



News From Holland

Newsletter of Holland First United Methodist Church

June 2006

Rev. Chris Hughes, Pastor

Volume VI

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

Chris' Corner

Without a Vision...

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

When I was fourteen years old, I earned my Boy Scout Canoeing merit badge at Camp Steere BSA, on Lake Wylie near the North Carolina/South Carolina line. It was one step toward receiving my Eagle Scout several years later.

I learned several things that summer about canoeing.

1st – I learned standing up in a canoe almost always results in total submersion of both the canoe and those in the canoe.

2nd – It is very difficult to paddle a submerged canoe.

3rd – When paddling in the opposite direction of your canoe-mate in order to get out of an area filled with tree-stumps, the canoe will turn in circles – hitting the same tree stumps - until the canoe-mates agree on the direction to paddle.

Many of us are very familiar with the King James Translation of Proverbs 29:18 above. I also enjoy Eugene Peterson translates this verse in *The Message*: “*If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed.*”

We have likely experienced the truth of this proverb in our lives. When we understand what we were put on this earth to do, we tend to prosper in doing it. When we struggle to find the right direction, we stumble all over ourselves.

The same is true in our homes, businesses, and our church. We become like canoe-mates paddling in different directions: turning in circles and meeting the same obstacles time-after-time.

In order for all our church to begin paddling in the same direction, I invite all of us to begin a process called “Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations” recommended by our District Superintendent, Rev. Rankin Koch. Over the coming months, everyone will be invited to be a part of both small groups, and larger groups, so that together we may discern God’s will for our church.

As we move through these “Holy Conversations”, we will be asking the questions:

- Who are we, and who is God calling us to be?
- Where are we, and where is God calling us to be?
- How do we narrow the gaps between the present reality and God’s vision for us?

I look forward to what God is going to be doing in and through us that “*we may attend to what He reveals*” and experience the blessing God has for our church

Blessed to be your pastor,

Chris

June Worship Service

Date	Scripture	Sermon
June 4th Pentecost	Acts 2:1-12	“Eleven Plus One”
June 11th	John 21:15-19	“Feed My Sheep” Larry Norville Preaching
June 18 th Father’s Day	Mark 1:4-11	“Pride and Joy”
June 25th	Mark 4:35-41	“All Clear”

Judy’s News

Adult Sunday School

In June we will be starting another study. There are plenty of books so ask for one if your are interested. Judy and Larry share the teaching. Even Cole Norville joined us last week. We learned a lot and he was such a joy. Wonder who will be here this week? Come and check it out!

Prayer Circle - June 14th

We will meet at 6:00 P.M. with the quilters. Bring your prayer concerns. Continue those prayers for all our sick ones within our church and those announced on Sunday.

Luncheon

In June we will have lunch on Wednesday, the 22nd, at Yank Sing Chinese Buffet on the Loop (next door to Applebee’s). Please notice it is a different place. They have a wide variety of Chinese and American. We will meet at 11:30 A.M..

Cowboy Church - June 25th

We will be having a few individual performers. Our own Brian Smith and Brandon Spinn will be joined by Jean Prewitt from Belton and Clyde Jones wants to come back. Let’s get the word out so that we have a great crowd. We had a meeting at the last service and decided we would try it every month. The July Cowboy Church is tentatively set for July 15th at our Camp Out.

Movies

The idea of having movies in our parking lot on Thursday evenings with popcorn and snow cones is in the making. We will need at least three volunteers every week to make this a reality. You will be hearing more about this from our pastor. It sounds like a great mission and will give the kiddos something to do every Thursday night.

Administrative Council

The summer of 2006 is upon us. How will you spend these days? Depending on where you are in life, your answer will vary. Some of us will continue to work every day, just like every other season. Some of us will enjoy the summer vacation away from school. Others of us will hardly notice a difference in our retired day, other than it will be hotter. Regardless of where we are in life, God has a plan for our summer just like He does for our every day. Summer historically has been the season of harvest, whether it be our crops or our garden. It was the time to harvest our goods and store things up for the winter season. In a way that is what we are doing in our present day life. We spend our year working hard in academics and “life stuff” and summer comes and people take time to relax a little. School activities have slowed, homework isn’t assigned, life changes a little. How will life change for you during this time of harvest? If you ask God that question, what will His answer be for your life? Take this time to listen to his answer. The answers will vary depending on where you are right now. The important part is that you ask and that you listen. God will take care of the rest.

Parish Nursing

WHAT ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH?

My favorite Bible verses are Proverbs 3:5-6 which remind us to, “Trust in the Lord and lean not on my own understanding. In all my ways, acknowledge God and God will direct my paths.” Some days that is easier said than done. Three weeks ago I rejoined *Weight Watchers* for the third serious time in my life. I lost 20 pounds once and 30 pounds the second time. I am sad to say that I have much more to lose this time. However, I am not alone on my journey. The Lord is with me every step of the way.

I went for my 3rd weigh-in today and found that I have lost over 9 pounds in 3 weeks!!! Chris has lost twice that doing it with me! That is SUCH an encouragement to me. When I have tried to lose my unwanted pounds in the past, I would often flounder and fail because I couldn’t SEE myself losing the weight and I was trying to lean on my own understanding of what my problems were. God recently reminded me through my favorite verses that it is not up to me, it is up to God.

Now as I exercise and eat a more balanced diet, I think of what God would have me do with my day – from what I do, to where I do it, to how many times I bend my elbow towards my mouth. When I give total control to the Lord, He is ever faithful to lead, guide, and direct me every step of the way.

OK, weight is my battle, what is yours? I encourage you to apply these verses to your life and see what a difference it makes. It certainly has for me☺.

Please contact me at my home (254) 778-2014 or my cell phone (254) 780-6140 with any questions or comments. You can also e-mail me at cbhshughes@sbcglobal.net and I respond to e-mails within 1-2 weeks.

Trusting in the Great Physician – Jesus Christ
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First Class Mail

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