



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

August 2010

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

This will obviously come as no surprise to you, but **SUMMER IS HERE!** I hope that you are able to keep cool. *It is HOT outside!!!* The temperature hasn't made it into the 100's yet, but I have no doubt that we will get here sooner than we would like.

I'm curious; what you are doing to stay cool. I remember the times we would open the windows at night trying to take advantage of any breeze that might be present. When things really got bad (and dry), we would go outside and "hose" the water cooler pads to increase the humidity inside. Boy, was I ever thrilled when the first window air conditioning unit was installed. It was noisy; true, but the cooling was heavenly. Finally, of course, central air changed our whole inside-the-house weather experience. I wish I could say that such improvements led to increased valuable family experiences at home – enjoying the coolness together. But this did not seem to have been the case. Cool was nice, however...and still is!

I don't know if it's any consolation, but we're not the only ones who are enduring heat. Significant portions of the North Eastern United States have already recorded temperature readings of 100+. Can you imagine how they are getting by! Only last Sunday, I learned that a friend's wife recently returned from Germany. When I asked him how she enjoyed her "journey back to the country of her birth," he replied hesitantly, "she enjoyed it, but it was hot." I then remembered that Europe was enduring an extended period of significant heat that it usually does not experience which translates to very little exposure to the comforts of air conditioning.

Then I happened to think, "how true it is!" When we feel discomfort, pain, or difficulty of any kind, we tend to focus primarily on ourselves! When this happens, we often fail to realize that countless others are no doubt experiencing similar or more devastating events in their lives. I couldn't help but feel compassion for those in other areas of our country (and world!) who are sometimes so much less prepared than I for the "ups-and-downs" of life. It's easy to see how this situation can be reversed: I'm not as prepared for some of the difficulties in life as are those from other parts of the world (or nation).

The word, "compassion," is a very good word to embrace. While we pray for peace weekly and even daily, there will be no peace apart from the mutual embracing of compassion among and between peoples. A central affirmation of the Christian faith is that "the Prince of Peace" suffered even unto death out of compassion, one that reaches out even now to you and me just as surely as it did 2,000 years ago to those living then. If only we REALLY could walk in another person's "moccasins," just think how much closer to peaceful relationships we would be... **THINK ABOUT IT!**

Meanwhile, I hope you stay cool during the rest of the summer! By the way, the church at Holland is air-conditioned! See ya there – cool – Sunday!

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Cowboy Church

We will see you all again in October!

UMW

We will resume in September!

Judy's News

Granger

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

We had 36 families come through our Food Pantry this month. Four families were new. With school being out, we gave extra with hot dogs, buns, and fixings besides the choice of hamburger or chicken. We continue to be blessed with generous donors and although our shelves are so empty, we know we will be ready for [August](#).

Bible Study

This study is going well and everyone seems to really enjoy it. It is great to read and study Jesus' life in chronological order. Everyone is welcome~ Come join us. – 6:30 P.M. on [Tuesday](#) nights.

5th Sunday Community Service

Our 5th [Sunday](#) will be August 30th at the First Baptist Church at 6:00 P.M.. Everyone is invited to come, enjoy, sing, and eat with us. It will be a wonderful night worshipping the Lord together as a community of faith.

Waco Prayer Conference

Four of us will be attending the Waco Prayer Conference on August 7th. If anyone is interested in joining us, please let me know. I have gone the past two years and it has been a wonderful experience.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on August 14th at 8:00 am the fellowship hall and breakfast will be served. They meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month.