

VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

First there was Debbie. Then Wayne. Then the faithful nine.

Now there is all of *Temple Baptist Church!*

About six years ago Debbie asked her husband, Wayne, to join a group from RTI International to serve breakfast in the Urban Ministries of Durham Community Café. About six months later, Wayne invited his church, Temple Baptist, to become involved in this ministry.

“The first time I came, I saw a worthy cause” remembers Wayne. “And every time I come I realize how much God has richly blessed me. I recognize the need and want to help others.”

Wayne and the group from Temple are here often. Every Thursday by 7am, whether snow, ice, or pouring rain, the group arrives and begins their two-hour shift to help prepare and then serve breakfast. There are nine in all; seven from Temple Baptist (Linda and David, Bill and Susan, Michel, Bill J., and Wayne), and two good friends (Dave and John). One by one, hungry people file through the food line, getting a scoop of this and a spoonful of that and a cheerful “Good morning! How are you today? Have a good day.” Yet these dedicated volunteers say they feel “it’s just not enough.” They wish they could get to know the people better. They wish they knew everyone’s story so they could help them get on their feet.

So Temple Baptist does do more to help the neighbors who need help. The short list includes: dinner on the fifth Monday of every month; serving breakfast on the first Tuesday of each month; several additional ad hoc meals throughout the year; having a large bin at Temple Baptist all the time for Food Pantry donations; periodic clothing drives including a fall coat drive; working in the Internet Café; and helping buy a badly needed new commercial coffee maker for the Café (they were, frankly, tired of the old machine that leaked!); having a Fish Fry fundraiser netting UMD \$2,275! And the congregation makes regular outreach contributions from its budget.

Wayne says he is now fulfilling his dream of a career as the owner and stylist at Hair By Design—this after decades of working in two completely unrelated fields. “Every person at UMD has a talent, but doesn’t always know what it is or how to use it. But I know from personal experience it’s never too late to find your passion. If you have a dream, go for it, never give up.”

