

# A WORD FROM REV. SMITH

## *They will know we are Christians...*

Sometimes a serious message comes wrapped in humor as in the following tale:

An honest man is being tailgated by a stressed-out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turns yellow just in front of him. He stops at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman hits the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she misses her chance to get through the intersection with him.

As she is still in mid-rant, she hears a tap on her window and looks up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer orders her to exit her car with her hands up. He takes her to the police station where she is searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approaches the cell and opens the door. She is escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer is waiting with her personal effects. He says, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, gesturing to the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the chrome plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, and the 'What Would Jesus Do' and the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper stickers. Naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."

Some folks wear their faith on their sleeve (or their bumper!) instead of living it, but Jesus reminds us:

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:35*

### **On a personal note:**

The time for leaving you is growing closer and I'm filled with mixed emotions. There is so much to do and so much I will leave undone. I'll be taking two weeks off this month to focus on packing for our upcoming move. The schedule is as follows:

- **May 15<sup>th</sup>**, Pentecost Sunday, Rev. Dr. Coy Hinton will preach. Coy needs no introduction as you know him well.
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Rev. Dr. Tara Paul will preach. Tara currently serves as Associate Pastor of Birmingham UMC in Alpharetta. She is smart, funny, edgy and energetic; I know you will enjoy hearing her speak.
- **June 5<sup>th</sup>**, will be my last Sunday in the pulpit at CPFUMC.
- **June 12<sup>th</sup>**, Rev. Dr. Stuart Gulley will preach.
- **June 19<sup>th</sup>**, your new pastor will be with you.

Peace,

Vicki