



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

May 2009

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Today I want to tell you a story that I hope is relevant this Easter. It is related to that verse we all know in John 3:16... "For God so loved... that He gave His only Son..."

Because God loved, He gave! What a dynamic concept! Of course, we all understand this. Is there anything we would not do for our children or grandchildren? Why? Because we love! This is the love Easter celebrates. As Christians, we are called to give this love to others.

I now know I was the recipient of this kind of love several years ago. After completing my work on a Masters Degree, I stopped by to visit a minister for whom I had worked as youth director and who had since retired. His ministerial career had not been marked with glowing accomplishments, nor had he been the most popular minister in the churches he served. But, he was a solid and dependable man of the cloth though often misunderstood. He had always been a mentor to me. He lived in Fort Worth, and I visited him on impulse.

He invited me for a glass of ice tea on a very hot day. We talked and shared "war stories" (i.e., past experiences), and he expressed his relief that retirement had removed his anxiety over broad Annual Conference responsibilities. Now, he said, "you younger people can shoulder it." We laughed together in the warmth of the sun and fellowship. He suddenly stopped and said, "Please excuse me for a minute, I've got something in the house for you." A few minutes later, he returned with a small notebook in his hand. He said that for the past few weeks he had been going through all of the sermons he had preached during his long ministry. He had selected his "best 6 sermons" and wanted to give them to someone. He handed the notebook to me and said, "I decided you are the one to receive this."

I was stunned since we shared no blood relationship. I also saw that they were the original sermons he had written, not just copies of the sermons. Although I objected, he insisted that I have them... and I still do. One of the sermons contained an illustration about a bird clinging to a telephone line that was swaying in high wind. The point was that we should hold fast to God during the high winds of life: an appropriate point for us today! What was remarkable to me was that I remember having heard this sermon at a Sunday evening service when I was in the 9th grade!

Then it hit me full force! What Hubert had given me was his vocational career in a nutshell (or should I say, "a small notebook"). I held in my hand his work, his love, his life. That may be the highest honor I have ever received.

The same thing happened to you (and me) that Easter long ago. God gave His Son, His life, to you and to me!

See ya in worship, Sunday.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on May 9th at 8:30 am at the Fellowship Hall of the church. Join the men for breakfast and fellowship.

Judy's News

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

Once again and again, God has shown His blessings upon this new ministry of the Community Food Bank. We are serving over 35 families now. This can be scary with food prices going up and more demand, but “Fear not, God is with us!” The Central Texas Conference Task Force on Hunger has provided us a grant of \$1,000 for our new and expanding ministry. I had asked for half that amount, but God knows better our need and He has provided. Amen!

Our 5th Sunday Community Service will be held at our church in Granger on May 31st. Mark your calendars and come see union among churches and the Holy Spirit in the midst of it all. Cody Culp and Patrice Monigan Haynes are going to come and sing. It will be a great night of worship through song.

Monthly Luncheons

The April luncheon was cancelled due to people being out of town. We have scheduled May 27th at 11:30 A.M. at Dynasty. Plan to attend as this will be the last one until September. Most of us are too busy with school out.

News!

Don't forget Bible Study! Communion is served!

Cowboy Church

Great service in April celebrating our 5 years! May 17th at 5:00 P.M. will be our next one. Brian Smith is providing the music. This will be the last one until October so let's invite as many as we can.

UMW

The Holland UMW will meet on May 20 at 11:30am for a soup and salad luncheon at the Church Fellowship Hall. Judy Gotcher is providing the soup so we need to bring salads or dessert. We will continue the study being presented by Pastor Shuler. Everyone is welcome!

Personal

Haley gave birth to Layla Peyton on April 7th at 5:23 P.M. Layle weighs 8 lbs 12 ounces and is 19 inches long. Both are doing well. Congratulations to Charley Mack and Judy Gotcher on becoming Great Grandparents and to Wendy on becoming a Grandma.