

## CHARGE CONFERENCE PASTOR'S REPORT

Lisa Brown Cole  
October 8th, 2000

This is a very exciting time at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church. There are many wonderful things that are happening and the excitement that is felt among the members as well as the number of visitors and new members that are coming, all give witness to how the Spirit of God is moving in our midst.

I continue to see the Spirit of God moving in our Youth Ministry. We have been blessed with a new member, Greig Ashurst who is serving as our part-time Youth Pastor while we are in the midst of searching for our first full time Youth Minister. The church has decided to add a full-time youth pastor position, and this is a wonderful step the church is taking. Our Youth program continues to grow, and it will be exciting to see what will happen in this area over the next years. A part of our Youth Ministry is our mission outreach, and in June of this year our Senior High youth went to South Dakota as a mission workteam. Ministering on a Reservation there, they did a lot of hard work repairing and restoring facilities on the Reservation. We are proud of them, and of all our youth.

I see the Spirit of God moving in our worship. The Council on Ministries adopted as one of our outreach goals to work toward making Duke Memorial more open to all people. We want to be a welcoming church, and much of that outreach begins in worship. We are planning worship services that are inviting, uplifting, welcoming, celebratory, and joyful. We also have an 8:45am Holy Communion Service, where we invite different people to preach, and use different styles of worship occasionally. New ideas are offered for this service that we are exploring.

I see the Spirit of God moving in the ways the church is reaching out to the community. Our

Missions Committee and Church and Society Committee help keep our focus on reaching out and forming relationships with our neighbors in the community through the ministries of our West End Communities of Shalom; through participating with other United Methodist churches to help build a Habitat for Humanity House; through our support of 3 Missionary families; through being a Rainbow Covenant church; through providing programs, Bible Studies, speakers on issues facing the church today that challenge us all to walk the walk that we talk; through our support through giving and volunteering at the Methodist Mission Society regularly; through continuing to send mission workteams to the Tarboro and Rocky Mount areas. This list goes on and on as we witness God's Spirit moving through the people of Duke Memorial UMC.

In addition to working very closely with these areas of ministry described above, I continue to answer my call to ministry here through teaching a Disciple Bible Study class, teaching in Sunday School occasionally or other Bible Studies, preaching and leading worship, offering the Sacraments, visitation regularly, counseling, leading a Spiritual Formation group at Duke Divinity School for 1st year students, serving as the Chairperson for the Durham District Committee on Ordained Ministry, and as a Mentor to new Candidates for Ministry, supervising our German Exchange Students, and praying for this church, and my colleagues whom I enjoy working with greatly.

I could spend much more time on all the ways God is at work here at Duke Memorial and through Duke Memorial but I will close by saying my family and I are very blessed to be here among so many faithful ministers, and to serve along side Ruth, Bob, Ann, Greig, and all the wonderful staff of Duke Memorial. Indeed, the Spirit of God is moving in wonderful, exciting ways, and through so many wonderful, faithful people.

*Lisa Brown Cole*