

Jaylynn W. Byassee

**Ministerial Report
(Taken from "Report of the Pastor" Form)**

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church / Durham District
North Carolina Annual Conference
For the period beginning JULY 1, 2010 and ending OCTOBER 25, 2010

Position: Minister of Adult Discipleship and Witness

I was newly appointed to Duke Memorial UMC this past July, 2010. The position of Adult Discipleship and Witness is a new position for this church. In my role, my responsibilities include helping adults grow in their faith and witness, as well as give opportunities for spiritual growth in their daily lives.

This fall, Duke Memorial had a goal of having 4 new small groups, with at least 60 people involved. We have exceeded that goal! Duke Memorial has 5 new small groups for adults, and one new Sunday School class for Young Adults. Overall, there are approximately 135 adults involved in a small group this fall.

The energy and joy over these new groups is contagious, and we are already looking forward to the groups that will be offered this coming spring. Within these new fall groups, we have 6 brand new leaders. Many of these new leaders are co-leading groups, and have been raised up from the previous 2 "pilot" small groups that met this past spring of 2010. I offered a Small Group Leader Training this past September, in preparation for our fall small groups to begin.

We are excited for this new energy among the adults, and for their earnest desire to grow in the faith. In doing so, we believe it is a natural outpouring of our faith, to reach out and witness to Christ's love in this world. This fall, each small group is challenged together to do a community outreach project of their choice. This is another way to help the adults of the church get to know one another better, and foster a spirit of service in the church.

This past September and October, I have attended the Worship Seminar presented by Jim Harnish at Edenton Street UMC in Raleigh, Duke Divinity Convocation, and "Friendships at the Margins" conference through the Center for Reconciliation at Duke Divinity. All of these events have helped me grow in my own spiritual walk as I work among other leaders in the church to help create a worshipful environment and caring congregation that has a heart to go forth and serve for the sake of Jesus Christ.

