

## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART....

Many of you know Rev. Glenn Kennedy. Not fully understanding the concept of retirement, Brother Glenn continues to serve our Fowler UMC congregation while he horses around somewhere north of town on his "ranch." I know Glenn so well I didn't even ask for permission to rip off his recent article in the *Fowler Flashes* newsletter. Enjoy. I'm sure you will see yourself in Glenn's musings, as I did.

*During the last really cold snap, I was working out in the barn one evening when I paused and took a look at my clothing and equipment and said (nearly out loud) "is this what life's come to?!" I so love my old pair of lined winter boots that I can't bear to part with them- but the soles are badly cracked and so I have to keep them bound with duct tape. The thumbs on my favorite work gloves long ago gave way, so (you guessed it!) more duct tape. My wheelbarrow is rusted through at the handles - so it's held together at multiple critical stress points with bungee cords...My manure fork is missing several teeth on one side...so its efficiency rating isn't real high! There I was...wet feet...freezing thumbs...wobbling wheelbarrow...trying to accomplish a necessary task...and could blame no one for my plight but myself. I don't give attachments up easily...and sometimes find it hard to accept help when it's offered. Here's my confession. Sitting on my bedroom dresser there are gift cards - Christmas presents from my children- for new work boots and a new wheelbarrow. (I guess I'm on my own for the gloves and manure fork!) The new is there and waiting- yet I was trying to get a job done with the less than adequate old. Whose fault is that?*

*As you might expect from a preacher, I find a somewhat striking parable there. How often do we choose to muck our way along, holding life together with duct tape and bungee cords while the One who claims to know us by name and by need keeps trying to gain our attention...keeps whispering "use the gift cards! Use what's already been purchased for you!"*

*Jesus' words in the tenth chapter of John remind us of the promise,*

*"...I came that they (we) may have life and have it abundantly..." John 10; 10b*

*And of the means:*

*"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep..." John 10:11*

*As we move toward the Lenten season, a time for remembering the Gift of the life of Jesus Christ and consider again what that Gift means in each our lives...for heaven's sake (and for yours!) use the Gift Certificate! Claim the abundance of life that is promised you. We can do better than bungee cords and duct tape...We have the Shepherd's promise.*

See you in Church, APUMC!  
Pastor Carl