



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

August 2009

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

During my recent journeys to Oregon and Mexico, I came across a quote that I thought was meaningful for us. "No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars or sailed to an uncharted land or opened a new heaven to the human spirit." The "kicker" that made this statement dynamic to me was the person who made it: Helen Keller, a person who never literally *saw* "stars," an "uncharted" [or charted] land, or any "heaven" much less a "new" one. Born blind, she overcame obstacles I have never experienced and lived a life ever grateful to God. ...and I complain of bad days!

To be sure, many are hurting as I write this message to you. There are hurts every kind including physical, emotional, spiritual, loneliness, separation, financial, and the list goes on. Under such conditions, it is difficult to greet each day with a smile. Smile or no, the only way to face our problems and fears IS one day at a time.

I recently came across an article on the internet that offered some hope to me, personally. I want to share a few insights from the article with you. The article was, "Overcoming Fear and Worry about Finances;" but if you will allow me, I would like to change the title to "Overcoming Fear and Worry about..." You fill in the blank!

There were several suggestions from the article that I want to lift for consideration. The first is: "Practice Gratitude Daily." Often, perceived problems and pain overpower our awareness of the blessings we have received. The article suggests we find one thing (only one) to focus on each day. We have family, a roof over our heads, friends who care, beauty around us even as the seasons change. Why not make a list now for your own benefit? Each day, thank God for life: past, present, and future.

The second is "Practice Generosity." Thinking of others does tend to move the center of our attention from ourselves to other persons. Call a friend or relative. Pay a compliment, open a door, offer a little help, or really listen to someone. The article suggests we "challenge" ourselves to "do one generous thing for someone else everyday." Small acts count, because generosity of is "life-affirming" and self fulfilling.

The third suggestion I would lift up is in the form of the author's testimony: "I surrender fear and choose to be guided by faith in all my actions and choices today." I would emphasize the word, "faith," which is so vital to me and I hope to you! By faith, I mean a commitment to and intimacy with the God of all life, the compassionate author of love and joy, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the One whom we honor and glorify in worship! It is my prayer that all our fears, problems, and pain be removed, but even more that we come to the realization that God IS WITH US through our fears, problems, and pain. I hope to see you in church, Sunday. In Christ....

Phil Shuler

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UMW

We won't meet again until September 2009. Join us when we resume meeting.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on August 8th at 8:30 am at the Fellowship Hall of the church maybe a ride if it is not too HOT!

Judy's News

Granger

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

We had 27 families come through in July. August we have extended our hours so will be opened from 2:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. I am expecting 30-40 families to come. We had five new ones this month. Times are hard and the recipients are very grateful. Thanks to all of you that support the Food Bank with food items and financially. You are blessing a lot of people!

Exciting News!

Our Bible Study is going very well. Currently we have five attend with possibility of growing. We are studying the book of Acts and everyone is welcome. It is Tuesday nights at 6:30 P.M.

5th Sunday Community Service

August 30th we will once again hold our service, this time at Judea Missionary Baptist Church.

Holland

Bible Study continues throughout the summer. Come join us!

Cowboy Church

To be held again in October 2009!

Want to go green? The newsletter is available via email and will save the trees by not printing. Let Betty Jett know if you would like to get your newsletter electronically at bjett@holland.isd.tenet.edu