



# News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

June 2012

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

The months of May and June have always generated special feelings in me. When I was younger, the anticipation of school getting out for the summer held a special attraction, whether it was at the elementary or the graduate level. Summer days meant going bare-foot, swimming on my birthday, sleeping late(r), going to "the farm," and playing with friends. Later, it meant earning extra money teaching summer school and traveling to academic conferences in Europe and elsewhere. Either way, I knew I would be FREE for the summer: just a few more days to go. Interestingly enough, I found that my teachers/professors, friends, and colleagues (AND children) felt the same way.

These months also provide the occasion for the recognition of accomplishment. Graduation celebrations signal the end of extended periods of study and training. Graduating from whatever the level of education is a REAL accomplishment, and the recognition that graduation ceremonies provide serves to validate the hours of study on the part of the student, joy of the parents and family who have invested so much in each of the graduates, and the patience of teachers who devote themselves to teaching. In this regard, I want to take this time to congratulate Mr. Corey Jett and his family on his upcoming graduation (June 1, 2012) from Holland High School! Corey has been faithful to his church, active in his school life, and deserving of the accomplishment that now belongs to him and his family. I don't think I've seen a happier person or a bigger smile on his face than the joy that is evident when he refers to his graduation in June. CONGRATULATIONS COREY! Know that our prayers go with you whatever paths lay ahead of you in your future!

Recognition is important to one's life. It's also biblical. One of the earliest and most important references to Jesus Christ is by Paul in his letter to Philippi. In Philippians 2:6-11, Paul writes that Jesus "humbled" himself by becoming a human being even though he was the "very nature God." While human as we are, Jesus was "obedient to death – even death on a cross!" The very next word is, "Therefore," (that is to say: "as a result," "consequently," "because of this," OR, "having passed the test or final exam,") and Paul continues, "God exalted him to the highest place." If this isn't a "graduation" I don't know what is.

The good news is that we all can be graduates in life. By finishing the course of the Christian life – completing the requirements set forth in Jesus' life – we all graduate from God's school of compassionate love. Why is this possible? Because God has invested Himself in each one of us through Jesus Christ!

See you in church, Sunday....

Phil Shuler, Pastor

## Community Breakfast

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

## Cowboy Church

Wow! What a God inspired night! It was so great to see so many people and have such a wonderful way to worship the Lord. Jerry brought forth music for all of us to enjoy and Pastor Sam Callaway sang as well brought a beautiful message for all of us to hear. Then to have that young lady play the "fiddle" violin highlighted the evening. Thank you all for all your help with food, setting up, and making sure it goes well. A "Special" thanks to Kathy and Henry! Working on 10 years now!

## Judy's News

### **Granger Community Food Pantry**

Fifty five families came through and all were blessed. All the workers made it easy for me and all I did was show up. I am so blessed as well as the recipients to have such great help. Prayer was given to many who were in need. So many stories. It just pleases us that we can help. Once again thank you for all you do to help this mission possible.

## Personal

Thank you.....thank you

Charley Mack and I are so blessed to have you all in our lives. You will never know how you helped us through this trying time and still continue to do so. It has all been a very humbling experience. God continues to send His grace and mercy through each of you. May He bless you as you continue to bless us.