



# News From Holland

Newsletter of Holland First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Chris Hughes, Pastor

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Web Site: [www.gbgm-umc.org/hollandumc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/hollandumc)

## Chris' Corner

*<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

A New Creation and a Ministry of Reconciliation.

It was 1972 and I was thirteen years old. My family had just moved to Taylorsville, a small town in western North Carolina. I had begun attending the United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) during the summer, and now school was about to begin. The previous Sunday, it was announced the youth would be traveling to North Wilkesboro (about twenty miles away) to attend a revival meeting with a former gang leader from New York City.

That Sunday evening, I rode in the church van with a bunch of kids I had only known for a few weeks to a worship service unlike anything I had ever experienced. Folding chairs were set up in the convention center, and the place was packed with hundreds of kids and youth leaders and parents. On the front stage, there was a movie screen, and we watched a movie called "The Cross & The Switchblade", about how a young Texas preacher had moved to New York City to share the love of God among the street gangs. I saw a story about God's power to radically change individuals: to help them become "new creations" and to have the ability to forgive people who were attempting to kill them.

When the movie was over, Nicky Cruz, one of the gang leaders whose life was portrayed in the film, came and spoke to us from his heart about the power of God to change us from the kind of kids we were, to the kind of people God wanted us to be. (In Methodist terms, we call that "Sanctifying Grace.") The movie and Nicky's testimony were overwhelming to me. After the offering was taken us in Kentucky Fried Chicken Barrels, the young preacher from the film, David Wilkerson invited anyone who wished to know more about Jesus, or who wished to have the same kind of transforming experience to come down to the front to be prayed for.

As Pastor David spoke, I felt an unquenchable desire to have that kind of change happen in me. I pushed it down, again & again. "What would the other kids think about me?" "What if the van left, and I was left without a way home?" "What was going to happen down there at the front when they prayed for me?" That night, I confessed my own brokenness before God, and asked God to forgive me for the ways I did not love God, or my neighbors as myself. I asked God to become my friend and guide for life. And I stated my willingness to accept whatever God had for my life.

My life since has not been a straight road, but the reconciling power of God's grace has continued to draw me nearer. Part of God's grace in my life has been the desire to share the power of God's grace with others. That grace is summed up so well in the excerpt above of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians. God remakes us; God gives us a ministry, and then sends us out to be ambassadors of the grace we have experienced.

If you haven't experienced that grace for yourself, I invite you ask God for that today, or make time to talk with me or another believer about it today. If you have experienced that grace, how are you living out the ministry God has given you, and how are you serving as an ambassador for the Kingdom of God? Today is the day for you to take your ministry and ambassadorship seriously. If there is anything that is keeping you from having a good relationship with any other person, today is the day to begin praying for reconciliation.

Pastor Chris

### Sermons and Scriptures

Aug 7	Matt 14: 22-33	“Blue Ocean Strategy”
Aug 14	Matt 15: 21-28	“Canine Theology”
Aug 21	Matt 16: 13-20	“Rock Climbing”
Aug 28	Matt 16: 21-28	“Half-Full”

### Administrative Council

Since most of us have experienced the freedom of summer either by remembering the lazy summers of our own childhood or the summers of our children, we are able to conjure up happy times. Well the end of summer is approaching as the sound of school bells are soon to be ringing. How do you feel? Rested? I have heard several express the same idea. It is time to get back to a school routine. Why did God create a people that needed structure and routine to feel grounded? I am sure we could all speculate on His reasoning. Whether or not we could come to an agreement on our answer is really not necessary. The truth is we are children, His children and need structure and guidance as we pass through this world. I encourage each one of you young or old, student or teacher to look forward to the fresh new start of the coming season called Autumn. What does God have planned for each of us in the future? In all honesty, none of us know for sure. So pray, meditate and listen for the answer. Pray for Holland United Methodist Church. Where does God want us to be in “our ministry?” God’s response can be loud or in a whisper. Act on it, share it, and the Lord will bless you immensely. I encourage each of you as you enter into the newness of wherever you are to have a very “guided” day, week, year.

### Camping News

The July campout was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed the nature, socializing, worshiping and the swimming, of course. The food was delicious and we had enough left to have lunch together on Sunday. Special thanks to Kassa Willingham for all the hard work and dedication. Without her planning and efforts these camping trips would not be so successful! **THANKS KASSA!!!!**

### Judy’s News

- **LUNCHEON:** The monthly luncheon will be held on August 31st at 11:30 am at Dynasty in Temple. Everyone is welcome. The buffet has a wonderful selection, very reasonably priced-both Chinese and American food.
- **MDA:** Coleman Benner and Judy Gotcher were “locked up” for MDA and sending kids to camp. Coleman raised over \$2,000 and Judy raised \$1,275. They both thank everyone who helped make this worthy fundraiser a success.
- **UMW:** The women of the UMW sent in notebooks, construction paper, notebook paper, folders, legal pads, pencils, pens and markers to the Methodist Home in Waco to help provide the necessary school supplies for the youth there. They will be supplying the local schools with some school supplies as well

### Church Board Meeting

Mark your calendars! August 21<sup>st</sup> we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 pm. Plan to be there as our schedule will be made for Fall Festival, Cowboy Church and future campouts.

### **Prayer Circle**

The Women's Prayer Circle will meet August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm before the WWC meet to work on the quilts. A salad meal will be enjoyed so bring your prayers and something to go in a salad.

### **Local Missions**

Our church has been supporting several local mission efforts for quite some time and I think we could all benefit from being reminded about these missions.

1) **Tags from aluminum cans:** for the Ronald McDonald House in Temple. You can save all tags not just the tags from canned drinks and they add up fast in some houses. Please give them to Patsy Parmer.

2) **Non-perishable food items** for Open Arms or CLT on the first Sunday of each month. We can also contribute these items to the food pantry at the Baptist Churches in Holland or Bartlett. Just bring you item and leave them on the front pew of the church. Judy Gotcher usually delivers these items.

3) **School supplies:** These items are used to benefit the children at Holland ISD but recently the UMW supported the Methodist Home in Waco. You can buy the items on a school supply list for a specific grade or buy items that can be used by all grades like pencils, pens or notebook paper. Please give these to Betty Jett.

4) **Campbell's labels:** Labels from all Campbell's products and any of there other companies are submitted through the UMW and are used to fund purchases for other churches or missions. Please give them to Judy Gotcher.

5) **Labels For Education:** The Labels For Education on many packages are used to support the Holland PTO. The PTO uses all money raised to benefit the children at Holland ISD and over the years have purchased many items that the school needed. Trim the labels and give them to Betty Jett for delivery.

If you know of other local missions please let me know and we can get involved in those projects as well.

### **Attendance and Offering**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Offering</b>
6/26	35	\$ 421.30
7/3	40	764.00
7/10	30	327.00
7/17	45	139.00
7/24	42	370.00
7/31	38	594.00

### **Upcoming Events**

August

10<sup>th</sup>

**Women's Prayer Circle @ 5:00 pm-Salad**

21<sup>st</sup>

**Church Board Meeting @ 4:00 pm-Fellowship Hall**

27<sup>th</sup>

**Luncheon @ Dynasty in Temple @ 11:30 am**