

Pastor's Report

Lisa Brown Cole
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
November 6th, 2003 Charge Conference

As I stated to the Senior Pastor several months ago when we were discussing the many changes that seemed to be happening at Duke Memorial with a lot of turn over in leadership, I believe God is doing a new thing at Duke Memorial. As challenging and sometimes frustrating much transition can be, it can also open the door for many new opportunities and new growth. That is what I believe is the state of the church.

When I look at this past year, since our last Charge Conference, it is amazing for me to see all the challenges, as well as all the opportunities that have come my way. With the gift of support from this church and the Senior pastor, I am fulfilling a long time dream of completing 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education at Duke University Medical Center. I had completed 1 unit while I was in Divinity School, and graciously the church has approved my doing 3 Parish Based Units, which I will complete in the Spring of 2004. I have been working to fulfill these requirements while fulfilling my responsibilities at Duke Memorial, and will continue to be faithful to that. It is a scheduling challenge, and I work hard to try to maintain good communication with the staff and the church. I am grateful beyond words for this opportunity and I pray the skills I gain will benefit my ministry at Duke Memorial in many ways.

My focus of ministry continues to be planning the 2 worship services and involving many church members in worship leadership; developing small group opportunities within the congregation with different Bible studies as well as fellowship opportunities; working with the Spiritual Formation, Missions, Church and Society, Worship and Wonderful Wednesday committees; preaching regularly; visitation; counseling; offering Spiritual Direction; mentoring candidates for ministry; involvement with the youth program. I believe one of my emphasis here is to help members recognize their gifts and talents, and to encourage and find opportunities for them to use those gifts and talents in service. I enjoy helping others recognize God's call on their lives and helping find ways to fulfill that call. That is a great joy of ministry, for me.

This past year has also been a year of personal challenge for me with transitions within my family life. But again the support of this church has been overwhelming for my children and me, and I cannot express my gratitude enough. God is working his healing through many of these folks, and I will never forget their role in God's healing strength. May God bless each of you.

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