



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

February 2013

Dr. Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

We are about to enter the "Love Month." In support of this label, I offer two dates for our reflection.

First February 13th. February 13th falls on a Wednesday and is the first day of Lent known as Ash Wednesday. February is "Love Month" because Lent points to God's supreme sacrificial act of love in and through Jesus Christ. Surely this fact carries weight among Christians. We will observe an Ash Wednesday service at Holland UMC at 5 PM on February 13th. The service will be brief, yet meaningful as we acknowledge the sacrifice of Jesus Christ whose death reaches out to each one of us and whose resurrection we celebrate on Easter!

Second, February 14th. Of course, this is a special date for all of us. We know it as Valentine's Day, the day we celebrate love we share as humans. I remember very few song lyrics, but a partial one does come to mind: "It's love, it's love, it's love that makes the world go 'round..." I truly believe that love holds the key to human survival. It always has and always will! *Consider* the following "Beautiful Prayer".

I asked God to take away my habit. God said, No.
It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.
I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said, No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.
I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No.
Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.
I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No.
I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.
I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No.
Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.
I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No.
You must grow on your own! but I will prune you to make you fruitful.
I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No.
I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.
I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.
God said...Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

My prayer this February is that we all become renewed by the reality of receiving God's love through Christ and by gratefully giving our love to God in return. I also pray that we become renewed by the giving and receiving of love to and from others. See you in Church...

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Community Breakfast

The February free Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00am on the 3rd. Regular church service will follow at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

Judy's News

Granger Community Food Pantry

We started off our 5th year of ministry with 65 families coming through. We update our records at this time as well. We know our numbers will surpass last year's of 75 as the year progresses. God is truly at work here. I praise Him for all the help I receive.

Beth Moore's Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

We finish up our Study on [Monday](#). It has been well attended and a great study. Now we are breaking until April as the cold weather is not good for some of our members. I will be looking at a couple of studies in the meantime before we decide what to study next..

NEW MISSION

We are starting a new mission in coalition with the Community Food Pantry. Once again God has laid an idea upon us, and it is already in the works. The Mission is called the BACK-PACK Mission. We are going to attempt to supply all the reduced and free lunch students in Granger Elementary with a Back-pack filled with required school supplies. This is quite an undertaking and eye-opener. Little did we realize when we met with the Vice Principal that the demographics of the school include 58% on the reduced and free lunch program. So, we are looking at supplying 100 back-packs for the 2012-2013 year. Mind boggling! It's God Mission so we know it is possible! Prayerfully by starting now, we will succeed!

UMM

The United Methodist Men will meet on February 9th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the fellowship and worship.

UMW

The next meeting will be held on February 20th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Judy Gotcher will be presenting the program entitled "Understanding About Mission Giving". Everyone is welcome to attend.

Cowboy Church

The attendance was down but the fellowship was fantastic as well as the music and singing by Brandon Spinn. We sure miss him with his busy life with his children as it should be. It is always a joy when he can come. Pastor Phil brought forth a great message. We missed Big Mike but our prayers continue for his recovery. We know he will be back as soon as he can. Mark the 17^h on your calendar and invite someone to enjoy our wonderful event. The line-up is all set and I am excited!