



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

August 2012

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

It's August and we've already observed July 4th, the date for the celebration of our nation's beginnings. I hope it was a joyful celebration filled with appreciation for the blessings we enjoy.

Two thoughts come to my mind as I reflect on our nation's heritage. The first thought is about how long we have been blessed with our American way of life. Just think. For over two hundred years, we have been able to make decisions and follow through on those decisions. Our forefathers bought and paid for this freedom with their blood. As a result, we enjoy a life unparalleled in human history. Our system of government and justice is second to none. The openness with which we have offered our way of life to others around the world is evidenced in the numbers of peoples who have sought a new chance of life by entering our country. Our newspapers today still contain stories of foreign neighbors risking their lives just for an opportunity to live in America even if illegally. Our nation continues to be a sign of freedom to peoples everywhere.

The second thought concerns the responsibility we have as a nation to live out our principles through our actions both individually and internationally. I must admit that I am anxious about our future in this respect. We have made mistakes in our past, but we have also displayed a level of sensitivity and concern few nations have displayed in their past. I think of the programs we undertook in the 1940's. Yes, World War II brought destruction and devastation in many nations; however, we set ourselves to the task of rebuilding in such a way as to win the respect of peoples everywhere. How many nations can boast of literally rebuilding their enemies following their defeat? America is most certainly one of the few to initiate such programs as the Marshall Plan, and even today we continue to recruit volunteers for the Peace Corps and assistance in the improvement of human life following catastrophic events. We have a great deal for which to be thankful and of which to be proud.

We have become a powerful nation: presently, the most powerful nation on earth. No one can deny this fact. But herein lies the potential problem: are we able to be powerful and still promote those principles on which our nation was built? I refer to such principles that consist of every person's right to self-determination, to their pursuit of happiness, to freedoms, to celebrating their culture, and creating a life worthy of their faith. I hope and pray that we – as a nation of freedom and character - continue act in the highest traditions of our past. I pray we rise above the hedonistic temptations of the moment and stand tall within America and among nations by reaching out to all with both the respect for human dignity and the genuine concern for the welfare of everyone.

As the end of summer initiates another beginning of a school year, God grant that our youth learn to appreciate and follow the path of our nation's heritage.

Please know that you remain in my prayers and heart. See you on Sunday in Church.

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Community Breakfast

The September Free Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00am on the 2nd. 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

It is never too hot to serve others! Praise God for air conditioning! Many of those who came for food only have fans. They are grateful for them! 64 families came for help. Once again we had some fresh vegetables, pears, and donuts to add to our list of groceries to give them. Our pantry is almost bare, but our faith is firm on the belief that God will provide as He has done time and time again in the past.

Our new carpet looks so nice and the new fans really help. It all gave a very welcoming and fresh look to our pantry. We had plenty of help so all of the day went very smoothly. Prayer was given for those who wanted it. We delivered to one family as well. Next month this mission will be held on [August 16th](#). School supplies are needed as well as food.

5th Sunday Community Service

Our 5th [Sunday](#) in Granger was held at the 1st Baptist Church in Granger. Five churches were represented. Singing and testimonies filled the room with praises to our Lord. Delicious food and fellowship followed the service. A collection was taken for the Community Food Pantry.

UMM

The United Methodist Men will meet again in September. Enjoy August.

UMW

Our next meeting will be held on September 19, 2012 at the Fellowship Hall. Planning for the UMW service continue to be finalized. Our District Meeting will be held in Gatesville on September 15th. See Hilda Eubank for information on travel.