



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

March 2010

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

God's creative love is truly present in His creation. The fact that God refused to create human beings to be His robots is reflective of His love for each one of us. Equally remarkable is that God created us to be creators in His image. We have the capacity to think, feel, reflect, and creatively express ourselves. Whenever I come across such creativity, I seek to embrace and encourage it.

We, at Holland UMC, are blessed to have such creativity in our midst. Of course, I'm talking about our own Brett Barton who has composed poems that he has read both in our Sunday AM worship services and in our Cowboy Church worship experiences. Enclosed is one Anita and I like very much. I include it in my article to demonstrate the presence of God's inspiration among us. To me, the poem is a view of human beings from God's perspective [please note that I am not speaking from the author's perspective, but from my interpretation: i.e., what the poem means *to me!*].

Missing the point...

Looking down from way above the clouds
I hear the things you say, even if not aloud
I want so much to be a part of your heart
But we seem to be drifting further apart

Bickering back and forth about who's right
Only takes you away from My eternal light
Interpretations of My word gone astray
Choosing what you want to see from day to day

Because it's not about the way you fix your hair
Or even about the clothes you choose to wear
It's not about which church that you attend
Or even how often you go to church in the end

Nothing about your thoughts on what others may do
Even if it is not the same as your point of view
It's not about the things that you did in the past
Not even about the thing that you did last

I look down and am saddened by what I see
People bickering about nothing that matters to me
I want you to see something if this I can implore
You see My love is really about so much more

It's more about what you feel deep in your heart
Not about being the best, or being witty and smart
It's more of an individual relationship between you and I
And when other people judge in my name I can only ask why

Arguing about these things that matter not to Me
Only take you further away from where I want you to be
Because there are things that will try and make you doubt
I really just want you to see that you're missing what I'm all about

I believe that God's inspiration is within each one of us. I know there are others who find expression for God's presence in various ways. Some write poems, others stories, while still others find other artistic ways of expression. I would love to hear from you, and I would love to include such spiritual expressions in our newsletter. This would be a wonderful Lenten activity!

Give it a try, and bring it to church Sunday. See you then...and there!

Yours in Christ,
Phil Shuler

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on March 13th at 8:30 am at the Fellowship Hall of the church. They meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month. Stay tuned for breakfast plans.

UMW

The next meeting will be March 17th at the fellowship hall @ 1:00 pm. Pastor Phil will be leading a study titled "For The Love Of God, John's Letters". Everyone is welcome to attend.

Judy's News

Granger

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

Our count was 35 families for the month of February. Since then I have received a call for an urgent need. It is just plain tough times for many. Thank you for all you do to help. Right now ketchup, mustard, pinto beans, rice, oats and of course can goods are in need.

Cowboy Church

The next Cowboy Church is scheduled for March 21 at 5:00 pm at the Hegar's. Doris Lange will be contacting everyone to make sandwiches for this one since it is during Spring break. Also don't forget those cookies. I have asked Pastor Randy to preach. The music has not been lined up yet but we will have some. Bill and Dianne Moon did such a super job at our last one.

Future Dates to Remember

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mar 3rd	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
Mar 13 th	8:30 am	UMM/UMME	Fellowship Hall
Mar 17 th	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting	Fellowship Hall
Mar 17 th	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
Mar 21 st	5:00 pm	Cowboy Church	Hegar's Farm
Mar 23 rd	6:30 pm	Laity Banquet	Mayborn Center in Temple

If you have any events to add, please give the information to Betty Jett.

Getting To Know You

Reported by Tom McKague and Doris Severson

Lisa Yuefen Gong McKague was born in Nancheng China. Her family had just moved from Shanghai. Her mother, Shi Shugin still lives in the same house. Her father was employed at an enamel factory. Her mother also was employed at the same factory. She was also a day care provider for infants. Lisa has four sisters and a brother. Her three older sisters are retired in Nancheng. Since in Chinese culture a child's family name comes from the Father and women retain their family name when married, the family name is given first, and your given name is spoken last. Her three older sisters are Yeagin, Queegin and Chunfung. Her younger brother Deezer is a Doctor in Yeeyao. Her younger sister, whose Chinese name is Funggin, uses Joyce for her English speaking friends and associates at the China Merchants Bank where she is the Assistant Manager.

Lisa attended a local school in the neighborhood. Her classes were similar to American schools. She took Chinese, history, mathematics, reading, writing, music, art, poetry and sports. There is no alphabet in Chinese. In the last ten years they have added "English" as a requirement. School started at 8:00 am until 11:30 am then a two hour break to go home for lunch and homework followed by returning to school for classes until 4:30 pm. Class sizes were about 42 students. Her favorite sports were ping pong, baseball, jump rope and hackey sack. She enjoys knitting and sewing.

After graduation Lisa worked at the enamel factory. Her son, Hu Xumin (Who Sheme) lives in Shanghai, works full time and attends a technical school for computers. Lisa moved to Guangzhou (Guangjoe) in 2005 and lived with her younger sister Joyce.

Guangzhou has a near tropical climate, i.e. 50 degrees F is a very cold day. The open air markets have every kind of food. Fresh fish is still swimming when you buy it. In 30 seconds it is de-scaled, cleaned and in your shopping basket. There are literally hundreds of independent merchants at the market, each with a small stall. You can also go to large super markets like Walmart which even has a McDonalds in their store just like Temple. Since 1980 electronics of every kind have become common place. Lisa saw her first TV in 1975.

What Lisa first heard about Texas were the warm and loving church members who would welcome her with a hug. Only a brash American would make such a public display. She likes the American way very much to be so welcomed. Lisa is going to classes for English as a Second Language.

In the year of the "Tiger" she wishes everyone "How Yee" (Good Luck).

If there is someone in the church you would like to know more about or have information you would like to share, please let Doris Severson or Betty Jett know and we will get it in the newsletter.