



News From Holland

Newsletter of Holland First United Methodist Church

September 2006

Rev. Chris Hughes, Pastor

Volume IX

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

Chris' Corner

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NRSV)

Sept is the kick-off month for the Central Texas Annual Conference's¹ three-year plan for equipping each believer to accomplish the mission of the church: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ."

Beginning this month, our emphasis will be on equipping us to witness to our faith, and I, along with other pastors will be focusing on the Great Calling (Matthew 4:18-22), the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20).

As a part of this kick-off month, our church will be visited by a mystery guest on one of the Sundays of Sept. Our mystery guest will judge how well we do at being a welcoming congregation!

Also as a part of our emphasis on witnessing to our faith, I want to challenge each of us to bring at least one guest to worship during the month of Sept. With each of us witnessing to our faith, others will hear the good news of God's love and have the opportunity to be transformed in the image of Christ. May each of us go and make disciples by witnessing to our faith!

Grace & Shalom,

Chris

Chris Hughes, pastor

PS In response to several requests, I will be leading a study at Saint Paul on Thursdays during Sept focusing on the political & biblical history of Israel and the Middle East. I hope you'll join me from 5:30 to 6:30 each Thursday.

SEPT WORSHIP SERVICES

Bible Readings & Message Titles

Date	Scripture		Sermon
Sept 3	Genesis 18:1-15	Communion Sunday	"From the Inside Out"
Sept 10	Matthew 4:18-22	(The Great Calling)	"A Call To Witness"
Sept 17	Matthew 22:34-40	(The Great Commandment)	"A Call to Nurture"
Sept 24	Matthew 28:16-20	(The Great Commission)	"A Call to Outreach"

¹ The Central Texas Annual Conference is a grouping of 330 churches in the central Texas area, yoked together for ministry, under the leadership of Bishop Ben Chamness.



THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

Yesterday I told a girl that was crying in my arms, “The truth will set you free.” She felt that she had been wrongly accused and wanted to lash out and hurt those who had hurt her. I prayed with her and reminded her that life often isn’t fair; it is how we respond to the unfair things in life that make or break us.

Yesterday I spoke with someone whose marriage is in trouble; someone who is estranged from her family (they do not talk at all); someone who gets her feelings hurt at work on a daily basis but always wears a smile so that no one will know she is hurting; someone who was hurting so badly that they couldn’t even share with me – they just cried; and someone else who just moved and is having a hard time adjusting. All of these folks are either staff or parents at the school right next door to St. Paul UMC!

We have a mission field within a stone’s throw of St. Paul UMC! Who is within a stone’s throw of Holland’s schools? Hurting and lonely people with no where to turn. One asked me the time of our services and another told me she didn’t go to church but wished she did. Every one of those situations applied to the Bible verse that I had quoted in John 8:32, “...and ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free.”

We all have people that are hurting around us. Research shows that mental struggles directly affect our physical well-being. Are you or a loved one or friend suffering with a situation that does not seem fair? God reminds us that we can know Truth and that Truth can and will set us free. Walking in the Light of Jesus’ life here on earth and the things God wants to teach each one of us in the Bible is the only way to truly be free. Family discord, false accusations, financial troubles, disrespect – these are all chains that can bind and trap us into a pity party and leave us feeling defeated. The Truth of Jesus’ love for you and me is what can set us free.

Truth is not always easy and Jesus was killed for telling it. However, because of Truth, you and I can lead a happy, healthy life here on earth and spend eternity with God in Heaven. I encourage each of us to pray about where we are bound by physical, mental or spiritual chains and then ask the Lord to break those bonds. We can be free – free indeed!

Please contact me at my home (254) 778-2014 or my cell phone (254) 780-6140 with any questions or comments.

Trusting in the Great Physician – Jesus Christ,
Becky Hughes, RN, MHA Parish Nurse

Judy's News

Adult Sunday School

We meet for an hour every Sunday after church and fellowship. God wants us to read and study His word. What a way to do that! We have plenty of room!

Lunch Bunch

The Church's lunch bunch will meet the September 27th at 11:30 AM. If anyone has a place they would like to go to for lunch, please let me know. We will announce the location in a couple weeks. Mark your calendars! EVERYONE is invited!

Prayer

Prayer is so important and our church has become known as a powerful prayer church. Be sure and write the prayer requests down on your bulletin each week and pray for them. God is in control and He does listen!

UMW meetings resume on September 20th at 2:00 pm. The place will be announced later in the month. We hope to see you there!

We are tentatively planning the next campout for Oct 13, 14 and 15th at Turkey Roost at Cedar Ridge Park on Belton Lake. Please let Kassa Willingham, Becky Hughes or Betty Jett know if this date works for your and your family so we can finalize the plans.