

## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Maybe I should change my *Evangel* heading to read  
"From the Priestor's Heart."

This is what one of the children called me last Sunday. I kind of like it. It links up priest/pastor. The term priest captures my worship and sacramental duties while the term pastor captures my care-giving and soul-shepherding duties. I ask for your prayers that I might perform my priestly and pastoral responsibilities under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Easter Sunday was glorious. Alleluia! I want to thank all who worked so hard to make our worship meaningful and memorable. The butterflies were back adorning the cross to remind us that Good Friday suffering only makes sense in light of Easter resurrection. Thank you Passionate Worship Team. Thanks also for the beautiful antependia hanging down from the communion table and /or pulpit with the seasonal symbols on them. We look forward to seeing more as the year progresses. Our musicians continue to do us proud with organ, bells and voices. I absolutely love using our media in worship. (By the way we could really use a couple more regulars to staff the computer. See Jeff Johnson) Liturgists, ushers, greeters, communion servants, bulletin preparers, porch sweepers, Upper Room pray-ers, hospitality hosts, sound system volunteers, child care, church staff—thanks to all. It takes a village to worship together.

It was wonderful to worship with a roomful (220), but worship is just as valuable wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name. But let's try to stay closer to the 220 than the two or three.

Let me add a word about Radical Hospitality. Don't forget you are all Official Greeters of APUMC. Remember the 10 Foot Rule. Remember the 10 Second Rule. Remember the 10 Commandments. (I just threw that in.) The people who stand in the narthex to shake hands and hand out bulletins are "Ministers of First Impressions." If you aren't friendly, the church isn't friendly. Thanks to those who take somebody home with them or to a restaurant after worship. I remember a single woman who said to me, "I come every Sunday in the secret hope that somebody will invite me home for fried chicken." I wonder if it has happened yet. The hospitality of the church has to start outside the church. Thanks again for the new sign. Thanks to those who tend the grounds. Thanks to those who actually invite someone to come to church with them. Our church will grow with new disciples when evangelism changes from getting people to come in to getting church members to go out.

And a word about Risk-Taking Mission and Service. I see three things that really qualify for the term: the APUMC Food Bank, the upcoming Interfaith Hospitality Network ministry, and the Sustainable Works canvass of the Audubon Park area. Will we have the servants to actually do these significant ministries? I wonder if the first thing the risen Jesus did on Easter morning after folding the grave clothes was stretch.

See you in Church, APUMC!

Pastor Carl