



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

September 2012

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Once again we are at the beginning of a new school year, and our children/grandchildren are given a chance for more education. And, we at Holland have wonderful schools in which our kids can learn. But the question is: "what do I want my child/grandchild to learn?"

Upon reflection, I came up with an answer. I want children to learn what it really means to be a human being. My answer sounds ludicrous doesn't it! Actually, it makes perfect sense to me. We live in a world of technology, one in which many of our tasks are completed with the push of a button. We communicate with others by way of hand-held devices. We have created life in a test tube, and have experimented with cloning. Miracles are accomplished every day in our hospitals and clinics. All this is good, but I am doubtful that we realize how far removed we are getting from what it really means to be a human being.

Let's face it! Do we really want to know what being human means? It means – among other things – that we are finite creatures, dependent upon God and others for life and survival. We human beings are created to have and express feelings, and yet we often hold back from letting our feelings be known. With all of our scientific and technological advances, many of us conclude that faith in God is irrelevant, and that we are completely in charge of our lives. We can "do it my way" and do not need God or other human beings. I suspect we all know better. We need not only to feel but also to express our feelings. We need the strength and foundation faith in God provides. We need social relationships that extend outside of our immediate families. This is how we know we are alive, we can relate to others with feelings and love. God created and continues to cherish our humanness! After all, He gave His Son on humanity's behalf so that we might know and appreciate what it means to be "human."

As a Marine approached the nurses' station one evening, a nurse stepped forward and led the Marine to a room saying, "Let me take you to your father's room." When they entered the hospital room, an old man was lying in the bed, obviously in the later stages of his life. The nurse leaned over the old man and said, "Here is your son" as she placed his hand into the hand of the Marine. The Marine sat down beside the bed, holding the man's hand, and stayed there throughout the night. When the nurse came by offering to relieve the Marine, he respectfully refused. She also noticed that when she would pass by, the Marine seemed to be saying words of comfort to the old man. Early the next morning, the old man died. When the nurse came in and began to do certain tasks, the Marine interrupted her and asked, "Who was that man?" The nurse was shocked and said, "He was your father, wasn't he?" The Marine replied, "No, I've never seen this man before." The nurse then asked, "Why, then, did you stay?" The Marine's reply: "I stayed because the old man needed me!" Apparently, the military had mixed names and numbers of two soldiers who were from the same town and bore the same names. The wrong Marine was sent thinking HIS father was the one in the hospital. But he stayed with the old man "because he needed me!"

I invite all of us to pray for our schools (including students, faculty, staff and administrators) at the beginning of this school year. With the quality that is evident and officially recognized, I know it will be a rewarding year! Let's also pray that through their studies and activities our kids learn what it means to be truly human: namely, caring for God's presence, creation, and others. Love to all of you: hope to see you Sunday.

Until then, stay "cool."

Phil Shuler, Pastor



The United Methodist Men will meet on September 8th at 8am in the Fellowship Hall.



The September Free Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00am on the 2nd. We will have our regular church service at 9:00 am. The October event will be on the 7th of October.



Granger Community Food Pantry

Fifty seven families came through in August. We had school supplies available as well. They all went fast. We plan on having a Food Drive in October as our pantry is almost bare. Praise God His grace is sufficient as we always have just enough. Once again thank you for helping out with staples as well as physical help.

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.



Our next meeting will be held on September 19, 2012 at the Fellowship Hall. Planning for the UMW Sunday Service on the 23rd will be finalized. Our District Meeting will be held in Gatesville on September 15th. See Hilda Eubank for information on travel.

Personal Message

"Thanks so much to our Lord God and my family and friends at Holland UMC for your prayers and support over the years. I am officially retired after 39 1/2 years of Federal Service. I am working on getting things lined up to remodel my condo's kitchen and will paint and have new carpet installed. As soon as I can finish this "sprucing up" project, I'll put it on the market and pray it sells quickly. Then, it's back to Holland, TX! Looking forward to the day we can all be together again, worshipping God and sharing joys and sorrows. I'm so-o-o-o-o excited!

Love,

Becky Cooper