



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

December 2008

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

By the time you read this article, Thanksgiving may have come and gone. What a wonderful time with our families and friends for us to express our gratitude for the harvests and blessings of the year! As a child, Thanksgiving was always a signal that Christmas was “on the way.” I was thankful for that! Commercialism seemed to echo my sentiments as ads related to Christmas became numerous and cities began to put up their Christmas decorations. Now, of course, such activity begins before Thanksgiving. In our house, for example, we’ve already seen a couple of Christmas movies! And there will be more...and more...and more.

In spite of the economic downturn, Christmas will still be a wonderful time this year. Materialism doesn’t make Christmas: God does...and people do! Some of my fondest memories include a cedar tree just cut and brought in from a nearby field. I remember decorating it and putting the star on the top. The climactic point to it all was when we plugged in the lights for the first time. It really looked like a brightly green, decorated, snowball! But, who cared? It was OUR Christmas tree around which we could laugh, sing, talk, “research” the presents hoping to open one early, and celebrate family-life together.

Even now, before Thanksgiving, I get excited just thinking of these times; times which can never be duplicated, yet remain eternally cherished. Christmas is a time for building memories, and this can be done regardless of our circumstances or finances. This year, we all can experience an incomparable TIME OF JOY! God sent His son, Jesus, to share Himself with us in such a way as to give the gift of life.

To help in our celebration, I want to remind you of two special services that I find very exciting. The first will occur at the Holland UMC on Sunday evening, December 21st, at 7:00 P.M. This Christmas Candlelighting Service will follow the traditional “Lessons in Carols” format. The second is our traditional Cowboy Church Christmas celebration on Monday evening December 22 at 7:00 P.M. Of course, this special service will be held at the regular Cowboy Church location, Hegar’s Barn! We want to invite the entire Holland community to these beautiful events!

I pray this will be a wonderful Christmas season for each one of you. I hope you will send and receive many Christmas greetings and the season will brighten your lives. Let your church contribute to your joy this Christmas...

Yours in Christ,
Phil Shuler, Pastor

UMM/UMME

The newly formed United Methodist Men will meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am at the Fellowship Hall of the church. They will meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month. A ride will follow for anyone that wants to participate.

UMW

The Holland UMW met on Nov. 19th at the Fellowship Hall and enjoyed a wonderful program presented by Hilda Eubank. The next meeting will be a Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 3rd at 11:30 am at the home of Kathy Hegar. Please bring an unwrapped gift for a child and these will be taken to the Open Arms Church in Temple.

Judy's News

New Calling –Granger UMC

We opened our doors to the “Feed the Hungry Food Bank” on Thursday the 20th of November and had 18 families come and get food. It was awesome and how grateful they were. Hallmark Lanes in Killeen raised a little over \$400 for this cause and bought food that we needed plus gave \$230 in gift certificates to HEB. We gave each family a \$10 certificate today along with the food. How awesome is God!! Starting in December our Food Bank will be opened twice a month.

Our 5th Sunday Community Service will be help at the Granger 1st United Methodist on November 30th at 6:00 pm. Brian has offered to help me with the singing. Come and join us and witness a community coming together in praising the Lord!

Candlelight Service in Granger will be held on December 23rd at our church. Hope some of you will attend. It will be at 6:00 pm.

Monthly Luncheons

No monthly lunches until January. Just too many things going on with Christmas!

News!

The Wednesday Night Bible Study is growing and growing. Come and join us. Pastor Phil has a unique way of teaching with Communion following. We are being blessed and fed. Praise the Lord! We meet at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Future Dates to Remember

Date	Time	Location	Event
Dec 3rd	11:30 am	Kathy Hegar's	UMW Christmas Luncheon
Dec 13th	8:30 am	Fellowship Hall	UMM/UMME Meeting
Dec 21st	7:00 pm	Holland FUMC	Candlelight Service
Dec 22nd	7:00 pm	Hegar Farm	Cowboy Church
Jan 18th	5:00 pm	Hegar Farm	Cowboy Church