

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

You can count on some things happening every year at the same time. The swallows return to Capistrano and the buzzards return to Hinkley, Ohio, for example, the same time every year. To my knowledge, nobody has written a song about the buzzards so that is why so few know about them. But now you know and your lives will never be the same.

For I don't know how many years the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UMC always met the third week of June. This meant that our pastors were never home for Father's Day. This year was different. A change was made. (Yes, CHANGE!) Annual Conference was scheduled one week later and I got to preach my first Father's Day sermon at APUMC. I also got feted to a great dinner by my lovely wife. I had to settle for an email and two phone calls from the P.K.'s. I'm not complaining because the two sons have kids of their own and were getting the royal treatment by their little ones in Portland. The daughter is in Ireland as we speak. I'm glad our younger PNW pastoral families finally got a little normalcy to enjoy on Father's Day this year.

The change of Annual Conference schedule meant we could not meet at the University of Puget Sound as usual. We will use the Conference Center in Pasco instead. Nobody knows what to expect, but we will survive.

So what happens at Annual Conference? The conference budget is decided upon, as are the missional priorities for the next year. Any legal transactions are approved. Reports of the previous year's ministries are shared. Retirees are honored. This year we will release from active ministry our beloved former pastor Keat Yeoh. Great worship with great singing and preaching are always hallmarks of United Methodist Annual Conferences. This year we will hear from Mike Slaughter, the pastor of a former rural parish grown into a mega-church in Ohio. (Ohio is known for three things: dead presidents, great preachers, and timely buzzards. Did you know I was from Ohio?)

APUMC will be well represented at AC this year by Bob Kem, Lou Dobberstein, Melva Lohstroh (Inland District UM Women Pres.), Amanda Nichol (Young Adult Member), Matt Nichol (Page), and some other preacher from Ohio. Pray for us.

See you in Church, APUMC!

Pastor Carl