



# News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

May 2010

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: [www.hollandum.org](http://www.hollandum.org)

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

June is another month in which there is a special Sunday we observe. You're right! June 20<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day. And, like Mother's Day in May, Father's Day is deserving of recognition. Saying this is one thing: experiencing it is quite another!

Let me elaborate a bit. Historically, fathers unfortunately have been distanced somewhat from the family scene. Tradition has us leaving the home to support the family by working at jobs that keep us out of the home for 8+ hours daily. In our economy, this sometimes translates into a second job when we can find the time, in addition to the real possibility that our wives may also have to work outside the home to "make ends meet." Distance is also apparent during the time of birth. I remember having to sit in the "waiting room" when all three of my children were born. Each time, I had to wait for a nurse to relieve me of my anxiety by telling me the details of what had just happened and assuring me all involved were doing well. On the occasion of the birth of my daughter, I remember the nurse coming into the waiting room and saying, "Mr. Shuler, you have what you've been waiting for." I responded: "And what is that?" "A girl," she said. Needless to say, I felt a bit embarrassed by my question! I was in such a state of mind that I hardly knew what I was there for! I laugh, now.

Fortunately, however, the process is much more personal now. Husbands are given the opportunity to participate in the birthing process much more and in more various ways that was once the case. Perhaps this is precisely where the "rubber meets the road" for us fathers. We can CHOOSE to be involved and the nature of what our involvement will be!

I have very good memories of my father. I am now convinced that he did the best he could do given the circumstances. I was the only child of his second wife, and three of my "half" brothers were themselves old enough to be my father. I have a niece one month older than I. I know that's not without precedent these days. But my father's age limited the amount of time he could personally give to teaching me the various skills of life. He fished to feed his family and an 8 year-old could only be a distraction for him. He "walked the sidelines" during my brother's football games, but I was not old enough to play. I was too young for my dad to take me hunting; so, I missed many of the wonderful activities dads do with their children.

While I missed a lot, I was also very blessed. He was a man of genuine faith, and that was evident even to a small boy. He was one who possessed high standards and even higher integrity. I wish I had inherited more of his gifts of athleticism, money management, and wood-working. He knew the value and benefits of physical labor and hard work. Though only a child, he gave me the gifts of faith, patience, discipline, and trust. Because of his illness, he couldn't keep all of his promises to me, but I know he "chose" to guide me in every way he could! Thanks, Dad; I love you!

One of the clearest recollections I have is of Saturday nights. Mother would see that I was ready for bed and then tell me to go kiss my father goodnight. Every Saturday, I would find him in his easy chair, unshaven, and reading the Saturday Evening Post while smoking his cigar. His cheek was prickly to the kiss, but I wouldn't trade this visual image and remembered experience for anything!

I hope you'll join me in church on Father's Day this June 20<sup>th</sup>. Then we can all of us praise and thank God for our fathers who have "chosen" and "committed" themselves to being a part of our lives. See you there.....

Yours in Christ,

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Wow! What a night. We had over 50 people there and that was so good considering the H.H.S. Baccalaureate Service was being held at the same time. The Mt. Zion Male Chorus did a super job, Patrice came unexpectedly and sang a song, and Brian Smith held everyone spellbound with his testimony and music. Mike did a good job with the youth and the barbecue was great. What a way to end a season! See you all again in October!

## UMW

We wrapped up our UMW until September with a delicious luncheon and Bible Study presented by Pastor Phil. Remember we always welcome new members!

We are still planning to go to Aldersgate sometime during the summer. Any children interested in going should contact Mary Cude. The parents are welcome also. We should have plenty of members attending that they will be well chaperoned.

## Judy's News

### **Granger**

#### **Community Food Bank –Granger UMC**

We had 40 families come through on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. I know the need will even be more this summer with high electric bills, etc... I feel so blessed we can bless so many families. It is truly God's mission. Once again we are low on can goods, ketchup, pinto beans, rice, fruit, and Jello. Thank you for all you do to help.

### **Bible Study**

We had a successful first one and have moved the time to 6:30 P.M. to accommodate a few others who work. Everyone seems excited about the way we are doing this. We will meet this Tuesday again. Anyone is welcome.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Community Service**

May 31<sup>st</sup> will be our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Community Service. It will be held at our church, 201 South Granger. The offering will go to Ministerial Alliance who helps those in need with bills.

## UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on June 12th at 8:00 am at Taqueria Sonora. They meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month.