



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

July 2011

Dr. Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Summer's here in full blast...BLAST OF HEAT, that is. As I write this, the weather I check on my computer says "102" degrees. Already 102 degrees this year! Meanwhile, the sun beats down almost mercilessly. If it's 102 now, imagine what the temperature will be Saturday at Holland's annual Corn-Fest! It's time for me to try to remember all of the necessary precautions for such days as these. You remember them, don't you? Drink plenty of water so you won't become dehydrated. You might want to carry a small bottle of water with you when you leave the house. Stay out of the sun during the heat of the day. And when you are in the sun, wear a hat! How well I remember as a young person my mother going with me to the lake. There she was, sitting in a lawn chair with her extra-large hat on and a large open umbrella towering over her. I laughed then...but I don't now! What UV rays can do to the skin and over heat to the body is well known. The main thing is to exercise extreme caution during this relentless heat, for there's more to come.

Heat coupled with the dryness merely compounds the circumstances. Grass is already turning brown in my yard, and the flower garden cries for water. The real threat is FIRE! Arizona approaches its largest wildfire on record. It has already moved into New Mexico. Texas has already had more fires than I can remember of late. I hope we will all exercise maximum care with our matches and other forms of ignition. Throwing them out of a car window, burning trash, and careless camping fires MUST be avoided. Ashes start fires!

You wouldn't be surprised if I made a connection metaphorically of our current heat to that apocryphal place of scripture we call "hell" or "Hades." Of course when we use either of these terms, we normally think of a place of future torment that is based upon our life on this earth: I.e., the place beyond life where one resides who fails to take the correct precautions while here on earth. Such a place is to be avoided at all cost. The fact is, however, that one does not need move into the beyond to experience such torment. The possibility of that reality on earth confronts us directly during these days of intense heat and dryness!

So, my word of life to you with this writing is to "move with care and caution." Heed the signs that help us through what may be a seemingly endless period of heat and drought. Slow down little. Sit in the shade more. Relax. Have a sip of water...and then one more sip. Don't take unnecessary chances. ENJOY your summer! Ease up on the accelerator. Take time to smell the flowers (roses) while they're able to be in bloom. Live fully, joyfully, and healthily!

The good news is that God has so created as to provide relief during times of difficulty. Relief may or may not come in the form of summer rains. Release from pain may not always come in the manner we would like or as soon as we would hope. SUMMER WILL YIELD to the more cooling winds (and hopefully, rains) of Fall and Winter. God wisely created. Relief is on its way.

Oh yeah, let me remind you that church has air-conditioning. It offers not only relief from a rapidly moving and confusing world, but from also from the intense heat and dryness outside. Come and see if I am right. Let's pause...and worship together this Sunday. In Christ....

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Community Breakfast

The free Pancake Breakfast for at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00 am on July 3rd. Our church service will follow at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship! Call Rob Fagner if you have questions.

Judy's News

Granger Community Food Pantry

The heat didn't keep them away. We had 53 families come through and some were new. God is still working full time with this ministry. We are so blessed. Again never enough thanks to all of you who help make this possible.

Annual Conference

It was a good conference and being in Waco made it even nicer. My lay leader K.S. Head and I attended on Sunday night and all day Monday. It was great seeing a few Pastors we have had in the past.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on **July 9th at 8:00 am** the fellowship hall and breakfast will be served.

UMW

We will meet again in September. Everyone is welcome. We need a short meeting in August to elect officer for 2012. Our District meeting will also be held in September.

Cowboy Church

We will resume our Cowboy Church Services in October. Hope to see you there!

