



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

July 2009

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

There's an old saying: "All good things must come to an end." I don't know if I have the exact wording, but you get the point. On the one hand, I believe this saying is true. On the other hand, I disagree. Let me explain briefly.

When I was initially being considered for appointment to St Paul/Holland UMC's, I met with the PPRC committee with representatives of both churches. The first thing I noticed as Anita and I drove into the parking lot of St Paul to attend the meeting was the large tree located at the entrance to the church. I then thought: "what a beautiful tree...giving so much shade!" Since then, I've had occasion to notice that others of the community felt the same way. For a while, a man on break for lunch from his work would drive up and eat his sandwich under the shade. And the "post-person" (usually called a "postman") timed her delivery in order to back the little white truck under the shade for her lunch. As one who has also sought shade and a moment of rest, I was glad the tree offered the same for fellow-friends/workers.

But, alas, neither trees nor humans are immortal. The large weight-bearing trunk is splitting down the middle! Apparently, it has been in this condition for some time, because attempts to save the tree have revealed severe damage its core. No doubt, the tree will have to come down...and soon in order to prevent damage resulting from a collapse!

So, I guess the old saying is true. I noticed that the popular (to some) TV reality series, "Jon and Kate + Eight," now involves a divorce. Our Spring Bible Study of Matthew concluded: but the "Round Table Bible Study" continues! Cowboy Church came to a Spring '09 end, but we look forward with renewed enthusiasm to it's beginning in October '09! Summer is here with its vacations and fun only to be followed by Fall and Winter. And so it goes...

On the other hand, I'm not convinced of the absolute truth of the saying, "All good things must come to an end." Perhaps the best description of what we face in life is CHANGE and impermanence. Life changes! Change is never easy, but I "believe" (verbal form of "faith") that change never brings an END, only new beginnings. The tree will fall, but there are already other trees planted to bring similar joys in the future. School stops, but there are new possibilities in the year ahead. The economy is impaired, but I believe the future is bright for our nation that will soon celebrate FREEDOM! Death appears final: but, I believe and trust a God (Yahweh) who continues to give life through Jesus Christ both now AND forever! Change is not easy, but life is good! HAVE A SAFE JULY 4th!

See ya in church Sunday! In Him,

Phil Shuler

UMW

We won't meet again until September 2009. Join us when we resume meeting.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on July 11th at 8:30 am at the Fellowship Hall of the church. Join us for breakfast, fellowship and maybe a ride if it is not too HOT!

Judy's News

Granger News:

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

Our Food Pantry served 21 families. We are keeping the same hours for July but come August we are going to have it from 2:30 pm to 7 pm. Many families do work, still need help, but can't get home in time to get to the Food Bank.

Exciting News!

Starting Tuesday, July 7th, we are having a Bible Study at 6:30 pm. This has been requested by the younger group now attending. We will have a get acquainted session with opportunity to choose what they want to study.

5th Sunday Community Service

It was a big success. Our church was full: the best attendance yet. The singing was superb. The next one will be held at Judea Missionary Baptist Church in August.

Fund Raiser

The church is having a garage/bake sale on Saturday, August 1st to help defray the cost of replacing the roof on the fellowship hall. If you have any items you want to get rid of, let me know. If you want to bake, we will be happy to receive any item for our bake sale.

Holland News:

Bible Study

Bible Study continues throughout the summer. We are in Galatians! Come join us!

Cowboy Church

To be held again in October 2009!