



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

February 2012

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Isn't this weather something?! As I write this, I just heard that the temperature is get close to 80 degrees. Amazing! And it's getting close to the end of January. My wife, Anita, put up a bird feeder for our backyard, and has been enjoying the birds and their song. She's even named one red bird couple that comes regularly. It's almost like Spring, already. I do enjoy their songs early in the morning. It's like getting closer to nature. It's nice because I rarely take the time to just stop and listen to the sounds around me.

I was going through some old sermons given me by a former minister mentor, employer, and friend; the late Rev. Hubert C. Smith. In one that bares the title, "Why the Birds Sing," he tells of an English legend told him by his mother when he was 11 years old, the legend of the Robin. "A Robin flew over Golgatha and, seeing the pain in the face of Jesus, flew down and pulled a thorn from his brow. The blood gushed forth and stained the feathers on his breast." And that's why we call this bird the "Robin Red Breast." In some places, it is still considered bad luck for kids to shoot them with their BB guns.

So far in this article, I have mentioned warm "80 degree" weather during mid-winter, the appearance of "Spring," "birds and their song," "the Robin Red breast," and "Golgatha." Collectively, these ideas bring us to the month of February, the month of Valentine's Day and the expressions of loving relationships. Need I explain? Warmer weather remind us of picnics, beaches, and camping with close friends and people we love. Spring reminds us of God's beautification of earth with green growing grass and flowers. Birds and their singing brings us closer to thoughts of love, and Golgatha represents the ultimate expression of God's love for each one of us. Valentine's Day provides us with an "officially designated day" for expressing our love to those near and dear to us.

One of my saddest memories as a child was the Valentine's Day when everyone of my classmates received Valentines and I received none (zero!). There was a reason: I had not given any Valentines to my classmates the year before! Insult to injury occurred when I was walking home with one of my best friends. He felt my disappointment and offered some of his to me since he had received Valentines in abundance. It's nice he was willing to share, but this offer did not assuage my feelings.

I learned something that day that is worth sharing. The surest way to being loved is to love! The more we put ourselves into our relationships, the more we stand to gain from them. To be forgiven by others, try forgiving others. Sound biblical? How about "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I believe we call this "the Golden Rule."

I pray that this February – this Valentine's Day – you receive and give countless expressions of love from and to people close to you. I hope you will also receive God's love in more depth than ever, and that you will give your love and devotion to Him without equivocation. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! And may every day be God's gift of love to you and those near you. By the way, I know there will be more COLD weather. But it's warm inside Holland UMC. See you there! In His love...

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Judy's News

Granger Community Food Pantry

Sixty three families came through in January. We are getting a lot of new applicants. If everyone came who signed up, we would be approaching the 100 mark. Some come every other month. God continues to bless us with His ministry. Can't thank you enough for your donations of money and food. We will be hosting our next one on **February 16th**.

5th Sunday Service

We held our Fifth Sunday Service at the Brethren Church in Granger. The Pastor's daughter is a friend of the Johanna's girl who was injured in the bus accident in Academy. Our collection went to her and her family to help with expenses. Right now they give her 1% chance to walk again, but we know we serve an Awesome God so have the faith she will.

Ash Wednesday

We will be having a short service from 6:00 to 6:30 P.M. to receive the ashes. Everyone is welcome. That date is **February 22nd**.

Cowboy Church

February service will be on the 19th at 5:00 P.M.. Jerry Donica and his Pastor Sam Callaway of the Anchor of Hope Fellowship Church are coming. We enjoyed them last year, and I know we will once again. Get the word out.....

Calendar of Events

Date & Time	Event	Location	Comments
2/1/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
2/5/12 @ 7:30 am	Community Pancake Breakfast/Church Service	Kuhlmann Center	Church Service @ 9:00am
2/8/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
2/11/12 @ 8:00 am	UMM Meeting	Fellowship Hall	
2/15/12 @ 1:00 pm	UMW Meeting	Fellowship Hall	Judy Gotcher presenting program
2/15/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
2/19/12 @ 5:00 pm	Cowboy Church	Hegar Farm	Bring soup & desserts
2/22/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
2/29/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	