

**Duke Memorial United Methodist Church**  
**Report to Annual Charge Conference**  
**November 7, 2005**

During the 12 months since the 2004 Charge Conference, there have been many activities, challenges and spiritual success stories we wish to share. This report is organized across four major categories: Spiritual Formation and Witness, Mission Activities, Nurturing activities and Administrative Update. A fifth category, looking forward to 2006 is titled: Community Impact Report for 2006.

***Spiritual Formation and Witness***

At the end of 2004, we had to make some very tough decisions due to financial constraints. We decided to downsize the number of staff members for 2005. Our Minister of Music (Julian Irvine) also resigned late last year.

The Reverend Jim Bell is the only appointed minister on the staff. In February, we employed The Reverend Frank Newsome, a Baptist Minister and a graduate of Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest, to serve as Minister of Youth and Discipleship.

At the same time, we employed Frank's wife, Jill Newsome, as the Minister of Music. Jill has over 20 years of experience in the field and works 30 hours a week. In addition, she is a certified Kindermusik teacher. Jill holds Kindermusik classes in the church.

In June, we hired Fred Mason, Jr as a part-time organist (15 hours per week). Fred teaches at the Durham School of the Arts and has worked in music education and as an organist for many years.

Even though these changes were difficult to work through, the results have been encouraging.

1. Again, this year, the Youth of our church witnessed and shared their personal testimonies with members of the congregation. We heard clearly what this church means to them and of their commitment to Christ. Our Youth engaged in several service projects, including a week-long mission trip to a Reach Workcamps location in Oceana, West Virginia, where they helped people build and repair their homes.
2. Sacred Dance continued to be a significant and meaningful part of many worship services. The liturgical dance program has expanded to include first-graders. For the first time, the youth dancers attended a 3-day liturgical dance workshop at Lake Junaluska this past summer. This is the largest number of dancers we've ever had participating in the program.
3. In June, we said farewell to our loved and respected pastor, Lisa Brown Cole. Lisa took a position as the Director of Pastoral Services at Durham Regional Hospital, something that she had been training to do.
4. We welcomed Frank and Jill Newsome and their family to Duke Memorial. Frank and Jill both hit the deck running. See the sections, "Minister of Youth and Discipleship" and "Minister of Music" for more details.



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5. Jim is leading us to explore what each of us and the church as a whole, believes. We are now in the "visioning process" to define what is important to us as members of Duke Memorial. Jim launched the process and has engaged a small group of people from the congregation to serve on the Vision Team to see us through this process.
6. Jim was honored to be selected to work with other pastors in the Reynolds Program of Church Leadership, where he participates in classes, reads outside source materials, and focuses on ways to lead a church into becoming a stronger and more effective, positive force in the world.

**Minster of Youth and Discipleship (Frank Newsome)**

Frank directs the youth program by creating innovative Sunday school classes, diverse and appealing Sunday night programs, nurturing Wednesday night fellowship, and special weekend retreats and service projects. In addition, he builds a team of youth workers (both adults and college students) with whom he works to find places in youth ministry where their gifts can be applied. Youth attendance is strong and consistent; he seems to have developed a good rapport with our youth, their parents, and with the youth workers.

Frank also established the Soul Café, a relaxed gathering time on Wednesday evenings. People can catch up with others over coffee, lemonade, and desserts and then choose to participate in more organized fellowship, such as Bible or prayer study or participate in discussions of books ("Ragamuffin Gospel") or movies ("What About Bob" and "Simon Burch"). Attendance at Wednesday nights has more than tripled since last May when Frank began to focus on this ministry.

In addition, Frank serves in the pulpit on most Sunday mornings. He has preached powerful sermons, children's messages, and efficiently led other parts of the services in partnership with the Senior Pastor. Frank shares visiting duties with Jim and spends time each week visiting shut-ins, the hospitalized, and other members who need in-home visits.

**Minister of Music (Jill Newsome)**

Our Minister of Music has enhanced our worship experience and encouraged spiritual growth through such activities as:

- Sanctuary Choir
- Hand Bell Choir
- Kindermusik
- Chimes for children 1<sup>st</sup>-grade and older
- Wesley Singers for children in the 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades

All choirs have grown in size. Music selections for the Sanctuary Choir have become more varied and the singing continues to be even more excellent with additional voices. Jill planned two special musical celebrations for this fall. The first is Moses and the Freedom Fanatics, a musical with a cast of children, a few adults and youth. It was fantastic. The second is the The Magnificat, a composition by John Rutter that will be sung by the Sanctuary Choir with additional singers, just before Christmas. Jill looks for opportunities to involve singers and musicians from the congregation. Whenever she learns of someone has a special interest or talent, she looks for music that will highlight that gift.



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**Associate Pastor (Lisa Brown Cole)**

Our Associate Pastor was with us through June, encouraging spiritual growth through a number of activities such as:

- Illustrative sermons that challenged our “comfort zone”
- Leading “The Way of Forgiveness” studies
- Leading Emmaus Walks

Lisa was also very active in visitation, crisis care and spiritual counseling.

***Mission Activities***

Numerous activities were undertaken to share God’s love by caring for others. Among them were:

- Vacation Bible School for 75 children
- Kindermusik Camp for 22 children
- Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), a cross-denominational program whereby our church hosts one or more families who need food and shelter for a week at a time. We have served 12 families so far, this year and expect to serve 2 or 3 more families by the end of December. Approximately 80 volunteers are required each week we host families. We appreciate the strong partnership with Watts Street Baptist Church in this ministry.
- Preparation of “Flood Buckets” in partnership with the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation that provided a \$5000 grant to purchase flood supplies for flood buckets and health kits
- Individual donations of more than \$8700 to Hurricane Katrina relief through UMCOR
- A small group of youth who met on Wednesday evenings to perform acts of service for members of the church and for people outside the church. They used a “wheel of kindness,” which was spun each week to determine which service project would be done the following week.
- Monthly food donations to the Urban Ministries/Mission Society of Durham
- Clothes Closet donations to Durham agencies
- Good Samaritan Fund to address immediate, short-term needs
- Crop Walk
- On-going support for missionaries in Japan, Liberia and Kentucky
- Classrooms and facilities for the Duke Memorial Weekday School (160 students aged 2 years – Kindergarten)

***Nurturing Activities***

Stephen Ministry continues to provide one-to-one caring for individuals going through difficult times. We are completing the 11<sup>th</sup> year of Stephen Ministry at Duke Memorial. At the current time, there are 8 Stephen Ministers, six of whom are assigned to church members. In addition, Stephen Ministers from other churches are caring for 3 church members and 1 person who is not a church member. Recently we assisted with a referral and Stephen Minister assignment in Michigan.



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This year, Duke Memorial cooperated with two Baptist Churches (Union Baptist, White Rock Baptist), one Episcopal Church (St. Philips) and the Congregation at Duke Chapel to train 14 new Stephen Ministers. Two of the 14 are members of Duke Memorial. Another such training class is targeted to begin in January with participation from the same churches.

**Minister of Nurture**

The Minister of Nurture managed the following activities:

- Stephen Ministry Leadership and Stephen Ministry referrals/assignments
- Coordinated all Sunday School childhood education
- Coordinated DivorceCare Support Groups which met weekly for 3 months
- Carol Choir for children ages 3 – 5 years old
- Managed the Parents Morning Out program
- Taught weekly Bible studies
- Coordinated Visitations each month
- Coordinated numerous activities such as: Communion for the home-bound, singles ministry, seniors ministry, Caroling, and many other activities too numerous to list

***Administrative Update***

- This year, we established a Permanent Endowment Finance Committee to address two key issues:
  1. Provide more focus on the investment and returns on the endowment funds
  2. More clearly document Duke Memorial policies concerning the preservation of principal and the use of income

I am happy to report this effort has been very successful and has produced a Resolution for the creation of the committee, a Charter and a Declaration for the General Endowment Fund. All three documents were approved by members of the Administrative Board.

- Membership was 879 on December 16, 2004. We grew to a peak of 879 members. Membership as of October 25, 2005 was 870.
- There are several groups that provide community services out of the Duke Memorial facilities.
  - Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) continues to have its offices at Duke Memorial
  - Community Life provides activities and day care for elderly citizens. This organization plans to move to a new building in the Spring/Summer 2006 timeframe.
  - The Society of St. Andrew offices are housed at Duke Memorial
  - Al-Anon, Alateen and Alcoholics Anonymous meet in our church facility five evenings each week
- We faced a budget challenge of almost \$50,000 as we started 2005. Unless donations above the pledge amounts appear, we expect to end 2005 with a shortfall of approximately \$20,000.



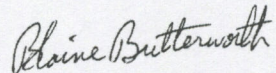
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- Our Stewardship Campaign urged people to give as God leads them to give, instead of giving to meet the financial needs of the church.
- When all pledges are in, we expect an increase of \$17,000 over 2005 pledges. We have decided to maintain the compensation level for our Senior Pastor for 2006.

***Community Impact Report for 2006***

In 2006 we at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church plan to do the following to impact our surrounding community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

1. We will be a very active participant in the Interfaith Hospitality Network ministry of Durham. We plan to host homeless families for five weeks during 2006. We will provide meals, shelter, and friendly and compassionate hosts for families who are experiencing the stress of economic crisis.
2. Our IHN Leader will serve on the IHN Board of Directors in 2006. One high priority project is to expand the IHN ministry by recruiting more congregations to participate in this ministry.
3. We will continue our support and participation in programs, activities and organizations mentioned in the above sections.

Respectfully submitted:   
Blaine A. Butterworth  
Chair, Administrative Board