



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

April 2010

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

May the 9th of 2010 is an important day for all of us. It is commonly referred to as "Mothers' Day." No doubt, we all will pause briefly out of respect to our mothers who have selflessly given of themselves for each one of us. Traditionally, - at least as I remember from childhood - men would wear a red rose in honor of mothers who were living and a white one in honor of those who had died. Ladies would do the same with roses or corsages. Regardless of whether or not I observe that tradition, there are certain realities I must admit on this significant day.

First, my mother was the foundation of our home! No doubt many (if not most) of you who are reading this would say the same thing. In my case, it is perhaps a little more obvious due to the early death of my father. I was literally reared in a single-parent home. While I would have preferred this not to have been the case, I can't say that I was severely handicapped, because my mother provided a strong foundation.

Second, I never knew I was deprived! My mother reared me in a less-than-modest house, but it was all she could afford and it was hers. What's important is that she made it "our home." I didn't get everything I wanted or things other kids got as gifts or otherwise, but I never felt "poor." She provided for my needs and tried to provide as many opportunities for my personal growth and development as she could.

Third, she reared me to be independent! While my decisions may not have always been the best decisions, she saw to it that they were my decisions. That's the good part: the reverse is also true: I had to face the consequences of the decisions I made whether good or "not so good." I thank her that she wanted me to be ME. She did not cling, and she expected me to "leave the nest" one day. And if there was a single intense desire on her part, it was that she NOT be a burden on her children: a desire she made evident in her choices during the latter stages of her earthly life.

Last, she taught me the meaning of LOVE! That's really the bottom line in any relationship - love! She taught me love through her own self-giving and self-denying sacrifices. I can now give because her life demonstrated God's ultimate gift of His Son!

Of course, like any child, I didn't recognize all of the gifts and sacrifices she was making at the time, but I know NOW in retrospect. I only wish I had been more attentive, more thankful, and more appreciative when I could have. Now, however, I can only believe that she knows and receives my love as she continues to live in my heart.

So, in her honor, I will do what she would have wanted. I will go to church with or without a rose, and I will give thanks for all mothers who have been the vehicles of love and life. And I will say to all moms: "Thanks, Mom. I love you!" I hope you will be there with me...!

In Christ, I remain,

Your Pastor, Phil Shuler

Cowboy Church

April's service was well attended and enjoyed by all who attended. Great to have visitors from New Mexico! May 16th will be our last Cowboy church until October. It will be a GOOD one – filled with music and fellowship. Invite your neighbor!

UMW

The next meeting will be **April 28th at the fellowship hall @ 1:00 pm**. The **May meeting will be on the 19th at 11:30am at the fellowship hall**. Pastor Phil is bringing a session on John's letters. Come and visit UMW and hear a good Bible lesson.

Judy's News

Granger

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC

April broke the record for recipients for the Community Food Bank. Thirty eight families came through. With the generosity of Margaret Weber's 90th birthday party and her gifts given as items for the Food Pantry, every families need was met. Our pantry does look bare in spots. Ketchup, mustard, and can vegetables go so quickly and are down to bare minimum. We know God will again provide the way for May's Food Pantry on the 20th. This is His mission and with God, everything is possible. It is so great to be a part of His ministry. I am blessed as much as the people getting the help they need.

Bible Study

We will be starting Bible Study on Tuesday evenings on May 4th at 6:00 P.M. They will run through the summer. We are going to be studying Matthew and comparing the similarities of his gospel with Mark, Luke, and John. Everyone is welcome.

5th Sunday Community Service

May 31st will be our 5th Sunday Community Service. It will be held at our church, 201 South Granger. The offering will go to Ministerial Alliance who helps those in need with bills.

UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on May 8th at 8:00 am at Taqueria Sonora. They meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month.

UMW District Meeting Report Reported by Doris Severson

On Saturday, April 12th Judy Gotcher, Mary Cude and Doris Severson attended the Temple District UMW Day Apart meeting in Copperas Cove. Rev. Jane Woodward of FUMC, Temple gave the program. Among the things she talked about, my favorite topic was "The Celebration Discipline. She suggested keeping a joy journal. Every day we have things to be joyful about so we should thank God each day for them. It was a very enjoyable meeting!

What's New?

Henry and Kathy Hegar's daughter, Jill Wood and her husband, Eiland have moved to Greely, Colorado. After several postponements, they finally finished the move. Continue your prayers for them as they settle into their new home. Reported by Doris Severson

Future Dates to Remember

Date	Time	Event	Location
May 5th	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
May 8 th	8:00 am	UMM/UMME	Taqueria Sonora
May 16th	5:00 pm	Cowboy Church	Hegar's Farm
May 19 th	11:30 am	UMW Meeting	Fellowship Hall
May 19th	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's

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