



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

July 2008

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

One observes that the statement of authorship in Paul's letter to Rome is the longest and most theologically complete of all his letters (Rom. 1:1-6). The reason clear: Paul has never been to Rome before. He did not found the church there. Chapter 16 suggests that he must have known a number of the members of the Roman church, but he still finds it necessary to introduce himself to them. He will not simply march in and say something like, "Here I am, welcome me."

Since Anita and I are new to Holland UMC and didn't know anyone before we arrived two weeks ago, I probably should follow Paul's model and spend this month's article introducing ourselves. There are, however, certain differences between Paul and your pastor's family. Anita and I did not plan to come because we were under arrest as was the case with Paul. We didn't even know names by which we could have sent "greetings" before our arrival as did Paul. And, since I have only one page in contrast with Paul's 15+ chapters, I think I will call on time and experience to introduce us to you and you to us. A move to a new location, however, does universally confront each person with a common factor; namely, CHANGE!

In our move to Temple, life has once again forced CHANGE upon us. For Anita, change has come during a time of grief over the loss of her Mother, the return from Africa with her daughter and the beginning of summer school at UMHB (her first), and the utter frustration of a physical move involving setting up house in a new location. For Phil, it has meant trying to find his socks, setting up a new work environment with internet and familiar surroundings, and trying to remember all of the names...and faces...and names! For you, it obviously means getting used to a new minister and wife with different ideas and ways of doing things, a new worship format, and wondering how all the changes will affect your church.

As frustrating as changes often are, this change can be a smooth one. Our warm feelings about you and your warm reception of us bodes well for an exciting time together. We look forward to getting to know each one of you and of sharing a portion of ourselves with you. And we sense you have similar feelings. Please join us in prayer that we both will grow through our relationship together, and that this change becomes the foundation for new life within our fellowship and community.

Grace and peace,

Phil

Judy's News

New Calling –Granger UMC

Don't forget our Community 5th Sunday Service at the 1st Baptist Church in Granger on June 29th at 6:00 P.M. Pray some of you can attend.

Monthly Luncheons

July's luncheon will be on Wednesday, July 30th. Place will be announced.

News!

Pastor Steve and Tana Nance are at Glen Lake. Steve has been appointed Executive Director of Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center. This is awesome! He and Tana will be so good there!

Holland Quilting Guild

The Guild held the drawing for the Dutch Girl Quilt during the Corn Festival and it was won by a friend of our own Kassa Willingham. We extend our thanks to everyone that helped make this raffle a huge success. Our group will be making decisions on which worthwhile causes we will be sharing our profits. Thanks to everyone!

*Take no thought of tomorrow or what the day may bring
There's a heavenly Father in control of everything
He's the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End
He knows our needs before we pray and He's a faithful friend*

*When we're submitted to the Lord walking in humility
His word says He'll exalt us, He delights in you and me
If we cast our burdens on Him, He'll lift the load we bare
And He'll reward our faithfulness and show how much He cares*

Who can be against us when the Lord is on our side?

*He says fear not I'm with you
Be not dismayed for I'm your God
There's freedom from the chains that bind
If we let God have control
He'll pour in the oil of gladness
Sweet peace will flood your soul*

Jesus loves you and He's a faithful friend 'til the end

Linda W. Rich-Johnson c '99

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