



# News From Holland

**Holland First United Methodist Church**

**March 2008      Rev. Victor Pena, Pastor**

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

## FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

I am so excited to be writing this article because I heard the most wonderful teaching this week and I can't wait to share it!

This past Monday evening, I attended the first night of a 3 night seminar on Stewardship at Brother Quinton Gibson church. Now, I know what you are probably thinking, and it was what I was thinking too – another presentation on how to get people to give money... but I went anyway - waiting to hear what the Lord might tell me.

And was I surprised. The guest speaker, Rev Rickie G Rush, who just happens to be a cousin to Brother Quinton, brought the message. He is the pastor at Inspiring Body of Christ in Dallas. Pastor Rush began by greeting us with this statement that set the tone for the rest of the meeting – Stewardship begins with forgiving – not giving!

Now that is a new and novel concept for many of us! We are taught we must give in order to be good stewards. Pastors and finance chairs both know the need of funds to run the church, and are always looking for creative ways to inspire giving BUT this was not what I had expected to hear.

The speaker continued – Stewardship begins with forgiving – not giving. If we are unable to forgive – then we will be unable to receive what God has for us. We receive what God has for us, by giving of ourselves to others. How can we give ourselves to others, with unforgiveness in our hearts!

Unforgiveness comes in many forms – some of which are not always recognizable. It is easy to see an unforgiving heart when someone has been hurt by the past or someone else, but unforgiveness also manifests itself in the heart when we judge people for their lifestyles, their customs, their race, and their professions.

The Pastor continued by saying that our church today is perhaps the biggest obstacle to the very people God wants to reach the most! That's right – you and me – our church – the people in the church – have forgotten and are unforgiving to the people outside the church building.

Pastor continued – Everyone who is Christian 'now' used to be something else! That's right – we all have our history. We all have weaknesses. But we have cleaned up our act somewhat. Dress a little differently. Learned how to speak and act. We learn how to hide or conceal our weaknesses. At least for that one hour on Sunday, that is!

But most hypocritically of all, we sit in judgment of those outside the door by making the majority of people outside think it is just too hard to come to God.

He challenged us to think about our reaction if a drunken man or a prostitute walked in and set down in our service!

Would you let two of the strongest men in church quietly escort them out ....

Or would you act as though you didn't see them, ignore them until they left ....

Or would you be one of those who went to them and greeted them – welcomed them to the church!

Just when I thought Pastor was finished – that he'd made his point – he continued – it's not always that the people outside don't like the church – it's more likely that they don't like the people inside the church! Perhaps they have seen what we are like during the rest of the week, or perhaps they simply saw the look on your face when they came in the door! Ouch! That will kick you in the shins!

Remember that first statement Pastor made – Stewardship begins with forgiving – not giving! He continued that real stewardship starts after the benediction!

Putting a check in the plate just doesn't cut it with God! God wants your time not your checkbook! He wants you to bring your complete tithe to him – and this means the people.

After all, Jesus did not command his disciples to go out and make the budget did He? NO! Of course not! He said "Go forth and make disciples".

I challenge you today that we should take the commandment of our Lord to heart and the advice of Pastor and OPEN our church doors to those who might be in need, with their weaknesses exposed, and let them come to the Lord, and let us receive them as good stewards do!

What it boils down to is this – God doesn't want your money! God wants your heart! When you give God your heart, you will want to give Him your money and your time and your gifts.....

Blessings.....Pastor Victor

### Cowboy Church

Our March Cowboy Church will be held on 3/30/08 at 5:00 pm at the Hegar's. Judy is busy lining up the music and Frank will be working on the food. Please remember to bring cookies and your lawn chairs!

### U M W News

The Holland UMW met on February 20, 2008 at the church Fellowship Hall. Judy Gotcher was in charge of the program on call to prayer and self denial about girls and our mission form them.

Our next meeting will be held on March 26 at 1:00 pm at the Fellowship Hall. Cynthia Norville will begin our mission study called "God's Mission, God's Song. Please join us!

### Judy's News



**Holland First United Methodist Church  
204 N. Hogan Street  
Holland, Texas 76534**

**First Class Mail**

**This newsletter is published monthly  
By Holland First United Methodist Church  
Worship Service – 9:00 AM  
Sunday School – 10:00 AM**

Page 2

**Getting To Know You By Doris Severson**

(Written by Tom McKague)

**Tom McKague** comes from a long line of thrifty Scotsmen that means “tight as the bark on a tree”. I was born and raised in Minnesota, where they have six months of winter and six months of bad sledding. I have worked as a printer’s devil (the helper who does all the dirty work), a draftsman (when I got the job I thought it had something to do with beer, it doesn’t), a toy designer for Tonka, a land developer, a real estate broker, a home builder, and raised horses. I have also remodeled old home, been a security guard at a casino and now a maintenance man. I am always looking for another home to fix.

I moved to Oregon in 1974, even took along my horse. For every snow flake in Minnesota there is a rain drop in Oregon, but no bugs. For nine months it drizzles, for three months it is partly cloudy. In 2000 I couldn’t stand the over-cast any more and moved to South Carolina. In 2003 I spent a year near Santa Fe but moved back to South Carolina. But I couldn’t buy a home so I checked my computer for reasonable home prices...Texas and Nashville were good. I picked Texas-more room!

The only things that I am proud of are my two sons, who married sisters. I couldn’t have done a better job at getting two fine daughter-in-laws if I picked them myself. I have four grandchildren, a boy and a girl for each couple. They live in Oregon. I also have a brother in Minnesota.

For the first time in my life I’m ready to put down roots! I have found the people (my friends) at Holland UMC to be very friendly, warm and caring.

For fun I make jewelry, do some sketching and ride my scooter. When I get a place in the country I’m sure I’ll find another horse.

**I’ve left out all the stories of fast cars, bad horses and really dumb things I’ve done!**

**Cowboy Church**

Our January Cowboy Church will be held on 1/20/08 at 5:00 pm at the Hegar’s. Judy is busy lining up the music and Frank will be working on the food. Please remember to bring cookies and your lawn chairs!

## U M W News

Our Christmas Luncheon held on December 5<sup>th</sup> in the home of Henry and Kathy Hegar was attended by sixteen members and guests. The food and fellowship was delightful. The members brought toys for Open Arms in Temple and they were delivered by Karen Pena. Open Arms staff sends their thanks to our UMW!

Our next meeting will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the home of Roberta Petrie. We will be planning programs for 2008. Please join us!

Page 3

## Judy's News

### Outreach

Our Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> the trip to Breckenridge was wonderful. Patrice did a beautiful job with her singing and really fired up the Music Director there. Everyone there was very welcoming. It is a beautiful church.

### New Calling – New Church

As most of you know as a result of the Emmaus Walk I accepted an appointment to be the Supply Pastor of the 1<sup>st</sup> UMC of Granger. Their congregation is small but dynamic in their love for the Lord and their church (It will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008)

On behalf of myself and my new family I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting me with your love and presence at our 1<sup>st</sup> Church Service on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at our new time of 11:00 A.M.. When I looked out over the congregation, I felt so blessed by you. It was truly a service of Celebrating New Beginnings and to share it with you made it that more special. Thank you. A special thanks to Kristen for coming and playing the piano for us.

### Adult Bible Study

Still have room for more! We are studying a book, "You Can Get Bitter or Better" by James Moore. Doris Severson has collected over \$400 for a needy family at Christmas! Amen! Besides growing in our faith, we are a mission too.

### Monthly Luncheon

After taking a break in December we will meet on January 23, 2008 at 1:00 pm at Dynasty. They have a nice buffet with Chinese and American food choices. See you there!



**Holland First United Methodist Church  
204 N. Hogan Street  
Holland, Texas 76534**

**First Class Mail**

**This newsletter is published monthly  
By Holland First United Methodist Church  
Worship Service – 9:00 AM  
Sunday School – 10:00 AM**