

DUKE MEMORIAL WEEKDAY SCHOOL

LISA PAGETT
DIRECTOR

504 WEST CHAPEL HILL STREET
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701

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Telephone 919 - 688 - 5130

Mr. Ben Mixon
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
Board of Trustees Chair

Dear Mr. Mixon,

The Board of Directors of Duke Memorial Weekday School (DMWS) would like to ask the Board of Trustees of Duke Memorial United Methodist Church to consider repairing the air conditioning in the three classrooms underneath the church office. The Weekday School uses these rooms from September through May while the All Summer Day Camp, sponsored by the church, uses them in June, July, and August.

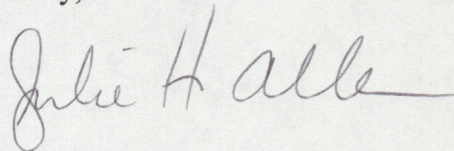
Last summer, these three classrooms became very hot each day. To bring in some air, the windows were opened. Since they open into the playground area, these windows posed a hazard to the children (and their teachers) using the playground. Several children and a teacher from the Parent's Morning Out Program were injured when their heads hit these open windows. Luckily, none of the injuries were serious. No Weekday School children were hurt. The DMWS Board is concerned about the safety of children who use our playground in future summers (both from the Weekday School Summer Camp and the Parent's Morning Out Program).

A second concern relates to the safety and comfort of the children in the All Summer Day Camp. I personally witnessed how lethargic and uncomfortable the children were on a couple of occasions. The air in the rooms was truly stifling. Lisa Pagett, Director of DMWS, offered use of our air conditioned classrooms on a number of occasions. Unfortunately, using Weekday School classrooms is not a permanent solution to the problem since the rooms are often in use during the summer by Weekday School Summer Camp or by teachers cleaning or organizing classrooms for school. Air conditioning the three classrooms would also benefit the Weekday School children since the rooms often become hot in May and September.

A solution to meet the needs of all the children using Duke Memorial's downstairs classrooms and the playground is available. The DMWS Board has learned that usable duct work to the three classrooms in question exists, but that a new air conditioning unit is needed. An estimate of approximately \$8000 was given to us at the time we discovered the duct work was usable. The DMWS Board urges the Board of Trustees to look into the possibility of restoring air conditioning to these classrooms. We believe that one of

our main concerns should always be the safety (and health) of the children and adults using our facilities. Duke Memorial United Methodist Church is indeed fortunate to have wonderful facilities to use in ministering to families in our church and community. Hopefully, these facilities can be maintained to insure the safety of all users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie H. Allen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Julie H. Allen
DMWS Board Chair

cc. Lisa Pagett
Rev. Mark Wethington