

PASTORS' REPORT
LISA BROWN COLE
RUTH HARPER STEVENS
November 7, 1999

Lisa and I have decided that there is only one way to give our Pastor's Report and that is in the form of a shared dialogue. While our ministries rarely overlap (in the sense that our efforts are duplicated), we do find that they are perpetually intertwined, pun intended. (Hold up ball of twine.)

To give you a sense of our working relationship, this Pastors' Report will involve weaving together the threads of our ministry here at Duke Memorial.

First, let me say that this has been an exciting year. Lisa, why don't you begin by sharing some of the activities that have made your ministry so fulfilling this year. (After each comment, twine is passed to a person instrumental in shaping that ministry. Words of thanksgiving are offered to each.)

CONFIRMATION CLASS.....JOHN LEGGE
Confirmation Mentor

Waiting to do our class with 7th graders this year proved to be an exciting and in depth adventure for all 10 of our class members, along with our adult mentors, and teachers. It was a challenging and growing time for each person

GROWING YOUTH MINISTRY.....TIM TURKINGTON
Youth Council Chair

With the hard work of our Youth Pastor, Cody Schuler, parents, counselors and many dedicated youth, our youth ministry is not only growing in numbers but is growing as a community together, supporting each other and reaching out to the world.

An exciting part of this ministry is our Sunday morning outreach to the Sr. High students of the School of Science and Math where our church van (thanks to Joe Stevens) picks up students each Sunday for worship. We plan to develop this ministry more in the year to come.

NEW YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY.....

We welcome, with much excitement, Greig Ashurst to our staff as the new Youth Music Ministries Director. Greig brings much experience and enthusiasm to this ministry and we are looking forward to working with him as he brings new beginnings to our music ministry with our youth.

MISSION.....EDGARDO COLON-EMERIC
Pastor of Christo Vive

It has been overwhelming to see the response of DMUMC to the needs of our neighbors in Eastern North Carolina in the wake of the damage from flooding. Work teams have already been to the area and

others are planned. \$ 8552.00 had been sent to UMCOR and a truck load of household goods has been donated.

Members of our church participated in the Communities of Shalom training offered by our Conference and developed some wonderful relationships with leaders in the West End Community. It is our goal to continue that relationship as we develop more ways to be in community together with our neighbors.

It has been exciting to share in ministry with the Durham Hispanic Congregation located at DMUMC. This year we participated in a Christmas party where gifts were given to our Hispanic church families. A joint worship service and meal was held, and some of the Hispanic children have participated in events held by our youth. We are glad to be able to increase our pledge to the Hispanic Ministry in 2000.

SMALL GROUPS.....ELISABETH LUCK
Disciple Student

We have had some wonderful opportunities for fellowship and study together this year--with the beginning again of our Dinners for Eight, Church Picnic, Square Dance and Disciple Bible Studies -- where classes in all three levels have now been offered here.

WORSHIP.....JOYCE MUSSELWHITE
Altar Guild Past-Chair

There has been growing attendance in our worship services, where there is a renewed sense of enthusiasm and an intentional effort to help all people feel welcome. The opportunities to be creative and try a variety of ideas have been exciting and meaningful to many.

Ruth, what are some of the exciting things that have been going on for you?

EVANGELISM & MEMBERSHIP.....LOIS FUNDERBURK
Fellowship Friends Coordinator

Since my coming to Duke Memorial 16 months ago, over 50 persons have united with this church (and that doesn't include the 10 wonderful confirmands Lisa spoke about). Many have joined on Profession of Faith and a number of adults have been baptized. Our membership has turned a corner and is finally showing a net increase after several years of decline. (See Chart) Let's keep the momentum moving in this direction.

STEWARDSHIP.....EMILY FEW
Stewardship Chair

We are in the midst of one of the most creative and productive Stewardship Campaigns I have experienced. "The Greening of the Tree" has thus far resulted in pledges in excess of \$440,000. Over half of these pledges are increases. Our campaign was so theologically sound, effectively organized, and I might add, fun, that we are being asked by other churches for copies of our materials. We are considering the possibility of publishing "The Greening of the Tree."

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY.....ANN STALLINGS

Wonderful Wednesday Leader

Last fall we took a bold step and redesigned the children's portion of Wonderful Wednesday to include Wednesday's Windows to Worship or www.fun. The aim was to give children more activity choices. This year we took another bold step and increased the programming for adults. Wonderful Wednesday has becoming an invaluable fellowship time for new members. Attendance has increased from 35 to 57. (See Chart)

COLLEGE & CAREER.....JUDY BROWNING
College Parent

This summer we identified 40-50 college students, many of whom had drifted away from the church. During the past six months we have reestablished contact with them through a number of means. Two meals were held, one at the parsonage and one at a local restaurant. A care package was sent by the Sojourner's Circle with help from the Open Door Class and the Asbury Class, and a College and Career Pictorial Directory is in the final stages of production for distribution at a Thanksgiving Reunion meal.

PASTORAL CARE.....EILENE BISGROVE

The greatest joy of my ministry is helping people through life's crises. Lisa shares with me the fulfillment of our calling every time we are present to people when a death occurs or surgery is anticipated or there are marital or family problems or an emotional problem. We are thankful for a whole team of Stephen Ministers who offer their own care giving. On behalf of all those who have invited us into their world of suffering, Eilene will you receive the twine. Thank you for allowing me to join you in the early morning hours as you were prepped for back surgery.

DRINK & SNACK MACHINE.....LISA BROWN COLE

Last but certainly not least, one of my major accomplishments this year has been the procurement of the church's first drink machine and snack machine. For me this provides more than a convenient way to treat myself, these two machines are a symbol that Duke Memorial is "youth-friendly." I pass the twine to Lisa for introducing me to the taste sensation of Diet Dr. Pepper.

RUTH: Just whose idea was it to use this twine thing, Lisa?!!
Look what a mess it has made. Now what do we do?

LISA: I'll tell you what. While I'm rolling up the twine, you can give the rest of our report.

RUTH: Nice try? I'll tell you what! While you're rolling up the twine, I'll share a couple of the major challenges I have had to face this year. That will give you time to think of your greatest challenges.

RUTH: Managing staff has been one of my serious concerns. Until we lost our Maintenance Engineer, I never worried much about how often chemicals are put in the cooling towers or how many rolls of toilet paper we use. In recent days, I've learned a lot about the operation of our facilities.

As our staff grows we continue to have more reshuffling of duties and levels of accountability and the responsibility for managing staff concerns grows.

The other significant challenge has been finding a way to balance my time between the influx of new young families and the ongoing needs of our homebound members. To help me manage my responsibility for our shut-ins, I have asked Ann Stallings to prepare a visitation rotation schedule.

Lisa, now that you have cleaned up your mess, what have been your greatest challenges this year?

LISA: I would love to find ways to be able to involve more of our members in the many different ministries of the church. We have a wonderful group of leaders and members who are active in many ways, but there are many more who have such wonderful gifts to offer and I would like to find ways for those gifts to be used.

I also see the need for more opportunities of small group gatherings, such as different types of spiritual formation groups, support groups, Bible study, where members are nurtured and enabled to discern God's will for them.

To continue developing ways to communicate effectively with one another, and the community.

RUTH: Share with the Charge Conference some of your plans, dreams, and visions for ministry as we move into a new millennium.

MISSION

In the area of missions - to develop the Shalom Zone ministry with West End Community and involve more of our membership in that development.

To look ahead together and discern what areas of mission outreach we are called to as a church, and participate in mission outreach throughout the year.

SMALL GROUPS

Develop small groups for learning and development, such as on Parenting, Marriage Enrichment, Spiritual Formation tools, as well as different types of support groups or workshops, dealing with grief, divorce recovery, etc.

WORSHIP

In the area of worship it is my goal to involve more members in our worship service, and to develop ways to continue to help people feel welcome here as they come to worship.

LISA: While I'm doing all this, do you plan to do anything visionary this year?

RUTH:

EVANGELISM/VISITATION PROGRAM

It is my hope that by next year we will be able to report on a successful new program designed to make Sunday afternoon door step visits to those who have worshipped with us that morning. A plan is in place and visitor packets are being prepared

COLLEGE & CAREER GROUP

I hope by next year to have an active college and career group that will meet when they are home for holidays and will receive regular communication from their church friends through care packages, emails, Insights, and personal notes.

PHYSICAL PROPERTY: I have an overall concern that we continue to maintain our property and that it remain available for mission usage.

MAINTENANCE

I want to work to improved the appearance of our splendid buildings, with particular attention being given to the basement of the sanctuary building that is used by the Spence Kale class as many outside groups.

COLUMBARIUM & LANDSCAPING

Hopefully, we will see the columbarium constructed and beautiful need shrubbery planted in the front yard.

ADJACENT ABANDONED PROPERTIES

Since arriving at Duke Memorial I have been curious about what the city plans to do about the large number of abandoned building that surround us. I will commit myself to gathering more information with the hopes that if a need is present for these buildings to be put into use, Duke Memorial might be the catalyst to make this happen.

COMMUNICATION: If Duke Memorial is to become a regional church, and I believe it can and should, we will need to continue to improve our communication, both in-house and throughout the wider community. Several plans are underway to make this happen:

SIGNAGE

The Signage Committee has brought forth some significant proposal which bear implementation after careful examination by the Board. We want people to know where they are going once they get here.

INSIGHTS

We also want our membership to be better informed. So with the new capabilities made possible by our new computer system and publications staff person, we hope to improve our methods for sharing information.

WEB SITE

In the near future, I hope the church will be able to develop a web site that will inform our electronically literate members and those who are surfing the net for a church to attend. I can't think of a better way to end our last Pastor's Report for the millennium, except perhaps to remind you that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and he promises to be with us until the close of the age.

Duke Memorial Mission Statement (In Unison)

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is too light to transcribe accurately.