

**DUKE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**August 5, 2008**

**Present:** Julie Allen, Blaine Butterworth, Bill Coman, Shirley Few, Neal Grubbs  
and Bill Self

**Staff:** Rev. Ginger Thomas, Joe Stevens

**Absent:** Devan Brown Ann Marie Langford, Stuart McCracken

**Invocation:** Rev. Thomas leading the group jointly

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved as distributed

**Property Operations Manager's Report – Joe Stevens**

**Emergency Lighting** – The Trustees felt another walk through is necessary before King Brothers Electric Company begins the work in the next two weeks

**Railing on Steps to Middle Building** – has been installed

**Breezeway Fencing** – is completed

**Sunday School Room** –still needs painting

**Bell Tower Work**– has been completed

**Visitor Parking Across Chapel Hill Street** – Mr. Stevens still has not heard back from the police department regarding the Sunday parking sign.

**Sanctuary Sound System** – The Trustees unanimously agreed that they are very dissatisfied with the sanctuary's sound system. Rev. Thomas reported to the Trustees that she and Rev. Roger Owens both are very unhappy with the way it works and feel that in today's technological world, there is no excuse for a building this size not being equipped with an up-to-date system which enables everyone in the church to hear all voices that go out over the system regardless of where they are sitting. She further stated that the sound system is the number one complaint that they have had since coming to Duke Memorial; in fact they had some even before they arrived here. The Trustees agreed with her assessment so Mr. Stevens is going to talk with the current contractor and Mr. Self is going to contact him and tell him if it cannot be fixed to the standards that we have set for the church, we will hire another contractor.

**Parsonage** – The new air conditioner for the first floor has been installed as well as a new dishwasher.

**Lighting in the Sanctuary** – Sid Allen has suggested that spot lights be placed inside the sanctuary to highlight the stained glass windows at night from the street. The Trustees took no action on this suggestion but instructed Mr. Stevens to talk to King Brothers concerning this idea and specifically find out the life-length of the bulbs necessary to do this.

**Grounds** – It was noted that the plastic located under the mulch around the magnolia trees still shows. Mr. Stevens is to get two estimates for mulching the whole front yard – one with labor, one without labor. The Trustees will then determine if there are funds for this project.

**Building** - Mr. Stevens reported that 25 feet of copper gutters have been stolen from the corner of Whitford Hall and 20 additional feet from the bottom. A report of this has been made to the police.

We are in the process of pursuing insurance claims and replacing the copper stolen with dark aluminum

**Maintenance Staff** - Mr. Stevens reported that Olivia is pregnant and that we will need temporary replacement while she is on maternity leave beginning around Christmas time. There was discussion regarding whether to use another individual or a cleaning service. No action was taken at this meeting.

**Name Tags** – Members should be encouraged to use their name tags and name tags should be made available for newcomers as they enter the narthex. The Trustees all feel it is very important that we make every effort to get opinions from outsiders (newcomers) regarding various phases of our church and its activities.

**Handicapped Entrance** is deemed very unattractive with the inside needing a sprucing up. For a starter the trash cans should not be placed right inside the door.

**Pastor's Report** – Rev. Thomas challenged the Trustees to creative thinking on how the church can be more active as outlined in *Our Mission....Our Vision* and urged all church members to do the same. She suggested that we keep these goals in front of us as constant reminders of our responsibilities as church members. (*See below*)

*Our Mission.*

Sharing Christ from the heart of Durham.

*Our Vision .*

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church is a Christ-centered, vibrant and vital congregation, a sign and foretaste of God's kingdom in downtown Durham, that

- *Invites and accepts unconditionally* all who seek community and a place to belong; encourages and guides people to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- *Responds to God in dynamic, hopeful worship* through proclaiming God's word, celebrating the sacraments, offering praise through music, song, and dance, and lifting our voices in prayer and thanksgiving;
- *Nurtures spiritual growth and discipleship in children, youth, and adults* through engaging Christian education and warm and caring fellowship;
- *Bears witness to Christ's love* through members' daily life and work, in family life, and in acts of justice, service, and compassion to our brothers and sisters in this community and around the globe.

The Trustees were most appreciative of Rev. Thomas' delight at being appointed with her husband to Duke Memorial and were very impressed with her honesty and forthrightness in expressing her concerns and impressions of the church. The Trustees cited her comments as the kind we need that

only someone new coming into the church can see. Her enthusiasm and honesty were very refreshing and helpful to all of the Trustees and they look forward to having her with them in the years to come.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Shirley D. Few*  
Shirley D. Few, Secretary

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in the Church Library. Please let Mrs. Few, Secretary, know if you are unable to be there ([Shirley.Few@verizon.net](mailto:Shirley.Few@verizon.net)) or 489-3939 (leave a message)**