



# News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

November 2010

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

INTRO: *As I write, I am preparing for our annual Charge Conference to be held at St Paul UMC at 3:00 pm on November 14<sup>th</sup>. I want to share the Pastor's Report with you. Here it is: "Pastor's Holland UMC Report to the 2010 Charge Conference."*

2010 has been a year of "ups and downs for Holland First United Methodist Church. On the whole, it has been a very good year.

To begin with, the faith of our congregation is vibrant and alive. This is evident in several ways. Our Sunday worship services are down slightly from last year, averaging *circa* 31. They continue to be meaningful and spiritually edifying. Our weekly Bible Study is a highpoint for those who attend. Attendance has been 8 each session, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper amid prayer is a fitting climax to the evening of growth. During the year, we have studied the book of Acts and are currently studying the book of Exodus. In addition, we had three sessions on Islam, the understanding of which is so crucial to current events involving our great nation.

Members of our church have reached out in co-operation with members of other churches in our community in a Bible Study for Mid-High students of Holland ISD. This year, the study has convened with an attendance of *circa* 50. Holland UMC continues to be vital to "Fifth Quarter," a program for High School students following home football games. This Christmas, we will once again participate with First Baptist Church in the Shoebox ministry.

Our church continues to provide food supplies for our local food pantry and contributions to the Granger food pantry. One of our members serves as Lay Pastor of the Granger UMC and continues to provide a stimulating witness in the "Children's Sermon" during our principal worship service. Another of our member families provides leadership in weekly recovery groups in Temple.

Cowboy Church at the Hegar farm continues to be a highlight of our church's community witness. This experience draws from persons across denominational lines for worship and fellowship that is hard to beat!

Easter Sunday 2010 was a big event for our church as four of five participants in our Confirmation Class were received into the church. The fifth participant was already a member of the church. What a joy to see parents and their children standing before the cross taking and re-confirming their vows together in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our UMW and UMM continue to be active in their work. The UMW conducted a study on John's letters and made a meaningful trip to view the Wesleyan Home in Georgetown. The UMM has changed its format and is active in both fellowship and mission.

One plan of mission to the community is worthy of note. On November 7, from 7:00-8:30, Holland UMC will move its location to downtown and provide a free pancake breakfast for all who will come, be they Methodists or not. Following this breakfast, all who wish will worship together. Everyone is invited to breakfast regardless of their individual or family plans afterwards.

Holland UMC is a church where members care! Judy Gotcher renders an e-mail service informing of needs and concerns of families and community. Betty Biells surprised me with a thorough report on the membership for this conference, a first for this pastor during his 49 years of pastoral service. The concern here in Holland for the welfare of the community and country is most commendable. In expressing appreciation and thanks to God for ministry here, the names of Jett, Cooper, Eubank, Parmer, Benner, Cearley, Cude, Barton, Severson, Hegar, Urbantke, McKague, Weiss, Biells, Rodriguez, Smith, Holt, Gotcher, Lange, Petrie, Fagner, Norville, and Zajicek come to mind among others. I believe our "little" church has a "big" future in God's eyes.

*Come join us! See you in church Sunday!*

In Christ,  
Phil Shuler, Pastor

## Community Breakfast

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> the UMM are hosting a Community Pancake Breakfast at the Kuhlmann Center at 7:00am and our worship service will also be held there at our usual time. All church members are urged to come early and help them make this monthly event a success. Call Rob Fagner if you have questions.

## Cowboy Church

Our next celebration will be on Nov 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm at the Hegar Farm. Pastor Randy Evans will be preaching and Coleman Benner is arranging for the music. Mike Urbantke will be bringing the BBQ Pork. Be sure to bring those cookies!

## UMW

**Our next meeting is on November 17, 2010 at 1 pm at the Church Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join us.**

## Judy's News

### Granger Community Food Pantry

Well, it keeps on getting bigger. We had 46 families come through this month. We ran out of everything, meat, potatoes, eggs, bread, and can vegetables. Now we are preparing for the Thanksgiving day. We will be opened on Thursday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, corn bread dressing, and canned vegetables. We will be planning on 50 families so we prayerfully will have enough. Turkey and ham will be the meats. If any of you can help, it would be appreciated.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service of Song – Church in the Park

The advertisement is out. Over one hundred flyers were delivered. Everyone I have talked to seems excited about this. Now we will leave it up to see what God will do with it. The message will be in song. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this.

### Tuesday Night Bible Study

Bible Study is at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Community Service

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Community Service will be held at the Judea Missionary Baptist Church at 6:00 pm on the 31st of this month. All churches in the community are invited to attend – to sing, or sing along, and to enjoy the fellowship of Christ. Everyone is asked to bring a snack to share with others as food and fellowship follow immediately after. Everyone is welcome.

## UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on **Nov 13th at 8:00 am** the fellowship hall and breakfast will be served