



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

February 2009

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Boy, what a week! Wasn't January's Cowboy Church wonderful! It was great to hear Steve Nance and to visit with him and Tana. And it was also great to visit with Victor and Karen Pena who were there. How sweet it was! And this was only the beginning of the week.

On Wednesday, I submitted Holland UMC's final 2008 report that will be included in the Conference Journal, and it was really a good one! We paid all of our apportionments, and we are up-to-date on all of our bills, etc. I am proud of our 2008 report...and that doesn't even begin to cover all of our ministries at Holland. Congratulations!

On Tuesday, all eyes were glued to our TV sets and the inauguration of our 44th President, Barack Obama. While I don't envy the tasks that lay ahead of him, I do agree with many of the commentators who have stated that he brings with him a sense of excitement and hope reflected in Americans that our country has not seen in many years. Whether you supported him or not, he really needs all of the prayer that can be directed upwards in his behalf. We all need prayer, because the path ahead of us is uncharted and only God's guidance can carry us safely along the way!

So, I guess this new year (2009) is a new beginning in more ways than one. I also attended the first Pastor's meeting of 2009 that was held at St John's UMC in Georgetown. There we learned that our district was able to meet its fiscal ministry goals asked of us by our Conference and general UMC. Several events were highlighted in which I know Holland will want to participate.

The first is DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING to be held in the First UMC of Belton, February 8, from 2:30—5:30. The occasion will help our leaders at Holland UMC become even more skilled in fulfilling their respective tasks. I hope that we will have good representation.

The second is our DISTRICT LAITY BANQUET to be held at the Mayborn Center in Temple, February 24th, at 6:30 p.m. The feature speaker will be our new bishop, **Bishop Mike Lowry**. This is a great opportunity for us to meet our new bishop of whom I have yet to hear *anything* but glowing comments. This really sounds like a great, inspirational, and fun experience! By the way, the banquet, which includes two meats "plus fixin's," costs \$10.00 per person and is being catered by Clem Mikeska's BBQ.

I think we can say that it is a time for new and renewed ministry at all levels of our lives including our country and our church. As we work, worship, and pray together – and God's divine inspiration – our future is bright and filled with countless growing experiences...though the road ahead be long and hard! Remember, GOD IS PRESENT! See ya Sunday.....

Philip Shuler

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 may follow for anyone that wants to participate.

UMW

The Holland UMW will meet on Feb 18th at 1:00 pm at the Church Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Judy's News

New Calling –Granger UMC

The Christmas Services were spectacular and so well attended. Special thanks to Brian and Kristen for all the help and Brett for giving his testimony.

We are rescheduling our **Food Bank**. The response is still fantastic but we are still working on improving it as far as reaching the right people. It will now be opened on the third Thursday of the month for 4 hours – 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. – our next one will be February 19th.

We will be having our 5th Sunday Community Service at the 1st Baptist Church in Granger on March 29th.

Monthly Luncheons

In February we will meet at 11:45 A.M. on 25th at the Garden Hilton. They have a new lunch menu. Their soup is always delicious during this cold weather.

News!

The Wednesday Night Bible Study is preparing for Lent and the Easter season. 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 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Cowboy Church

Our next Cowboy Church will be held at the Hegar Farm on February 15th @ 5:00 pm. Bring soups, cornbread and cookies. Cody Culp, Gospel Singer from Temple, is going to bring us the music. He is excited about coming.