



## Recap of Raleigh Mission Trip 2017

“Creating Space” and “Y’all means all” were two of the major messages that we heard and experienced during our July Mission trip to the beautiful city of Raleigh, North Carolina. These messages moved all of us and created lifelong impressions. We experienced God’s love in so many ways with the missions that we supported, the people that we met and worked with, and the community we built with our team. Our youth and leaders were impacted in many ways during their six-day mission and their words best capture how each of our faith walks have grown.

*This trip really opened my eyes to the wide struggling concept of food scarcity and food deserts. With this knowledge, I want to help the community as we helped this week to change lives. – Dane Lloyd*

*The world is not always as it seems to be. This trip has taught me to look at the community with different eyes. I’ve learned to examine spaces and I’ve realized that there are so many ways that I can make myself an advocate, organizer, helper, and rebel. – Maggie West*

*It was extremely humbling to play games and hand out popsicles to the men at Healing Transitions rehabilitation center. We interacted with men who were at the lowest point in their lives and I feel as though we had a giant impact in their lives. – Hayley White*

*I was impressed by the attitude and devotion of Royce at Neighbor to Neighbor, he seemed genuine from the start. He was running at shoestring operation but really had high hopes and enthusiasm. We were looking for pruners in the shed that once were there but couldn’t be found – he shrugged and said, “Hey it’s an urban ministry and went to the next thing.” He was very hands-on. – Jim Kruger*

*I enjoyed creating a better future for Raleigh by helping the kids where English is their second language with their school work. – Bobby Pickrell*

*This has been my third mission trip but my first experience as an “adult” leader. It was an amazing opportunity to see how the kids I’ve known since they were in middle school have grown and matured into such caring and loving people. – Jimmy Pickrell*



*On the Raleigh youth mission trip, although the days were fun, when they started to feel long, and I got tired, I learned patience by remembering that I'm working towards the bigger picture." - Julia Tracy*

*My favorite thing about this mission trip was the interactions I was able to have. When I visited a summer education program at a local church I was amazed by how optimistic and caring the children were despite the harsh conditions they were living in. It was truly special to play with those wonderful kids and help them learn. - Cole Lloyd*

*The food deserts really got to me especially in Raleigh because I thought of Raleigh as an affluent city. - Ryan Petrillo*

*We had many opportunities on this mission to be exposed to many different people who needed to see and feel Christ's love. One of my favorite experiences was walking the city on Thursday morning with our team and seeing what the city of Raleigh had abundance in and what they were lacking when it came to welcoming their neighbors "the homeless". They lacked public water fountains, public restrooms, shady areas, and places to rest. This kept making me think back to our home, Norfolk and what we have abundance in and what we lack in resources for our neighbors. My hope is that our team's experience and what our congregation learns from us will assist in all of us becoming better neighbors and speaking out when we are lacking important resources that we all need. - Harper Bathel*

*"Y'all means all." This was written all over local shops and restaurants in Raleigh. To me, this meant that the city was creating an all inclusive, judgement-free home for anyone. I also took it as a demand to the people that we are all one community, and we should all be joining together to help those in need. I really hope that I can bring this perspective back to Norfolk and everywhere else I end up. - Annie West*

Thank you, St. Andrew's for your love, support, and prayers that created an impactful, moving, and God-filled mission experience in North Carolina!

Gratefully,

St. Andrew's Youth Mission Team 2017

Annie, Bobby, Cole, Dane, Hayley, Julia, Maggie, Ryan, Harper, Jim, Jimmy, and Tim

