

After coming off of Maternity leave since last Charge Conference, this has been a full and busy year. My responsibilities as the Associate Pastor have included preaching, teaching, visitation, serving as the staff person related to our Youth program, Missions Committee, Church and Society committee, Evangelism Committee, Wonderful Wednesday Programs, leading Bible studies, and serving as a supervisor for our 2 Duke Interns. I plan the 8:45am worship service.

In June, we were pleased to welcome Ruth Harper Stevens as our Senior Pastor. I am enjoying working with her in ministry, and am thankful for the energy and enthusiasm she and Joe have brought with them to Duke Memorial. I have witnessed a new sense of joy and hope within the congregation with her leadership.

Since Ruth's arrival, some of my responsibilities have shifted where I have the joy of planning each Sunday's worship service, and will be working more in the community in different areas of ministry. One of these areas will be helping develop the Shalom Zone ministry in partnership with our neighboring West End Community.

In addition to my local church responsibilities, I am also serving as the Chairperson of our Durham District Committee on Ordained Ministry where we work with candidates for ministry. I have served for the past 8 years on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and rotate off of that this year. I was placed on the Conference Review Committee which I will serve on for 4 years. I am on our District Council on Ministries Committee, as well.

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to work beside the people of Duke Memorial, and to be a part of this community. It is a challenging place to serve, because the opportunities for ministry are so varied and so many. I appreciate how the church has taken my family in to be such a part of the family of Duke Memorial. I also am grateful to the staff with whom I work. Each one is so gifted and we all work well together. We have a great time!

I always pray my leadership here will help the people of this congregation grow in their own spiritual journey, and lead them into opportunities of ministry they never dreamed of. It is a joy to serve at Duke Memorial.

*Lisa Brown Cole*

