



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

November 2009

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

They say that all good things come with a price tag. I think that most of us would agree with that statement. I experienced this truth in a very elementary form.

In my last newsletter message to you, I was sitting in my office noticing the parking lot wet from rain. Truly this was a joyous event for which I continue to give God thanks. It's WONDERFUL and WONDERFUL blessing! The price?

Well, I had basically put my lawn mower up for the summer; at least, I had in my mind. The parsonage lawn was brown, and the "carpet" grass was beginning to turn. I had become fearful of loosing it and had begun some early morning watering to keep it alive. Like the time of Ahab and Elijah, we were experiencing a Texas without rain.

Then the rains came...and came...and are still coming. What a joy to know that God's earth is soaking up every drop and again have the assurance that there will be growth once more. Now, what was the question I was addressing?

Oh yeah, the price! Well, with the rain, the grass began to grow...and grow...and grow! Turning green, I had to think of getting the lawn mower out of retirement. Then – much to my dismay – the rubber began to come off of one of the wheels. I made it through one cutting, but she wouldn't make it through a second. Off she went to the lawn mower doctor. That was about three weeks ago! Yep! You guessed it! An absent lawn mower doesn't keep grass (and weeds) from growing. For a while I imagined the neighborhood was circulating a petition suggesting that I move somewhere else. I even thought someone might come by and bale the grass for hay, but no one did [although it would have made nice Halloween decorations].

Well, I did get it mowed...or should I say that Anita hired it mowed for me. All's well that ends well!

Life is that way, isn't it? We ask and pray for things or circumstances for which we yearn only to find out there is a price. Often, the price that is asked is more than the inconvenience of an unsightly lawn. Sometimes it takes sacrifices that we willingly made for our family and loved ones.

Having a church that we love and worship in is also like that. It has taken a sacrifice to keep our church alive and well. But, CONGRATULATIONS! Our Charge Conference last month celebrated two churches that are ALIVE and WELL! St Paul's Lord's Acre garage sale was a huge success. Holland's first Cowboy Church service for Fall '09 was wonderful in every way, and the food was great! But it all took effort...sacrifice. When people come together, God is there and LIFE IS GOOD!

Come; help pay the price for faith! Have we not heard that Jesus "paid a price" for each one of us? Christmas is fast approaching. Join the excitement. Pay your price and be a part of the fellowship of faith. See you in Church.....

In Christ,

Phil Shuler, Your Pastor

Cowboy Church

November 15th (3rd Sunday) at 5:00 P.M. our Cowboy Church will be held at 5:00 P.M. at the Hegar's. Jerry Donica will provide the music and Brother Randy Evans will bring the message. Mike Urbantke is providing barbecue. Plan to be there and bring a friend. Let's fill the place up!

Judy's News

Granger

Community Food Bank –Granger UMC Food drives are being held to restock our Food Pantry. I am expecting a full pantry before Nov. 19th. We have enough money to buy each family a turkey or ham. Thank you for all you do as there are so many of you who donate food or money every month. It is God's mission so you are not only blessing us but praising Him as well. We have made our hours from 1:30 – 6:00 P.M. and that will continue until otherwise designated.

Bible Study

We have discontinued our Bible Study because of the cold weather. It costs too much to heat our church. We plan to start back in the spring.

Community Thanksgiving Service (Nov. 22nd) & 5th Sunday Community Service (Nov. 29th)

The Granger Ministerial Alliance meets once a year for a Community wide Thanksgiving Service. Last year it was very well attended! It will be held at 6:00 P.M. at St. Loveall Baptist church, 601 N. Granger. Our 5th Sunday Community Service will be Nov. 30th at the Brethren Church at 6:00 P.M.

Charge Conference – Our Charge Conference will be held Nov. 15th at 9:00 A.M.

Shoe Boxes For Christmas

Please remember to get your shoe boxes stuffed, labeled and ready to go to the Thanksgiving Community Service on November 22nd. They will be blessed and sent on their way the next day. This is great way to share the true meaning of Christmas with children less fortunate our church family. The information sheets and labels are available at the church.

What's New?

Reporter: **Doris Severson**

Jacob Cearley broke a finger on his right hand during Pee Wee league football practice last week and has a large cast. Lets all be in prayer for his speedy recovery.

Bernice Cooper continues to be plagued with pneumonia. She sure needs our prayers and support as she continues this battle.

Ellen Truesdale is at home and is doing better. Keep those prayers going for her and her family.

If you have news you want included let Doris Severson or Betty Jett know!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Nov 4 th	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
Nov 14 th	8:30 am	UMM/UMME	Fellowship Hall
Nov 15 th	5:00 pm	Cowboy Church	Hegar Farm
Nov 18 th	5:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Cearley's
Nov 22 nd	10:30 am	Community Thanksgiving Service/Lunch	Holland ISD Cafeteria Bring shoe boxes!
Dec 22 nd	???	Cowboy Church	Tentative Date

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