



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

November 2008

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

As I write this article, I am sitting in the parsonage den looking out into the backyard. There seems to be more activity there. When Anita and I moved into the parsonage last June, I noted the numerous pecan trees but there seemed to be very few squirrels around. As days passed, I began to wonder what was wrong with this scenario. Other places I have lived included numerous squirrels without the lure of pecans around. Then, after a couple of months, I began to notice a squirrel or two. Today, the backyard seems to be replete with the small furry creatures, all of them scurrying around as though they just discovered a new "squirrel" playground. A closer look reveals that they are not playing at all. They're digging and burying nuts they have found in preparation for the winter that will soon be upon all of us.

The author of Proverbs writes: "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!...A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man." (6:6, 10-11)

Perhaps watching squirrels can be just as instructive as observing ants: both are creatures of God that possess the instinct for survival. That means that in order to survive, they must be in a state of constant preparation. And what is true for squirrels and ants is equally true for you and me.

Preparation is one of the keys to living! No doubt its absence is at least one of the factors in our present financial crisis that has now reached global proportions. Its presence accounts for many of the accomplishments that we experience. It accounts for the success of last Saturday's Garage Sale at St Paul UMC, and it most certainly accounts for the successful Cowboy Church service at Holland UMC on October 19th, the first service of Fall 2008. All accomplishment requires thought, preparation, and execution. It's true in life.

With our nation's present fiscal conditions and international military involvements, this year's November 4th elections loom before us with increased urgency. Careful thought is required as is our meticulous research into the issues so vital to all of us. Finally, we **MUST** follow-up with our actions and this means we **MUST VOTE**. This year of all years, I hope each one of us will make the effort to cast our ballots thereby letting our nation and the world know how seriously we take both our privileges and responsibilities!

In closing, consider the squirrel...or is it the ant.....survival depends on it!

In Christ,
Phil Shuler

UMM/UMME

The newly formed United Methodist Men will meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am at the Fellowship Hall of the church. They will meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month. A ride will follow for anyone that wants to participate.

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Judy's News

New Calling –Granger UMC

Our Granger church has received a calling of starting a “Feed the Hungry Food Bank”. The school is already collecting can goods for this bank as well as other churches committing to it. We need to have our pantry full by November 20th, our kick-off date for this. We do have the faith of a mustard seed and know with the community coming together, this will be done. We are told to “Love our neighbors as ourselves” and none of us like to go hungry. I have asked you as my sister church to help me in this endeavor. I know this is going to be a great blessing to so many hurting families and in turn will be a blessing to us. Thank you for helping!

Our 5th Sunday Community Service will be help at the Granger 1st United Methodist on November 30th at 6:00 P.M... Brian has offered to help me with the singing. Come and join us and witness a community coming together in praising the Lord!

Monthly Luncheons

November’s luncheon will be on November 19th since Thanksgiving is the following week. Place will be announced. We will plan to have it at 11:45 am.

News!

The Wednesday Night Bible Study is growing and growing. Come and join us. Pastor Phil has a unique way of teaching with Communion following. We are being blessed and fed. Praise the Lord! We meet at 6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Give and Save

You are invited to an Open House Sunday, November 9th from 9am to 5pm at Unique Celebrations in Bartlett. Unique Celebrations is a flower and gift shop located at 129 N Evie (next to the Post Office in Bartlett).

Bring a non-perishable food item for a needy family and receive 25% off an item of your choice.

Plan to come by after church. Patsy will be helping with the Open House. Hope to see you there!

Future Dates to Remember

| Date | Time | Location | Event |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------|--|
| Nov 4 th | 7 am– 7pm | Kuhlmann Ctr | National Elections |
| Nov 8 th | 8:30 am-?? | Fellowship Hall | UMM/UMME Meetings |
| Nov 16 th | 5:00 pm | Hegar Farm | Cowboy Church |
| Nov 19 th | 1:00 pm | Fellowship Hall | UMW Meeting |
| Nov 23 rd | 11:00 am | HISD Cafeteria | Community Thanksgiving Service |
| Nov 25 th | 11:00 am | HISD Cafeteria | Community Thanksgiving Lunch |
| Nov 30 th | 6:00 pm | Granger UMC | 5 th Sunday Community Service |
| Dec 21 st | 7:00 pm | Holland FUMC | Candlelight Service |
| Dec 22 nd | 7:00 pm | Hegar Farm | Cowboy Church |
| Jan 18 th | 5:00 pm | Hegar Farm | Cowboy Church |