

Pastor's Report
November 2, 1995
Lisa Brown Cole

One of the most difficult parts about being a United Methodist pastor, for me, is the commitment we make at ordination to itinerate. At the same time, it is also one of the aspects of ministry that continues to bring great joy and excitement. This was my second move as an itinerant pastor, and even though it was very difficult to leave Lemon Springs, I have known from my first day here, this was where I was supposed to be. In the many ways you all have extended such a warm welcome for us; in the shared ministries and friendships established with the staff and leadership of this church; in the many ministries I have seen offered here, I experience great joy and excitement each day. I give thanks for the opportunity to be in ministry with you here at Duke Memorial UMC.

The ministries I am primarily working with at this time, are in the areas of youth ministry; confirmation; Mission; Church and Society; the Wonderful Wednesday Task Force; teaching Disciple Bible study; Evangelism and outreach to visitors; offering leadership and planning for our 8:45am Eucharist service each Sunday; preaching; visitation; helping teach in the Sunday School. I am working at becoming familiar with all the ministries of this church, and am always interested in helping members find their place in the life of God's church.

It has already been a learning and growing experience for me, working in the urban setting. Before I ever knew I would be coming here, I had already heard of the many ways Duke Memorial was willing to reach beyond its walls into the community, to work through barriers and offer help to those who were in need. I have found this to be very true, and even more so than I imagined. The strong desire that so many have to grow in their relationship with God, along with the desire to live out this relationship in the world, makes a very exciting and challenging place for a pastor to serve. I look forward to growing with you as we strive to live God's will together.

When I was approached by the District Superintendent about coming to Duke Memorial UMC, I knew right away that I did not want to miss the opportunity to be a part of all the ministries offered through this church, and I did not want to miss the opportunity to work with Mark Weathington. I have admired Mark and his heart for reaching out to all people since I have known him. I knew I would learn a great deal from him, and I believed he would approach ministry with an associate as a shared ministry, which he does. It is a joy to work with him and beside him in ministry as colleagues and as friends. It is also such a blessing to work with such talented and gifted people like Bob and Jan Irvin and Ann Stallings. I was immediately welcomed by this staff, and I look forward to our working together.

In my service to the larger church, I serve on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; the Durham District Committee on Ordained Ministry; the Conference Episcopal Committee; Bishop's Seminar Committee and the Board of Managers for the Pastor's School.

It is a joy to be able to serve our Lord through the ministry of his church, and to be a part of that ministry here at Duke Memorial UMC. Thank you for receiving my family in such a gracious way.