



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

April 2012

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

I believe in resurrection. I believe in **the** Resurrection! Every year I become more convinced in the validity of this belief. I am annually impressed in how “resurrection” is built into the foundation of creation itself. And if we didn’t live in such a rapidly moving world, I think all of us would likewise become more assured in the validity of this belief in resurrection.

Every morning – while walking the “puppies” (dogs) – I am impressed with how nature appears to be coming alive. Grass that has displayed a brownish white color is beginning to take on a greenish appearance. I’ve already mowed TWICE this year, which means that if the rains continue, this summer looks to be a busy season pushing the mower. Trees, that for months have given the appearance of death, are beginning to yield tiny leaves of green and will soon provide shade for previously bright sunny areas. Planting time is here, or very close at hand. People of all persuasion and vocation will soon be carefully placing small seemingly lifeless seeds into the prepared ground for germination and eventual sprouting plants that will yield the fruits for harvest. Even amid the severest of drought – eased but not yet over – nature SCREAMS “resurrection” during this season of Spring! And so it goes...the season of “transformation” has arrived again this year.

What is “transformation?” Transformation is change. It is change from one state of being to another. Often we think of it as change from one state of existence to its opposite. For example, darkness to light, cold to hot, day to night and night to day, failure to success, life to death, and the like. While change by definition requires adjustment and is often accompanied by pain, it is NEVER void of life. Indeed, change often involves the struggle for life: e.g., the caterpillar that emerges from the cocoon as a butterfly – a change of form that creates a new chance at LIFE!

Change frequently presents the appearance of the absence of life (i.e., death). The seed to be planted in fertile soil gives the appearance of death, as does the cocoon. In Matthew, chapter 8, there appears the story of a “ruler” who came to Jesus saying that his daughter had died and seeking his help. When Jesus entered the ruler’s house, he was met with skeptical laughter when he told the crowd to leave saying “the girl is not dead but asleep.” And what happened? “...he went in and took the girl by the hand and she got up.” Appearance of death does not negate life!

Easter is here and we as Christians are celebrating LIFE – life that we see present in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Given our experiences the arrival each year of this beautiful season in nature’s cycle, is our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ REALLY so difficult to comprehend. Do we not learn that death is really an illusion: one that is indeed accompanied by pain and mourning, but a transformation of form, nevertheless, to a chance for a new and unique experience of LIFE? Have we become so callous in our emotions or our preoccupations that we become unable to believe in LIFE in its eternal sense? Jesus’ death and resurrection confronts us with LIFE in its eternal sense.

Join me at Holland UMC as we celebrate and joyfully express our gratitude to God for the Life He has given us through His Son! See ya there!

Phil Shuler, Pastor

REMINDER: THE EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT THE HISPANIC BAPTIST CHURCH ON 4-8-12 AT 9:00 AM

Community Breakfast

The Palm Sunday April 1st, 2012, The free Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00am. We will have our regular church service at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

Judy's News

Granger Community Food Pantry

Fifty eight families came through this month. We are still getting new ones. It was a busy day as helpers went through all we had stored in the pantry and threw out all expired items. We are now checking them as they are donated to us. It is a shame to have that waste. We just do not want the Health Department close us down because we gave a can of vegetables that was outdated. Thank you to those, Kathy and Henry, who come faithfully every week to help, and those who contribute money or staples to our mission. Believe me, I cannot say "Thank you" enough. God's mission is truly blessing the Community of Granger.

Maunday Thursday and Good Friday

We will be having those services on both evenings. Maunday **Thursday** will include washing of the feet and communion. Everyone is welcome to come. They will be at 6:00 PM at Granger FUMC.

Holland Community Food Pantry

I am so excited to know this is going to happen. Yes, they had a small one for about 5-6 families but now to open it up to the whole Community and model it after ours! They are going to have it on the 3rd **Thursday** as well. I have met with them a few times to answer questions and help direct them. Wish I could be there for opening day but I will be with ours in Granger. Please be in prayer for this mission. I know it is needed! Our church will be asked to donate every month and I pray we will (know we will in one way or the other)

Bible Study on the Book of Revelations

I just finished attending this study and was asked to facilitate one. It is by Beth Moore and a great one. I came away so very blessed. We will be starting on **Wednesday, April 11th** from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. and it will run 12 weeks. It is designed for women, but men are invited. Kathy Miller, 101B East Davilla Street (across from Dr.Pavlat's-apartment with the 2 white rockers in front in Granger) has graciously volunteered to host this in her home. Twenty five can be seated comfortably. The listening guide and weekly assignment book (Here and Now... There and Then) can be bought at any Christian store. The cost is \$10. Please let me know if you are interested in attending this. The Book of Revelations is not a book to be feared. It is a Book of Hope for all believers!

Cowboy Church

2012 – Cowboy Service

Well, Henry's gravel got a good trial run and was successful! The rain did not keep us away and I'm so glad. The night was filled with God's holiness. The music by Dave Lynn accompanied by Ed Stockton was phenomenal. The message by Don Johnson was truly meaningful and Big Mike's message was pointed to all of us...not just the youth! Wow! The fellowship with great homemade soups and cookies was fantastic. All in all it was a great way to end our 7th year of Cowboy church.

Next month we will begin our 8th year. Brian Smith is coming to bring the music. Remember it is on the 29th of April – 5th **Sunday**! Many thanks to Henry and Kathy for hosting this for 7 years and willing to do another! They are truly a blessing!