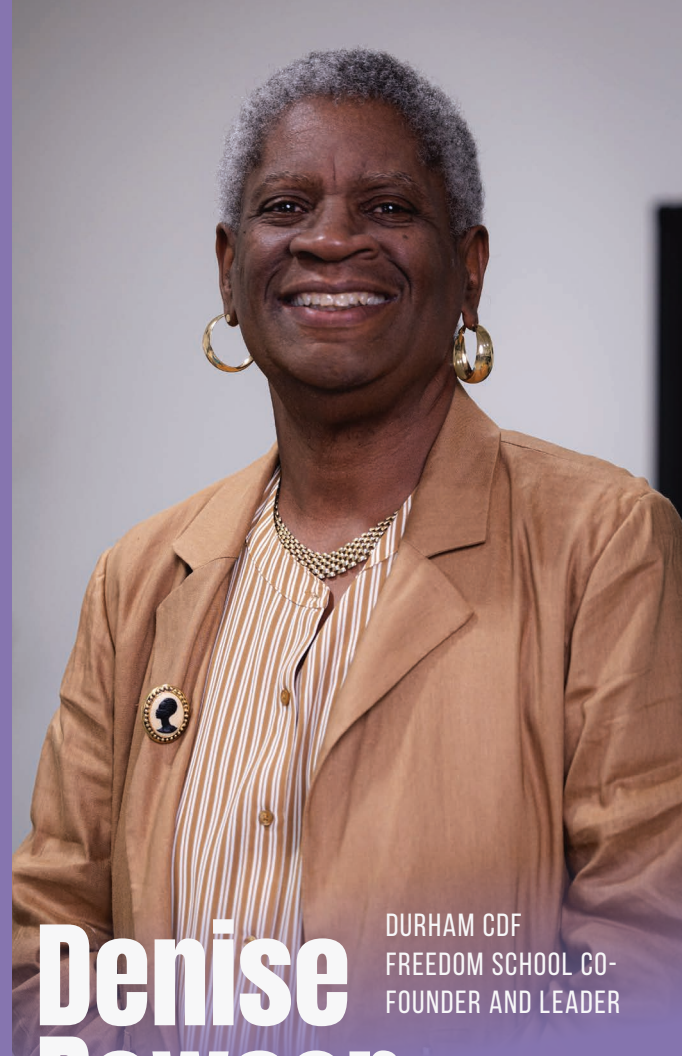
Durham CDF Freedom School

The Freedom School is a six-week, multicultural summer enrichment program that supports K-8 scholars and their families through five essential components: high-quality academic and character-building enrichment, parent and family involvement, civic engagement and social action, intergenerational servant leadership development, and nutrition, health, and mental health.

DurhamCares serves as the Freedom School's fiscal sponsor and provides assistance with operations, publicity, and sustainability.

“Durham Freedom Schools, the program itself, would not exist without the collaboration that we have in Durham.”

“Our kids thrive... socially... emotionally, and academically by being a part of this only six-week program. Through the literacy, through the arts and the culture that we expose them to, on the field trips that they get to, they create lasting relationships with their servant leader interns who serve as their counselors. There are just measurable and immeasurable benefits of being involved in Freedom Schools.”

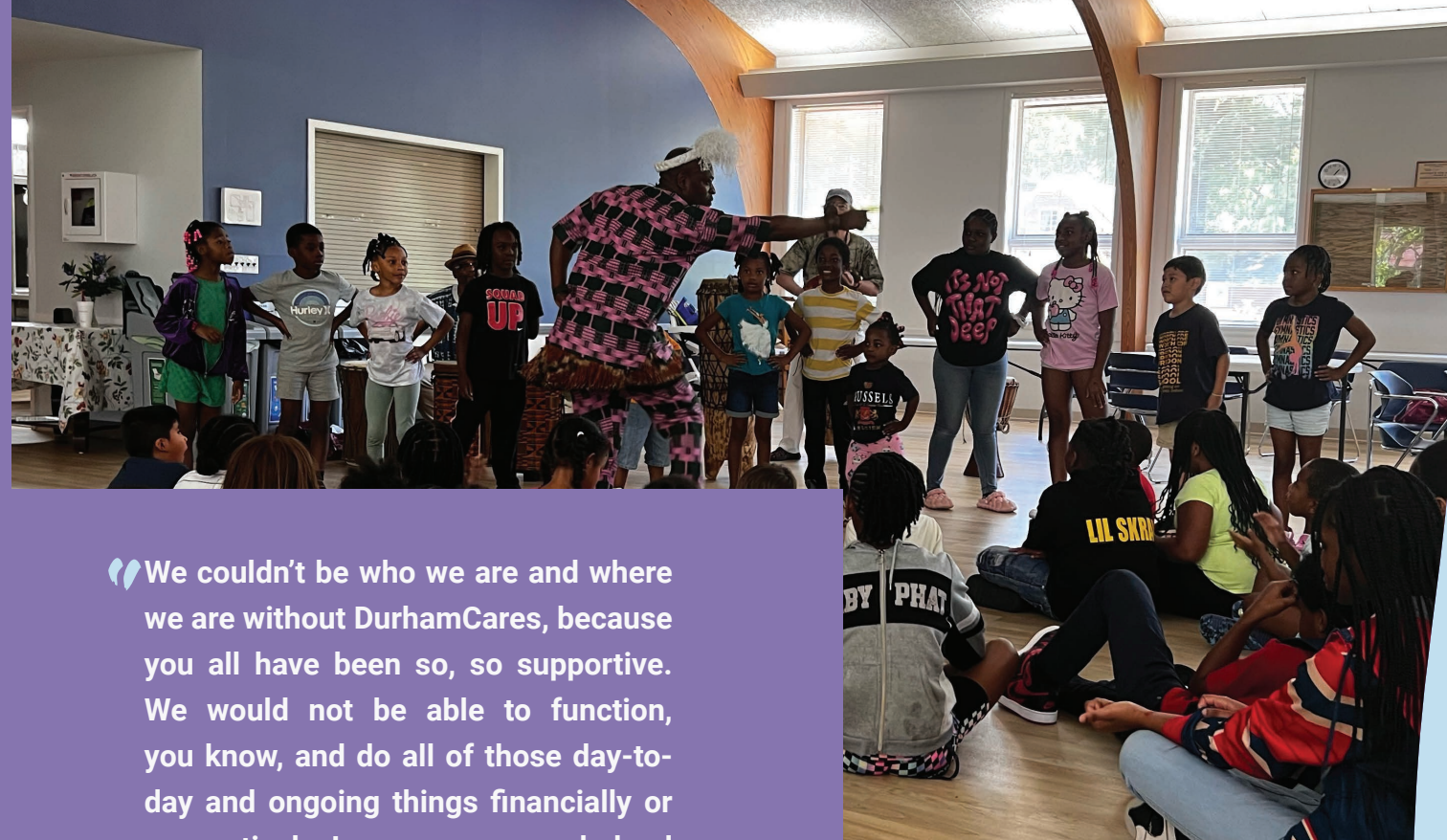


Denise Rowson

DURHAM CDF
FREEDOM SCHOOL CO-
FOUNDER AND LEADER



SCAN TO
WATCH
TESTIMONY



“We couldn't be who we are and where we are without DurhamCares, because you all have been so, so supportive. We would not be able to function, you know, and do all of those day-to-day and ongoing things financially or supportively. I mean, you even helped us with our website. We couldn't do it without DurhamCares.”

By The NUMBERS:

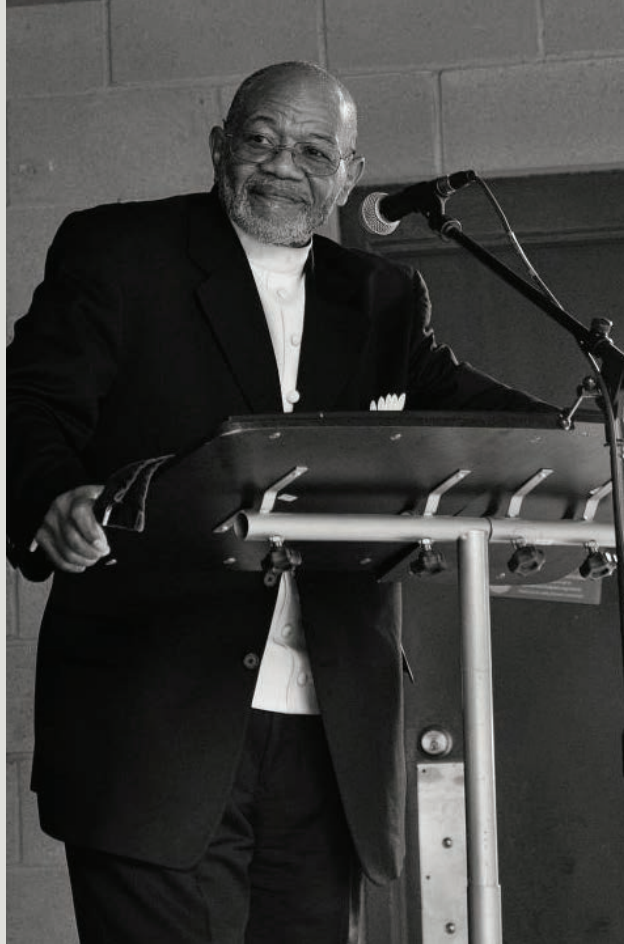
Served 110 total elementary and middle school scholars

Employed 13 college students who served as Servant Leader Interns

Mobilized 75 volunteers
Elementary: 75% showed growth in reading, 10% remained on grade level

Middle School: 25% increased 1-2 grade levels in reading, 75% stayed on grade level





An opportunity to worship, embrace Beloved Community, welcome the coming of the Holy Spirit, and seek God's vision of unity, diversity, justice, and salvation.

“This particular Pentecost event was involving several churches and I like the idea of being intermingled with other churches and other people. Also the event was held outside, so it wasn't limited to the walls of the church...I believe bringing the churches together brings the body into oneness instead of us being divided. And when the event actually occurred, I saw the oneness all over.”

“[The] power of God was there. It was there during the speaking. It was there during the singing. It was there during the fellowship. It was there. It was actually there during that setup, prior to everything happening. And then when the event actually happened and those speakers got up and, the main preacher, Dr. Turner got up and spoke, it just brought a oneness and the power was there. And I think, as people left from the event, and I'll speak for myself, personally, I felt more encouraged to go on and witness for the Lord.”



ORGANIST, WORSHIP LEADER, PASTOR OF IGNITE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Kurt Campbell

Sacred Fire brought out 211 people from 23 churches and 9 organizations!

Church Mobilization

Connecting and equipping churches to partner with their communities and seek their flourishing.

“In under-represented communities such as mine, building relationships and consistency are the main two keys for trust.”

“I have been involved in DurhamCares first with the Church in the Streets. With Church in the Streets we were able to actually collaborate and build a partnership where we all were actually able to have a say in what we needed instead of churches coming out and thinking they know what we need. When Church in the Streets came out, that was a different experience. The Church was brought to them, and everyone was smiling, everyone was excited, everyone was willing to receive my community. It was just love, and it was godly love, and good food!”

“DurhamCares—the churches I have collaborated with with you all—they actually care about having a conversation with me, meeting with me prior to the actual event, and strategically planning what it looks like. And also the follow-up. And that is so, so important, because you never want to come out and feed someone, and feed their soul, but then leave them with no follow-up.”



Crystal Graves



SCAN TO WATCH TESTIMONY

PRESIDENT OF CORNWALLIS ROAD COMMUNITY



Church Mobilization: 450 participants

A fully-scholarshipped customized pilgrimage for each congregation

Journey^{TO} Thriving

Journey to Thriving is a program where congregations learn about their community, reflect on their congregational identity, and adapt to our changing world. This year we launched the first of three cohorts, welcoming six churches into the program.

“[Journey to Thriving] is an opportunity for Epworth to take it to another level, to experience being with other churches in this journey of what it means to thrive - thrive as a community, thrive as a church, and then to understand the surroundings in which we live....Being with other churches, learning together, being in community together, helps us to understand what other churches are doing, it helps us to be able to maybe partner with other congregations in some of the work that’s happening in our community, but it also allows us to engage in conversation. I think one of the biggest things that brought us to be part of this opportunity was the Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope. It is an opportunity for us, as a larger group, to be able to understand, what does Durham offer and what does the history of Durham contribute to who we are? What is this land we’re on? And how did we get here? I always ask the question, ‘what is your next faithful step?’

How are you moving towards living out your discipleship of loving God and loving your neighbor?’ And so, we’ve been really concentrating on discipleship, what it means to love God

and love your neighbor, and Journey to Thriving will be part of that work for us, in helping our congregation continue to do the work of living into being the Church in the community.”



Rev. Donna Banks



SCAN TO WATCH TESTIMONY

PASTOR OF EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The 3-year cohort journey includes

A fully-scholarshipped customized pilgrimage for each congregation

A facilitated Learning Cohort of six congregations in Durham for fellowship, support, and deepening understanding

Professional workshops and trainings on the following topics:

- Each church’s city and neighborhood’s history
- Researching your community’s history
- Present day resources, gifts, and challenges in Durham
- Developing, updating, and reflecting on your congregation’s mission, vision, and values
- Adapting to our changing context

Consultation to support your congregation in refining its mission, vision and values

Consultation to support your congregation in creating an Adaptive Plan

Books and other curricular resources for all participants in the program



Bull City Madness is a 3v3 basketball tournament to celebrate Durham's rich basketball history, bring the community together, and raise awareness and support for organizations doing good work in Durham. We brought it back this year after a five-year hiatus!

“We have attended all three [Bull City Madness tournaments] and it was amazing. I love everything about it. I love the community partnership, I love the exposure that the nonprofit organizations receive, and most definitely love the competition.”

“Hearts participated in Bull City Madness because we were very fresh to stepping out of the school system into the community. HEARTS has been in existence since 2012... and we have literally been serving in the high school system, and no one really knew who we were, what we stood for, what we represent, who we serve, or the resources and services. And so when Reynolds approached me with the opportunity to vendor a table at Bull City Madness, it was a great opportunity to be involved and exposed to the community as a whole.”



Tameka Brown

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE HEARTS
ORGANIZATION



“HEARTS has been involved in Bull City Madness in several ways. We always set up a vendor table that brings exposure to our organization and also supports the event. We also have a team that plays in the tournament that represents our organization. And hopes to win - we haven't won yet, but hopefully we'll have that title soon! And we also participate by advertising and promoting the event so that our community, our teen moms and our teen dads can volunteer and be involved and exposed to our community and different nonprofit community partners and the resources and services that they provide so that they can receive the services as well.”

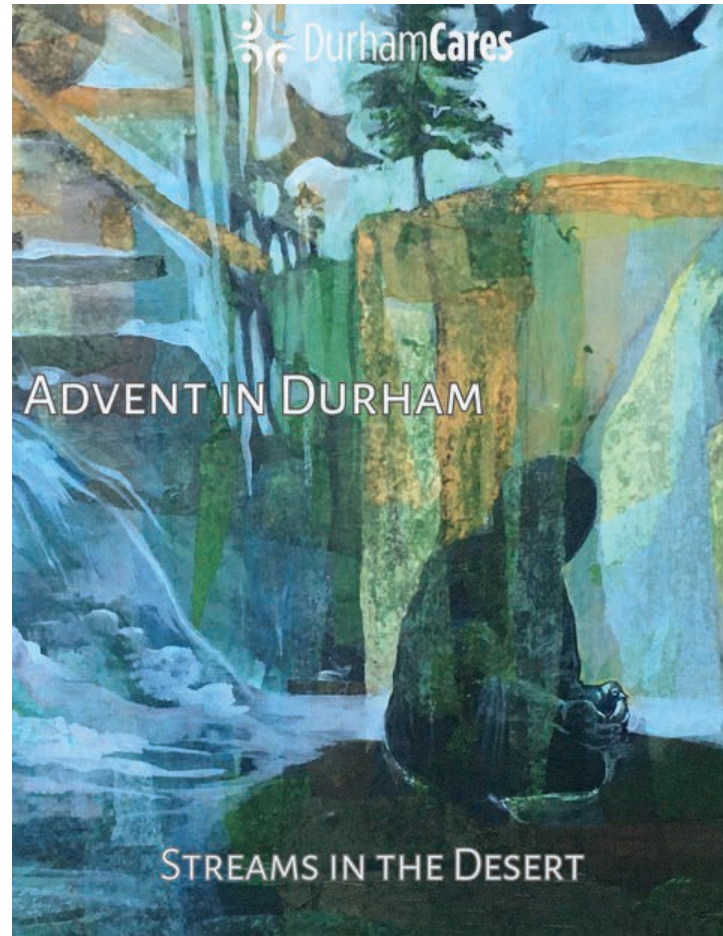
The goals of BCM:

- Building Community
- Encouraging Physical Activity
- Raising Awareness
- Fostering Collaboration
- Raising Support
- Remembering Well



The Bull City Madness relaunch brought together **12** teams, **43** players, **9** organizations, and **80** attendees!

Advent in Durham is an Advent devotional rooted in our city. The reflections, all written by Durham authors, consider Christ's coming in our own particular time and place.



Jordan Lassiter
LOCAL MINISTER AND BUSINESS OWNER

👉 I got involved with DurhamCares in 2017. I joined the Pilgrimage. My wife and I, we had just moved to Durham a year earlier, and we heard about it... And I was like, wow, this is a great way to get to know the city that I live in and hear about the history, the roots, the story of Durham and what what it was at one point and what it is now, how it got there. Yeah, it was very transformative. It still affects the decisions that we make as a family, what we do with our children, and where we want to live and the things we want to get involved in here in Durham.

I joined the Advent devotional in 2020 when it began. I didn't grow up in a tradition of celebrating Advent, and so Advent's kind of new to me and my family. We've been trying different Advent things, and this one came along and I thought, wow, an Advent that is particular to the place that I live. How cool is that? And I'm like, sign me up....I see a side of Durham in the neighborhood that I live in, but reading some of these devotionals and hearing, maybe it's from a Reverend or pastor, someone that is in a different community and sees different things in Durham, it allows me to have a better perspective of what's going on in the bigger place that I live 🙌

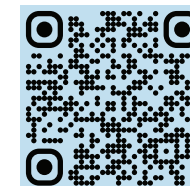


Welcoming Rev. Michael Jones

This year we welcomed Rev. Michael Jones to the DurhamCares team as our new Program Director! We're grateful for all of the gifts and passion that Mike brings to DurhamCares.

Support Our Work

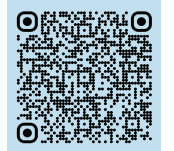
We are seeking to raise all of our support for 2025. Please help us reach our goal by making a gift before December 31st.



SCAN TO MAKE A GIFT

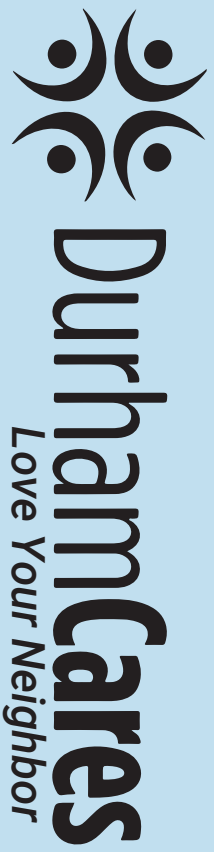
Strategic Planning

Over the summer we underwent a strategic planning process, and we now have a strategic plan to guide our work over the next three years.



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