

PASTOR'S Report
Lisa Brown Cole
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
November 9th, 1997

As I write this report, I have one more week left of my maternity leave after giving birth to Daniel Nelson Cole on August 19th, 1997. I realize having a pastor on maternity leave is a first time experience for Duke Memorial, and I am most grateful for their support of this very important time for our family. As I write this I am also aware of the extra work this has put on the staff and our Duke Divinity School interns, and for their hard work I am very thankful.

It has been a challenging year since our last Charge Conference. As an Associate Pastor I had a unique experience of serving Duke Memorial in an expanded role while the Senior Pastor, Mark Wethington was given a Study Leave at the beginning of the year. The Staff and church leaders worked together to carry on the vital ministries offered through Duke Memorial. It was a growing, challenging time, and I appreciate Mark's confidence in me especially during his leave.

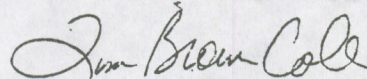
One of my areas of responsibility is with our Youth Program, and we have been working this year in reorganizing this program. It also has been a challenge and will take time to begin working well, but we believe the changes will be positive. I continue to work in the areas of Evangelism, Missions, Church and Society, Visitation, teaching and preaching, and look forward to growing ministries in these areas. I believe the church is in a time of looking again at its focus and direction of ministry, and this can be a very positive time in the life of the church.

On the District level I serve on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, and the Council on Ministries. On the Conference level, I am serving on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and I chair the Committee on Conference Relations.

I want to express my deep appreciation to this church for its recent action of raising our housing allowance, and providing a temporary loan which enabled us to buy a home shortly after Daniel was born. We used the temporary loan for the downpayment on the home, and with our appreciation we have now repayed that loan in full to the church. We are very happy in our home, and we thank you.

I look forward to the year ahead to be in ministry with the people of Duke Memorial, and I am thankful to serve as one of your pastors.

Sincerely,



Lisa Brown Cole