



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

October 2012

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Well, October is once again upon us. My how time does fly! With October comes Fall, and the change of seasons becomes a reality. Notice how the mornings are getting cooler? Soon, the days in Holland will be getting shorter, and the seasonal holidays will be rapidly coming: Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. This is truly a time to give thanks and to celebrate!

One of the holidays that I always enjoyed (and still do!) was Halloween. I know, this season has fallen out of popularity of late, but I have always enjoyed it. I remember dressing up in costume as a kid, going out “trick or treating,” and joyfully taking a tally of all that I accumulated during the evening. And, I wasn’t alone!

When I grew up and became a parent, I remember walking with my children while they – all dressed up – went around the neighborhood with their Halloween bags gathering goodies as I had done. I remember my wife, Anita, embarrassing our daughter, Jeni, when she – dressed up as a witch – approached Jeni with friends at the Abilene Mall in her classic witch’s voice. Jeni, of course, pretended not to know who that crazy woman dressed-like-a-witch was.

Granted, sometimes things got a little out of hand. But what I remember were the joyful smiles of adults, and bright-eyed expressions of the children, the groups of costumed children, going about their friendly and loving neighborhoods. You know? We were all like one big happy family!

Then I began to hear other comments. I heard some “Christians” saying that Halloween should not be observed because it was a celebration of demons and evil spirits. The strange part of that to me was that I never thought of it as a celebration of evil spirits and demons. More recently, there have been some horrible instances of people putting stuff in the candy that could really hurt persons who ate. I have never understood how anyone could do such a thing. Apparently, once safe and friendly neighborhoods have now become less friendly and more hostile ones!

So, when this Halloween comes, we must take precautions. If you go “trick or treating,” be careful. Go only to those houses that have the front porch light on. Better still; go to those families you know! Check all of the candy before eating. Why? Because Halloween is not what it used to be.

Upon reflection, I still find Halloween to be a meaningful event. Admittedly, it symbolically gives evil spirits a free reign to some extent. But you know? The next day is “All Saints’ Day,” and that day affirms the victory of God, goodness, and love over every manner of evil. What a faith! Evil is short-lived. Goodness and God’s mercy is where the real strength is! Christ is victorious, and no amount or expression of evil comes close to God’s power and triumph!

So, let me wish you a “Happy Halloween,” a safe and joyful Halloween in Holland! And may the essential meaning of God’s victory over evil become reality in your life. See you in Church Sunday!

Philip L. Shuler, Pastor

Cowboy Church

October service will be on **the 28th at 5:00 P.M.** Plans continue to be made but remember to bring desserts.

Judy's News

Granger Community Food Pantry

Sixty-four families were given food to help through the month. Mission helping missions in action was shown by The Warehouse in Pflugerville who donated New Testaments in English and Spanish to hand out to all the recipients of the Food Pantry. The people gratefully accepted them.. Another example is the Knights of Columbus donated 4 6foot tables for our pantry. They are light weight and replace the heavy old wooden ones we had. God is so good. Our pantry is empty of canned goods and other staples. Any help will be appreciated. Next date will be [October 16](#), 2012.

5th Sunday Regular Service at 10:45 A.M.

This service will be held in the city park. Ed Stockton and Noel Lovelette will be bringing the music. We'll have chairs or bring your own lawn chair and enjoy morning worship and fellowship.

5th Sunday Community Service

Our 5th Sunday in Granger will be held at St. Loveall Baptist Church in Granger on [September 30th](#). Rev. Roy Woolridge from Bartlett is the pastor there. We look forward to night of singing and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

Postponed No Longer – Beth Moore's Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

We will be starting this study on Tuesday, [October 9th](#), at 6:45 P.M. in the home of Kathy Miller, 110A S. Davilla St. in Granger. The study will be 2 hours long and will last 12 weeks with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Everyone is invited to attend. Share a ride and come. It is a fantastic study and brings "Hope" to all Christians. I will be the facilitator. I went through one myself and enjoyed it and am excited to be hosting this one.

Calendar of Events

Date & Time	Event	Location	Comments
10/3/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
10/7/12 @ 7:30 am	Community Pancake Breakfast/Church Serv	Kuhlmann Center	Church Service @ 9:00am
10/10/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
10/13/12 @ 8:00 am	UMM Meeting	Fellowship Hall	
10/17/12 @ 1:00 pm	UMW Meeting	Fellowship Hall	
10/17/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
10/20/12 @ 5:00 pm	Wedding Brett Barton & Cynthia Lively	Holland FUMC	Reception @ Cearley home
10/21/12 @ 5:00 pm	Charge Conference	Nolanville	
10/24/12 @ 5:00 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	
10/28/12 @ 6:30 pm	Cowboy Church	Hegar Farm	Bring desserts
10/31/12 @ 6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall	