



# News From Holland

**Holland First United Methodist Church**

**March 2013**

**Dr. Phil Shuler, Pastor**

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

March is here along with the traditional “March winds.” Actually, I think that the wind arrived before March did. In Texas, that’s probably always the case! Let’s review what this year’s “winds” are bringing during March 2013.

First, this year Daylight Savings Time arrives on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 AM. Of course, we’ll all set our time FORWARD the night before, but the official time of arrival is 2:00 AM. I don’t think I’ll stay up to welcome it.

Second, March 2013 is the month of our Easter celebrations with Palm Sunday being March 24 with Easter close behind on March 31. For some reason, these important dates appear early to me. I usually link Easter with April, but in 2013, we will be celebrating in March. We’re already in Lent and we celebrated the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on February 13. In addition to Palm Sunday and Easter services, Holland will worship on Good Friday, March 29 at 6:00 PM. It seems that this year the March winds have brought with them the occasion for spiritual renewal. Actually, when one thinks of it, the biblical word for “wind” in both the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament also means “spirit.” How appropriate, therefore, is the statement that the March winds bring with them the opportunity for spiritual renewal!

There are other “happenings” taking place at our church this March. Soon work will begin on new sidewalks that will include improvements to make our church more accessible to walkers and wheel chairs. Our current sidewalks leave much to be desired with cracks and drop offs that make their use somewhat hazardous. We also found out that the front sidewalk not only encroaches the street but is actually in the road right-of-way. The sidewalk work is a welcomed improvement. Also, we discovered that many of the screws holding our metal roof in place are working their way out. It was decided that all of the current screws were to be replaced with new ones. The result should be equal to a new roof: or, at least, a roof that will function like a new one.

As you can see, things are happening at the First UMC of Holland. The March “winds” are bringing opportunities for spiritual and physical renewal. I really don’t know how we could put much more on the March schedule!

Congratulations go to the Holland Chamber of Commerce for a very successful chamber banquet. This is always a high point in the city’s year. Congratulations and “thanks” go to our own “Mayor Mae” and her team who work tirelessly for our community. Finally, a “thank you” goes to Gertrude Weiss who recently hosted our Monday afternoon Bible Study in her home. Seven of us gathered for a wonderful time together. The Bible study was also very good. As we all agree, it’s always wonderful to study God’s word together.

It’s also good to gather to worship God in community. Worshipping together is even more meaningful during Lent, the six Sundays leading up to the corporate observance of God’s sacrifice of Himself through Jesus on Easter. See you in church!

Phil Shuler, Pastor

### Community Breakfast

Our monthly Pancake Breakfast will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00am . Regular church service will follow at 9:00 am.

### Judy's News

#### Granger Community Food Pantry

Sixty two families came through to receive their groceries for the month of February. The mission on backpacks has been well received by everyone and prayers are being sent to see this new mission a complete success. We have families come through who have 2 and 3 children in school. This will be such a blessing to them. Expecting a larger number in March since it is Easter month plus Spring break. Once again thanks to all who help make this Community Food Pantry a success and blessing to so many.

#### Granger Easter Services

Can't believe it is just around the corner. We will be having Maunday Thursday on Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup> and Good Friday services on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Both will be at 6:30 P.M.. Regular services will be held on Easter with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Everyone is welcome.

### UMM

The United Methodist Men will meet on March 9th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the fellowship and worship.

### UMW

Hilda Eubank and Doris Severson will begin a two part study for our March meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join us.

### Cowboy Church

K.S. Head was the speaker for the month of February, celebrating his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. It was a great night with Ed Stockton bringing the music and having Big Mike back with us for Children's time. Next month Brian Smith will bring the music and Randy Evans from 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist will bring the message. Should be a great night so mark your calendar. Brian says he is expecting quite a few from LR 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.