



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

October 2008

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

I once heard that the only certainty there is in life is "change!" I suspect that there are few reading this article who would disagree. We all experience the "c" word, *change*. There are all types of changes that each one of us experiences. There's change in the weather, change in the seasons (I'm writing on the first day of Fall!), change in our health for good or for ill, change in our family (kids growing up and discovering their respective futures), change in our living conditions, and on and on it goes. In one month, we will undergo another change as a nation: we will elect a new President of the USA. This is true regardless of which political party's candidate wins the popular / electoral vote. I guess that this all means that change is inevitable!

The Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church of which Holland UMC is a member congregation will experience change very quickly under the leadership and guidance of a new bishop, Bishop Michael Lowry. Our new bishop didn't have far to move since when elected he resided in San Antonio, TX, just a few miles south of us on I 35. Regardless of the close proximity, our church can expect changes if only because the world around us has changed. Bishop Lowry recently wrote in his column in "The Central Link:" "...even the best of us is confused in these chaotic times. The day of Christendom is over. The day when we could count on the culture being genuinely Christian is gone...On the other hand; we in the church are straining mightily to reach out with Christ's love and grace." ("The Wilderness Way") My, how true this is, and what a challenge it offers to each of us!

The way we face change makes all the difference in our lives. If asked, I would suggest two "f" words that can help us face the bishop's challenge as a Christians, AND help us with any change we confront. The words are FAITH and FRIENDS. Faith is our commitment to a God we know to be constantly near, One who IS personal and embraces our every motion and thought. Our FAITH in God provides us with the true foundation to every aspect of our lives, both individual and collective. FAITH provides the anchor we need to travel successfully through change, the rough times we have and are experiencing. FRIENDS provide the strength of companionship, the conviction that we are not living life alone or going through changes others have not experienced. We all need a hand to hold, a smile to receive, a tender touch of under girding, understanding support. There's a Nigerian proverb that says, "Hold on to a friend with both hands," and a Bosnian one that reads, "One without a friend is like a right hand without a left." I think Bishop Lowry would agree that FAITH and FRIENDSHIP constitute our challenge as a Christians in the present chaotic, ever-changing world in which we find ourselves. To be the church is to live our FAITH and be a FRIEND to others. FRIENDS, won't you join me in Church that we may together celebrate our FAITH?

Yours in Christ,
Phil Shuler

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Judy's News

New Calling –Granger UMC

Our 5th Sunday service went so well. We had a couple other churches join us and it was a night of song, praise, and testimony. Next one will be in November at our church. Brian will be leading our music.

Monthly Luncheons

October's luncheon will be held on Wednesday, the 29th at Dibz, Italian Cuisine, downtown Temple at 11:30 A.M

News!

Mary Cude completed her Walk to Emmaus. Just ask her about it! She was beaming when we picked her up! I am sure she will encourage you to go!

Bible Study Resumes

We will resume the Bible Study in October. We will set a day and time in the near future. Come out to share the fellowship and learning!

UMW News

The Holland UMW will meet in the home of Betty Bielss' on October 15th at 1:00 pm. We will be planning the "Packing Party" for the Christmas Shoebox Mission. Everyone is invited.

Future Dates to Remember

Date	Time	Location	Event
Nov 16th	5:00 pm	Hegar Farm	Cowboy Church
Nov 23rd	11:00 am	HISD Cafeteria	Community Thanksgiving Service
Nov 25th	11:00 am	HISD Cafeteria	Community Lunch
Dec 21st	7:00 pm	Holland FUMC	Candlelight Service
Dec 22nd	7:00 pm	Hegar Farm	Cowboy Church
Jan 18th	5:00 pm	Hegar Farm	Cowboy Church