



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

August 2008

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

I admit that I am not the sports fan I was when I was in High School and College. THEN, I followed baseball teams/scores and football teams with a passion. I will always remember attending my first Cowboys football game that took place at the State Fair stadium in Dallas. What a thrill! NOW, I do well to remember whose playing in the World Series after game 3 or 4. And, I don't think I'll ever recover from the Tom Landry firing. Anyway, I've said enough about my addiction to sports in general.

Even when I was following sports more adamantly than now, I never was much of a fan of the side competitions such as All-Star games whether in football, basketball, or baseball. The exception came this year in an accompanying competition in baseball known as the All-Star Home Run Derby recently held on the eve of this year's mid-season All-Star Baseball game. The person who claimed the spotlight was a man of whom I had never heard, Josh Hamilton of the Texas Rangers. He came in second place hitting 28 home runs for the evening, a number that topped the previous record of 24. I'm not quite sure how the person who hit the most home runs for the night could come in second place, but that's what happened. The man who came in first place even said Josh should have been recognized as the real winner!

Josh Hamilton's real victory, however, resides not in this single night but with his story up to this point in time. He was the number 1 pick of the Tampa Bay Rays in 1999, a team for which he never played. He was signed right out of High School for a three and one half million dollar bonus. In a classic story of too much too soon, Josh succumbed to addictions which caused him to be barred from baseball for two years during which time he squandered his bonus money, separated from his wife and daughter, and generally hit the pits. He was picked up by Cincinnati for "peanuts" (in baseball terms), and made the team with his hitting abilities. After one solid season, he was traded to the Texas Rangers and brought 95 RBI's into the All-Star game. His story constitutes a remarkable turn around (including his personal life) which he attributes to God via his Grandmother's pleading words and tears. He now devotes himself to telling his story of how "God spared him from self-destruction and gave him a second chance..." (TDT 7/17/08 C1). It remains to be seen what Josh's future contributions to baseball will be, however, it is clear he wants to tell his story.

We all have a story to tell. It may not be as glamorous as the one Josh Hamilton can tell. But, we all impact the lives of those about us. We may not be gifted in telling a dynamic story, but we can invite others to a meaningful experience in church. Better still, we can bring them with us.... Why not this Sunday?

Grace and Peace in Christ,
Phil

Judy's News

New Calling –Granger UMC

The first 5th Sunday Community Service was a huge success. Four churches were present and Pastor Pat Cole had all of us join hands to show everyone present that we were 4 churches united to serve Christ. The talent that these churches have was awesome. Approximately 70 people attended and the fellowship and food following was great.

On August 31st we will have our 2nd one and it will be held at the Judea Baptist Missionary Church with Pastor Reese. Everyone again is asked to bring a snack. Brian Smith has agreed to come and sing two songs that evening. We pray you will find time to come too.

Monthly Luncheons

August's luncheon will be cancelled due to school starting that week. We will start back in September.

News!

I visited with Steve and Tana last week when I took the girls to camp. They have a beautiful home right on the campus and are looking forward to what God has planned for them. Steve was in his element with all the kids coming to camp. I know he helped make each one's time there that much more enjoyable.

Emmaus Walk

Mary Cude will be attending the Emmaus Walk in September. It is at Latham Springs Baptist Camp outside of West. It still is not too late for anyone else to attend.

SPECIAL FIFTH SUNDAY SERVICE

On Sunday, August 31st, Holland UMC will host the Christian musical offerings by a group known as "Paid in Full." The three members of the group are James Robertson (from Troy), Christy Self (of Marlin), and Jared Thomas (of Cameron). If the name "Thomas" looks familiar, Jared is the nephew St Paul UMC's Susan Thomas who let us know about this wonderful sound musical trio. As it turns out, "Paid in Full" has previously sung at our church. They remember the warm hospitality and are excited about returning on the fifth Sunday in August.

An Invitation to Vacation Bible School

St. Paul UMC will be conducting its Vacation Bible School on Sunday afternoon, August 17, from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. A special invitation is extended to Holland UMC children to participate. Picking up themes from the New Testament and the Old Testament, the focus of the session will be on "The Beatitudes and Jonah's Fish Story." Of course, emphasis will be upon being who God wants us to be.

If you know of children who would like to attend or who would benefit from attending, please get the names to Susan Thomas (774-8753). All are welcome, but preparations necessitate knowledge in advance of those who will be attending. Thanks

This looks to be not only a fun time, but a learning time as well.

Birth Announcement

Name: Caleigh Brant Smith Birth date: 7/16/08 Weight: 6 lbs 9 oz Length: 17 inches
Parents: Brian and Jessica Smith

Welcome the new addition to the Smith, Fagner and Petrie Families