

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

I don't want to alarm you, but CHRISTMAS is coming. I hope you have been able to experience Advent without CHRISTMAS crowding it out. CHRISTMAS is the cultural elephant in America's living room. It even crowds its big rump into the sanctuary of the church and takes a seat in the front pew. It's hard to see around it. It's hard to get around it. And after CHRISTMAS comes and goes, it is even hard to get over it. And let's not even talk about clean up!

CHRISTMAS dominates. CHRISTMAS isn't all bad. It's just so big and powerful that it requires some careful management of everything from finances to scheduling to spirituality. Today, if you want to be a Christian disciple and not just a CHRISTMAS Christian, you have to become a CHRISTMAS mahout. A mahout is an elephant "cowboy". Minus the Stetson and the spurs. It is an amazing thing to observe a mahout atop an elephant or walking beside one. The mahout is in charge of the elephant, not the other way around. Are you in charge of CHRISTMAS, or is CHRISTMAS in charge of you?

What do you say to an elephant to make it go? Giddyup? Mush? Charge? Better yet, what do you say to make one stop?

See you Church, APUMC!

Pastor Carl