



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

October 2009

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

As I write this, I am looking out of the church office window and staring at a “wet” parking lot! It has rained once more during the night and early morning. Having been through the summer with hardly any rain, the recent downpours come as a welcomed gift! Fortunately our rain has not been as severe as in other parts of the Texas and the South. Once again, God is giving us the ingredients for life.

As I look out, memories flood my mind. I remember as a child the beauty of the setting sun as its radiance sent rays breaking through the dark clouds following a hard downpour. I remember the words of an old gospel hymn sung at revivals I attended as a youth: “Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done.” Then there are the words of a song composed by my five year old son (many years ago): “When the rain comes down, it will rain on some of my toys (pronounced *tau-eeys*).” But enough nostalgia! Rain brings smiles, joy, and sighs of relief. It also brings prayer for those whose rains brought flooding, destruction, and even tragedy.

Not a day goes by that I do not marvel at God’s creation. No doubt you’ve already noticed this listening to my Sunday morning Pastoral Prayers. Creation is such that it is literally filled with life and all the ingredients needed for life. And, from my faith perspective, it all comes from God as a gift. Even the difficult times we are now experiencing economically are filled with hope and made a little easier to handle with the knowledge that God is near and continuing to create!

Two things come to me from this thought. First, we can join God in becoming creative in the way we handle our difficulties. We can pray with one eye open always looking for ways to be God’s co-creator in a world in need of healing. Second, we can always live in a spirit of thanksgiving and hope, knowing that we are never alone and that God continues to be the One on whom we can ultimately depend.

This, I think, is one of the messages that came out of our Charge Conference held last Sunday (Sept. 20) at Holland. We gathered with thankful and hopeful hearts as we shared God’s gifts among us as two separate – though related – faith communities: Holland First UMC and St Paul UMC. What a joy it is to know that through our faith we can become partners with God in sharing life with everyone around us. I hope that’s your attitude! I hope you will perform a random act of kindness or express a welcomed word of love to someone near to you, or even to a stranger.

Remember, “count your many blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done” and be THANKFUL. See you in church...

Yours in Christ,
Philip Shuler

Cowboy Church

October, the 18th (3rd Sunday) at 5:00 P.M. our kick off Cowboy Church will be held at the Hegar's. Ed Stockton will provide the music and our own Pastor Phil will bring the message. Mike Urbantke is providing barbecue. Plan to be there and bring a friend.

Judy's News

Granger

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

32 more families received food this month. Our pantry is empty of all can vegetables and beans. We would appreciate any help you can give.

Bible Study

Anyone is welcome to come and join our Bible Study on the book of Acts. Tuesday nights at 6:00 P.M.

5th Sunday Community Service

We had a great turn out for our 5th Sunday service. Music was provided by the various churches. The next one will be in November at the United Brethren church.

Exciting News!!!

On Sunday the 29th we received the membership of Kristi Harris and her two sons, Rivers (4 yrs) and Hagen (2 yrs) were dedicated. It was a celebration of their birthdays as well so everyone enjoyed "Sponge Bob" cake after church.

What's New?

Reporter: **Doris Severson**

Fifth Quarter

We continue to support this event held on Friday nights after the home football games for the Holland High School students. We have two more games in October. Thanks for the generous amount of drinks given so far and contributions.

Ellen Truesdale is recovering in Reliant Rehab Unit in Round Rock recovering from surgery. Please keep Ellen in your prayers for her speedy recovery. Also remember her husband, Chuck and her as they continue to support her.

A non-denominational Bible Study for Middle School Students and their younger siblings has been started by Mike and Melany Cearley as well as other local parents. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 5:30 pm at the home of the Cearley's. This is a great service that is being provided for our youth by these parents.

If you have news you want included let Doris Severson or Betty Jett know!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Oct 7 th	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
Oct 10 th	8:30 am	UMM/UMME	Fellowship Hall
Oct 18 th	5:00 pm	Cowboy Church	Hegar Farm
Oct 20 th	8:00 am	UMW trip to Glen Rose	Meet at the church
Oct 21 st	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
Nov 15 th	5:00 pm	Cowboy Church	Hegar Farm
Dec 21 st	???	Cowboy Church	Tentative Date

If you have any events to add, please give the information to Betty Jett.