

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART....

The subject of de-cluttering the church came up in a committee meeting recently.

It seems we have "stuff" in rooms, closets and hallways that are never used. Nobody remembers what they were once used for, who brought them/left them, or what plans we have for them. Let's organize a de-cluttering day. Let's go at the task like Sherman marching to the sea. Let's create a "free to be in the here and now" mentality instead of a "we-usta" mentality. Let's stop filling our space with artifacts of the past and develop a forward look while we look around at our stuff.

My South African friend, Roland Rink, sent me this word from his colleague at *The Upper Room*. I like the thought, especially the reminder about good boundaries.

Organizing is not about making things look tidy and neat, though that is often a welcome by-product.

It is about:

- making your surroundings and your belongings work for you.
- having power over your things instead of your things having power over you.
- making room to enjoy what you have, rather than being burdened by it.

When we experience the stress of working in an overwhelming and confusing environment, we must face one basic question, "How much is enough?" To really get control, we need to *define where we will draw the line*. As an exercise in making room for new possibilities, see if you can answer any of the following questions:

- a) When will I own enough office supplies, books, electronic gadgets, CD's, etc. ?
- b) When will I have scheduled enough events, meetings, lunches, etc. ?
- c) When will I have collected enough books, gifts and mementoes, photos, magazines, etc. ?
- d) When will I have made enough of a commitment to work, church, school, relatives, an organization, etc. ?
- e) When will I have said "yes" enough to (name someone who demands a lot of your time) ?

Go ahead and stretch yourself! Include family and friends in the conversation. Setting a boundary in even one of these areas can impact your life in a significantly positive way.

See you in Church, APUMC!

Pastor Carl