



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

April 2010

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

My, how time flies! It seems like Lent has just started and I realize that Easter is almost on us. Palm Sunday is this coming Sunday, as I write this. My regret is that I have hardly had the time to really focus on this Church Season as I would like. But that's so true with so many things!

This has always been a special season for me since my Father died in 1949. As I have no doubt told you before, he was buried on Good Friday of that year, and I have always found that to be a meaningful event for me. What I have come to realize is that Easter is not a time to focus on DEATH, but it is a time to celebrate LIFE! The LIFE I am referring to has a dual meaning. First, it refers to the quality LIFE God has given us through a relationship with his Son, Jesus Christ. To live a life in, with, and for Christ is to truly experience this earthly LIFE with a quality only God can offer. Such a LIFE enables us to laugh when there is something funny to laugh about: it also enables us to laugh when there is truly nothing apparent to laugh about! Such a LIFE enables us to smile assuringly and confidently around others with whom we come into contact. It also enables us to smile when we would rather tend punish ourselves for our mistakes and faults. Such a LIFE enables us to ask forgiveness for our human weaknesses in the confidence that God will willingly and gladly extend his loving hand of forgiveness. Such a quality of LIFE is worth every minute – no, every second – of our breathing, because it enables us to see ourselves as persons not only deserving of love but recipients of God's and our own self-love!

The second half of the dual meaning of the celebration of LIFE is the one that begins at the moment of death. This aspect of our celebration is what we usually associate with Easter celebration. We are assured in scripture that Jesus' resurrection constitutes the victory over death that God also offers each one of us as believers through our faith and trust in Him! But notice: our being assured by scripture and our "faith" in Jesus Christ just that – FAITH, not proof. There are those who would view our Easter worship through skeptics' eyes. They believe in nothing but empirical scientific evidence. You know, however? That kind of thinking takes the real vitality of life out of the equation! If we only believe in what we can see, most of us would be motionless. If we only have faith in what is provable, think of all the joy we would miss. A successful marriage based on genuine respect and intimacy is not subject to proof beforehand. True discovery in human life is based on someone stepping out in faith, trusting that some unknown discovery vital to human life is just a few more steps or experiments away. Exploration of every form – albeit in space or in the realms of thought – requires one who is willing to take the gamble – the RISK – of faith.

I invite you to experience LIFE this Easter. At Holland UMC, we will be celebrating Palm Sunday on April 28, with palms and all. There will be a special Good Friday Service at 6:00 PM, April 2nd. Then, of course, we will experience "LIFE" worship at our regular 9:00 o'clock worship service. This will be an "extra" special service, because we will be receiving the participants of our Confirmation Class into full membership of Holland First United Methodist Church. I invite you to affirm LIFE and experience the richness of God's grace!

See you then.... In Christ,

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Cowboy Church

Doris Lange did a great job getting food there for the Cowboy church April 21st. There was plenty! The service was great with Randy Evens bringing the message. Noel Lovelette and the Cowboys for Hire were very good also. We will have to have them again. **The next Cowboy church is April 18th.** The weather "should" be nicer. Am getting the entertainment lined up. Pastor Phil will bring the message.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on April 10th at 8:30 am at the Fellowship Hall of the church. They meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month. Stay tuned for breakfast plans.

UMW

The next meeting will be **April 28th at the fellowship hall @ 1:00 pm**. Pastor Phil is bringing a session on John's letters. Come and visit UMW and hear a good Bible lesson. We are gathering bags of items for Haiti and other devastated areas UMCOR helps. If anyone wants to get one together, here are the items needed:

Place in a plastic bag:

hand towel (15" X 25" up to 17" X27") (no kitchen towels)

Washcloth

comb (large and sturdy, no pocket size)

1 Nail file or Fingernail Clipper (No emery boards or toenail clippers)

1 Bath size Bar of Soap (3 oz and up)

1 Toothbrush (single brushes in original wrappers) No child sizes.

6 Adhesive Plastic Strips Sterile Bandages

We will be taking these on April 17th to District Day Apart. Thanks.

Judy's News

Granger

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

Our Food Pantry lost 30 pounds of hamburger due to a power outage. Praise God we had enough in what I bought for this month. Our outreach was down, maybe because of Spring break. We are not sure. Have had a couple calls since then. I am expecting a big one in April since March was light. Even being light we had two new families. By light I mean 25 families versus the 35-37 we have been having.

Our Ministerial Alliance in Granger helps meet the cost of utilities and they are broke. A plea has been sent out to all the churches and families to help as there are so many who just can't meet the cost of the utility bills. It is just a rough time for everyone.

Future Dates to Remember

Date	Time	Event	Location
Apr 7th	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
Apr 10 th	8:30 am	UMM/UMME	Fellowship Hall
Apr 18th	5:00 pm	Cowboy Church	Hegar's Farm
Apr 21st	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
Apr 28 th	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting	Fellowship Hall

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