

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART**

“They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,” said Isaiah. They shall also receive a new church sign, if they wait long enough. Yes, glory hallelujah! We have a new sign in front of our church building!

I want to thank all who have made this possible. First, I want to thank all of you who contributed money for this need. Thanks to the Church Council who refused to be intimidated by the cost, even after local politics cost us a matching grant from the denomination. Faith is always rewarded. So is patience. Thanks to the Board of Trustees and the Finance Team who guided this along. Thanks to the late Fern Klaus and to an anonymous member who donated the shortage amount at the end of the process.

We have been moving in the Good Orderly Direction (GOD) with our church finances. We went into a deep hole several years ago, but have been climbing steadily out of it with each succeeding year a little better than the last. And this is in spite of some extra bills for various needs and a downturn in the economy. It hasn't been easy. It hasn't always been pretty and we have a good ways to go, but darn it, this is progress to be celebrated. The biggest disappointment has been our inability to pay 100 % of our Conference Fair Share Apportionments for the mission of the greater Church. We have also run into difficulties with the rental houses due to repairs, bad tenants and unrented houses. A perfect storm, as they say. We are making progress in righting this situation. The Trustees have hired Watson Property Co. to manage the houses so we can get our trustees out of the property management business and back into the Church Trustee ministry. The Finance Team tells me our giving has been very good these first 2 ½ months of 2010. Praise the Lord!

I hope you will all come together at worship this holy season. (See Holy Week Schedule) Our Palm/Passion Sunday will begin outside to dedicate the new sign and then process with palms into the sanctuary. Those not able to process can wait in the sanctuary. We will take a group photo around the sign so bring your smile. Please arrive early so the service will not be delayed any more than necessary. It should be fun.

See you in Church, APUMC!  
Pastor Carl