



# News From Holland

**Holland First United Methodist Church**

**January 2013**

**Dr. Phil Shuler, Pastor**

Web Site: [www.hollandum.org](http://www.hollandum.org)

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year we would benefit by observing (celebrating) it all year. While awaiting the first real cold spell of winter, my mind goes back to other Christmas celebrations. One of the most memorable was spending Christmas with my in-laws in Baltimore. It was one of the few "white" Christmases I've ever had the privilege of experiencing. What impressed me was walking around the neighborhood and seeing the house/window decorations with a background of real snow! It was beautiful...COLD, but beautiful! We didn't have snow in our immediate area this year, but I have enjoyed the many houses decorated with lights and various scenes. I really enjoyed the attention people gave to celebrating Christmas. I hope this Christmas was one of your best! I know many of us feel Christmas has become too commercial. Me? I'm just thrilled to see so many people trying to make the season happier and more enjoyable through their gifts and decorations. Isn't it great to see and receive the smiles, the expressions of love and remembrance, hugs and embraces, and the little favors that make life just a little better. THANK GOD FOR CHRISTMAS! Thank God, for THE GIFT OF HIS SON! I hope we will continue to give and receive throughout the New Year!

Speaking of the NEW YEAR, 2013 is here! I always enjoy the New Year, because it becomes a time to make New Year resolutions. Oh, I know, I'm not very successful in keeping all of my resolutions, but making them IS important. Setting goals and directions for one's life is a growing and often healing experience.

I wish I could tell you that this New Year is going to be the best one we've ever had. I know that's a little much to ask. We live in a world fraught with hate and conflict. Most of us have aches and pains if not more serious physical problems that need healing, therapy, and medication of one kind or another. Money is tight, and there seems to be less and less each day.

In spite of the negative factors that confront us, I believe there is hope. Several years ago I had the pleasure of attending a worship service featuring members of the Glide Memorial UMC, San Francisco. I was reminded of this event when I met Larry Burns' brother, a lawyer who currently resides there. [Larry was a member of St Paul UMC who died recently.] The small choir from Glide UMC was representative of the quality of a much larger ensemble. I remember listening intently while an older African American woman began to sing the lead in a song titled, "God Is." She was in a wheel chair and had been so for a number of years. The words she sang were something like these (I can't remember them exactly):

"God is.....my protection,  
God is.....my all and all.  
God is.... my today and tomorrow,  
God is.....my all and all!"

As I watched her singing, I not only noticed the words but also the feelings her voice generated. It was clear that she had been through her own personal "hell on earth." Even so, her voice was filled with FAITH, HOPE, THANKFULNESS, and JOY.

My own personal resolution for the year ahead, regardless of what the year brings, is that my life sings as did that African American woman. Through it all (whatever "it" may be), I know that God will indeed be "my all and all."

Please know I am praying that your New Year will be a happy and prosperous one. I also pray that God will be your "all and all." Hope to see you in Church!

Phil Shuler, Pastor

## Community Breakfast

The January 6th free Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00am. Regular church service will follow at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

## Judy's News

### **Granger Community Food Pantry**

December brought 73 families to our Pantry door. Small toys were bought for the children and oh, the smiles that took place as they picked one. Christmas came early! Once again turkeys or hams were offered with many other side items to make a few meals. Everyone's generosity made this possible. We are so blessed. Thank you again for all of you who help make God's mission such a blessed event.

### **Beth Moore's Bible Study on the Book of Revelation**

Bible Study will start back on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm in Granger. We have three more sessions before completion of this study.

### **Candlelight Services**

Granger had theirs on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm. Thirty five enjoyed the special music provided by Chip Geil, Risa and Victoria Pajestka and Jill Minor. Praise and worship filled the church followed by carrying the light of our Savior out into the world.

Holland's was held on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pastor Randy Evans and his members joined in the celebration of our Savior's birth being lived through scripture and song. Once again Risa and Victoria Pajestka sang "O Holy Night". Julie Ann Evans, Rex Arnold and the Baptist Choir filled the church with their beautiful music.

Communion was served and fellowship followed. Eatable delights were brilliantly displayed and enjoyed by all.

## UMM

The United Methodist Men will meet on January 12th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the fellowship and worship.

## UMW

The January meeting will be held on January 16th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is our planning meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

## Cowboy Church

Soups and fixings were served and the coffee and chocolate were hot. There was a good turnout for our annual event. Doc Lynn from Bartlett brought the beautiful Christmas music for all of us to sing.

The January Cowboy Church will be highlighted with the music of Brandon Spinn and our own Pastor Phil bringing the message. Mark the 20<sup>th</sup> of January on your calendar and invite someone to enjoy our wonderful event.