



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church
December 2007 Rev. Victor Pena, Pastor
Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR

How do you say Thank You?

Thanksgiving is the season of being thankful and is a time for reflection. Inevitably around the table the question arises, what are you thankful for... And the answer is usually something like – my family, my job, my church, my good health! We all agree that God has done so much for us.

But I want you to take a moment and dig a little deeper. I want you to think about your response. How do you say Thank You to God?

During children's sermon at Holland, Larry Norville asked us what we felt like when someone did something nice for us. We are thankful! Of course, but that isn't enough. We should ACT like we are thankful. We should take time to TELL them that we are thankful.

Larry gave the children thank you cards to write and give out! What a great idea if we could send a thank you card to God. How should we respond?

I am going to TELL him by saying I am thankful for each member of this church. Karen & I prayed that our new church home would accept us and love us and allow us to use our gifts in ministry. We have quickly been surrounded by new family. And we are thankful!

I personally know that the Cearley family is very grateful this week that Mike's accident involved just his heel bone. It could have been much worse, but instead was an opportunity for them to give thanks that it wasn't! The family didn't grumble about what happened, but instead they gave praise for what didn't happen! WOW what a testimony!

Sometimes, it's just how you look at a situation – the old is the cup half full or half empty syndrome! I prefer it half full with free refills.

Now back to my question -- take a moment and think about our church – the building and the family. Are you truly thankful that you are a part of this group? Or is there something missing. Has it evolved into a routine? Perhaps you think that your attendance or tithe is all that is required. WRONG!

God gave you an awesome gift in the form of Church and Church Family! Have you said thank you lately? How do you do it? When you leave this place are you smiling or frowning? Do you come to church and criticize or complain? Or do you come to praise and fellowship and share your testimonies! Do you invite others to join the fellowship and TELL them what He has done for you? Are you using the talents that God gave you to further the ministry of the church?

---- **How did you say thank you to God!**

Also From The Pastor

A Change in Worship Service ---

You will be noticing some changes in the worship bulletin and worship service. In order to allow Pastor a little more time to speak, we must remove some of the busy-ness in the service. Since Pastor serves two churches we must keep on a strict time table!

These changes will be most noticeable in the fact that we will do all of the singing – or praising – at the beginning of our service, followed by children's time, offering, prayer and the message.

Pastor will also offer a time following the message for those who need prayer or healing to come to the front and speak with him, while the rest of the congregation will be dismissed.

The biggest change will be in the area of announcements and joys and concerns. Please look for the small memo pads in the pew and write down any prayer concerns you wish Pastor and his Prayer Warriors to pray over. This is where you will have an opportunity to add details, and/or hospital room numbers or telephone numbers for the Pastor.

If you wish Pastor to call you or want to visit with him, please write it down and hand it to him after the service! He has so many things going thru his mind that often times he forgets if it's not written down!

During our prayer time, Pastor will ask for names of those you would pray for. At this time, please call out the name of the person or persons and the congregation will respond by saying – Lord, hear our prayer!

We will not recognize birthdays and anniversary's during the service but ask you to recognize them in Sunday School or through out the week. Please check the newsletter for these dates.

Your prayers and cooperation in this area of ministry will be greatly appreciated and we are looking forward to great things!

We MUST begin to understand that there are other ways to worship God and strive not to be imprisoned or unchangeable as to not appreciate or understand this when it happens. Allowing ourselves to react in a different way perhaps with a smile and by saying that's wonderful! I am so happy for you!

'Your way' is not always the right way or the only way. We must allow ourselves to experience faith in God's way.

We must remember that for as many people that are in the pews, each and every one of us has a different way of expressing our faith and worship.

If we worked as hard on worshipping the Lord and uplifting each other, as we do on criticizing and judging others motives, think of the difference we would experience in our lives.

If we worked as hard on unity as we do on keeping separate think of the difference we could make!

Community Candlelight Service

The Candlelight Service will be on the 16th of December at 7:00 pm at our church. Please remember to bring snack items to share.

Getting To Know You By Doris Severson

Tom and Flo Lane moved to Holland from Cedar Park in the summer of 2005. They have one son, William, who lives in Valley Mills with his wife, Carol. The Lanes have 2 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. Tom's father is 85 years old and lives in Kerrville. He has 1 brother living and 1 deceased. He is originally from the Weslaco/Mercedes area, graduated high school in Austin in 1966 and San Diego State University in 1973. He served in the US Navy and spent time in Vietnam.

Tom's grandfather was a strong influence in his life while teaching him about growing onions, tomatoes, lettuce and cabbage in the valley.

Tom has worked as a truck driver, mechanic, and software engineer. He is currently manager of Empire Automotive in Austin. He collects guns and likes hunting.

Flo was born in Vancouver, BC where she graduated high school in 1973. She attended business school in San Diego. She used to bake bread to sell. She worked for the state for 21 years in child welfare and also taught aerobics. Her hobbies include playing cards, knitting, and the computer. She collects plates, sea shells and sand dollars.

Tom and Flo met while he was in the navy in Vancouver, BC and married 1 year later. They have spent 2 years of their married life in Belgium.

Both like riding motorcycles. They will celebrate their 40th anniversary December 9, 2007.

Cowboy Church

Approximately seventy-five people gave “Thanks” at our November service. Music was provided by our ever-faithful Brandon Spinn and by the Western Playboys. Mike Urbantke shared his wisdom about each person being unique and used deer antlers as his teaching tool. Pastor Victor summed it all up with his inspirational message... Everyone is ready to come back on December 20th for our Christmas Program which is always special. Remember it will be soup night!

Judy's News

Outreach

Oh, how God can use all of us! Off on another outreach go I! You may want to go with me. I will be bringing the message at Breckenridge on Dec. 2nd. Pastor Steve and Tana Nance are going on a cruise. I am so excited about going back there! Please be in prayer for me and Patrice Monigan, my daughter. Patrice is joining me on this trip and going to sing. I just know it will be a day full of God's glory.

Walk to Emmaus

Jessica Smith and I attended this walk Thursday evening through Sunday evening. We encourage all of you to think about a commitment to go. All we can say is that is the closest walk with God you could ever experience. At least it was for me! Just remember the story of the Walk to Emmaus Luke 24:13-53. This walk is based on it. Now you have 5 Emmaus walkers within our church walls, Pastor Victor and Karen, Brian and Jessica, and me. Last year we had zero! We serve an awesome God!

Adult Bible Study

Still have room for more! We are studying a book, “You Can Get Bitter or Better” by James Moore. Doris Severson collects \$1.00 each week from everyone in attendance to benefit a family in need at Christmas. Besides growing in our faith, we are a mission too.

Monthly Luncheons

This monthly luncheon will be on Wednesday November 28th at 1:00 P.M. at Dynasty. Dynasty is on the road to the Airport – west side of IH35. It is Dutch Treat. Their buffet usually runs between \$6-7.00. Come and join us for good food and fellowship. They do serve American food as well as Chinese. Due to busy holiday schedules we will not have the luncheon in December but resume in the 2008.

UMW News

In October Kathy Hegar, Roberta Petrie, Judy Gotcher, Mary Cude and Betty Jett visited the Methodist Children's Home in Waco. After a tour of the main facility we also toured the Boy's Ranch. The staff members do an amazing job with those children entrusted to their care. They have their own school on campus and a very large number of their graduates go on to college. We did learn that they no longer accept apportionments so we should consider a special offering for them.

Our November meeting was held on the 19th at the home of Doris Severson. Doris gave the program on “The Journey Through The Wilderness To The Promise Land”. Our December meeting will be held on December 5th at the home of Kathy Hegar at 11:30 am for our Christmas Luncheon. Everyone should remember to bring a child's toy for Open Arms.