



# News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

October 2011

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

While checking news on the internet, I read an article saying that there would be a scant pumpkin harvest in the Northeast this year. Pumpkin plants were stunted by hurricane Irene that stirred up salt from the ocean and plummeted foliage and trees with high winds. Having been there immediately after Irene, I saw the damage first hand. My first reaction to the article was, "so?" Why was not the damage to trees and foliage highlighted? Then I realized that it's October, and the damage to pumpkins was "news" because October is month of Halloween!

I know that there are many who no longer think the observance of Halloween is a good thing for Christians. It emphasizes the presence of evil and the fun I had as a child on Halloween – while innocent enough – was actually the celebration of evil spirits at work. While I understand this position, I know that not admitting the presence of evil doesn't make it go away. Rather, my view comes from my faith that evil – in whatever form it may take – can never overcome God and the love He has shown in his Son, Jesus Christ. However overwhelming it may seem, God will ALWAYS be victorious over the forces of evil. That's why the day following Halloween is "All Saints Day." Evil can be and is overcome through the lives of those who truly live the Christian faith!

Please understand me. I'm not saying that one should go out on Halloween and do as much evil as possible, or that Halloween gives one the license to do horrible things to others. I say "enjoy" the occasion (if you choose to) knowing the regardless of the event God has the final victory, and we are His! If you want to discourage the observance of Halloween, do so with a laugh or at least a smile. If you choose to use the occasion for fun, be discerning and safe in your actions. When you finish, say a prayer of thanks for the real victory in Him!

For you and me, however, Halloween is not the only event to celebrate this October. Think October 16<sup>th</sup>. That's the date of the first Cowboy Church for this Fall season. We've received the word that the Hegar farm is in a state of readiness, the music (musicians) have been contacted, and a preacher has agreed to "kick off" our new Fall alignment. As usual there will be plenty of good eatin' food for all who come. Finally, be assured that the toilet in the Outhouse works! Keep October 16<sup>th</sup> highlighted on your calendar!

Also, keep October 30<sup>th</sup> in mind. That is the date for this year's annual Charge Conference. The new format consists of cluster meetings throughout the District (remember last year's at St Paul?) and these meetings will be celebrative in nature. The actual "business," which is currently in process, will take place in the respective board meetings of each church. Our "cluster meeting" will be held in the First UMC in Bartlett, TX at 5:00 PM on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Be in prayer for this meeting and in all the preparations that go into a successful Charge Conference; AND plan to be a part of the cluster celebration.

Oh yeah, we also worship every Sunday in October in celebration of God's wonderful sustaining presence. See you there...in worship! Phil Shuler, Pastor

## Community Breakfast

On October 2nd the free Pancake Breakfast is be held at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00am. Regular church service will follow at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

## Judy's News

### Granger Community Food Pantry

49 Families came through this month. It was a great day. We added one more service besides food and a devotional. Everyone was handed a Prayer Request form if they knew someone who needed prayers, including themselves. I really thought it would get off to a slow start but so wrong. God placed this on my heart for a reason. One man went home, filled it out and brought it back! Then commented on the devotional (Praise God, they are being read!). We had 11 family requests for prayer! Food pantry shelves are very low. Will be starting the Food Can Drive in October. Henry and Kathy came and helped us as well as bringing food. Thanks Holland for helping God's mission!

### UMM

The United Methodist Men will meet on October 8th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the fellowship and worship.

### UMW

We did not meet in September. We have a trip planned to see the Painted Churches in October. We are scheduled for October 19th. Details to follow!

The joint meeting for the UMW Conferences will be held on October 1st in Brownwood and UMW Officer's training is scheduled for November in Georgetown-see the District Newsletter for details.

### Cowboy Church

October's Cowboy Church has been set. It will be the third Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Ed Stockton has asked to bring the music and his father-in-law, Don Gurney, Pastor Emeritus, Main Street Baptist, Georgetown will be bringing the message. Mark your calendars and please bring a friend.

### Birth Announcement

Mollie Catherine Zajicek was born September 2nd. She weighed 7lbs and 13ozs and she was 20" long. After a small setback she and her mother are doing well. She is the daughter of Scott and Kristen Zajicek.