



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

March 2009

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

February 25 is an important day in the life of the church. Traditionally known as "Ash Wednesday," it marks the beginning of Lent. Thus begins the time of preparation, forty days before Easter Day which marks the resurrection of Jesus. This time of preparation is crucial for the celebration of God's gift of his son that we honor on Easter Sunday. It is this celebration that constitutes the high point of the church year.

The beginning of Lent – Ash Wednesday – is a very special time. Ash Wednesday and the use of ashes symbolize the humanity of Jesus as well as our own. We acknowledge our weaknesses, mortality, and finite natures in need of divine love and forgiveness. This is our human condition, and we are fully aware that we cannot survive alone. We need God's loving forgiveness that has been made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on a cross. The service includes the placing of ashes on the forehead of the worshipper that symbolizes that humankind came from the earth and will return to it. The ashes are usually put on in the form of a cross. Meaning? Through Jesus Christ's sacrificial death, we have new possibilities for life at its fullest!

Some of us associate Lent with "giving up something." Those who are so inclined to do this do so with the idea of penance, a form of sacrifice for the gift of new life we have received. As Jesus "paid the price for us," so now we respond by paying a price. I confess that I have never taken this tradition very seriously even though I can understand its value and discipline. But this year, I have another suggestion! Instead of giving up something, I think I'll make a special effort to begin to consciously do a few more little things to make someone happier during our current troubles. I intend to look more closely at persons and to pay a small compliment or do something nice to brighten their day. I guess I am suggesting that instead of "giving up" something, we make this Lenten season a time when we will "give" to others in whatever way we can. Why don't you join me this Lenten season – not only in church – but in small acts of giving even in little ways to those around us?

Holland UMC's celebration of Ash Wednesday will be on Feb 25, 6:00 p.m. – immediately before Bible Study – in the sanctuary. It will not be a long service, but will be a meaningful one.

I pray this Easter and Lenten Season will be a special time for each one of you, and that you will continue to make a difference in the lives of those near and around you. I also pray that you will have a joyful Easter! Don't forget. Find the time each day to make someone a little happier during Lent.

In Christ,
Philip Shuler, Pastor

The newly formed United Methodist Men will meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am at the Fellowship Hall of the church. They will meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month. A ride may follow for anyone that wants to participate.

Cowboy Church

Our next Cowboy Church will be held at the Hegar Farm on March 22nd @ 5:00 pm. The April date is the 19th at 5:00 pm. Don't forget those cookies!

UMW

The Holland UMW will meet on Mar 18th at 1:00 pm at the Church Fellowship Hall. Judy Gotcher will be presenting the program. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Judy's News

New Calling –Granger UMC

Our Food Bank was open on Thursday, the 19th, and we served 18 families. Each family was given a choice of a whole chicken or a pound of hamburger with items to make a full meal. Pancake mix and syrup plus bread also was given along with choices of other staples.. The Pantry is starting to get low so donations of food items are always welcome. Prayerfully the school will have a food drive for us in March. God is truly blessing this mission and the families are appreciative.

We will be having our 5th Sunday Community Service at the 1st Baptist Church in Granger on March 29th.

Monthly Luncheons

Don't forget our lunch on Wednesday at the Hilton at 11:45 A.M .In March we will meet at the new Cracker Barrel on the 25th at 11:45 A.M...

News!

At our Wednesday Night Bible Study an Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 6:00 P.M. this week, the 25th. The Bible Study will continue afterwards