



# News From Holland

**Holland First United Methodist Church**

**August 2010**

**Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor**

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

When I last wrote, the temperature had not reached the 100's. [That was more than a month ago!] Since then, we've hardly been OUT OF THE 100's! I did say that the heat was about to hit us, and did it ever! I'm not sure how many consecutive days we've been there, because the specific numbers vary slightly from mile to mile. But, it is safe to say that the figure lies somewhere between 12 and 20! I hope that you are taking care of yourself; that is, staying in the cool as much as possible and drinking plenty of liquids. So, what word do I have in this month's newsletter column?

I do have a word, but it did not originate with me. Actually, it comes from FAITH. And the word is: "Relief is forthcoming!" Perhaps the word, "relief" is not the most appropriate one. The prophets of old used other terms: terms such as "judgment," "restoration" through repentance, the "Messiah" who is to come and save Israel, or some similar word/term/phrase. The point of faith is that there is always "HOPE" in what is to come. This hope comes from creation itself. The Summer heat will give way to Fall moderation. Fall's moderate temperatures will yield to Winter's cold. Winter's cold will then become Spring's warmer winds. Then, Summer once again.... So it goes!

The good news of the New Testament is that the "heat" of the human condition can be "cooled" by the refreshing presence of God's Son, Jesus Christ. In the words a song a few years back, "What the World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love." And that love for you and me originated in God through His Son, Jesus. Love was evidenced in his willing self-sacrifice. The reception of that love by you and me eases the tensions we are experiencing and brings about a soothingly cool, heart-felt confidence in the relief of His presence in every part of our lives.

Did you take note? What we experience in creation we also experience in our lives and relationships. Amid the joys we experience, there are "bumps in the road." "Bumps" is probably an understatement! "Speed bumps" would certainly be a better expression if not "road blocks." Our best-laid plans often require detours, some longer and more difficult to travel. The point, however, is to reach the right destination. IT IS TO REACH OUR GOAL, however long it takes and however difficult the road may turn out to be.

**MORE GOOD NEWS** – We do not have to travel our life's journeys ALONE! God is with us, every inch (second) of the trip! Jesus – when his followers thought they were being left alone – told them, "Lo, I will be with you," and this word addresses us for the duration of our journeys and beyond. So, rejoice in hope. Seize that HOPE that is integral to creation itself. GOD IS..., and for this reason, WE ARE...!

In conclusion, we may experience more 100 degree days before summer's end. Continue to protect yourself by taking all the precautions necessary to stay healthy in the heat. But be assured: there will be an end to the heat and cooler weather is "around the corner." God...creation...life itself tells me this is so.

I look forward to seeing you in church (among other places!). Sunday?  
In Christ,

Phil Shuler, Pastor

## UMM/UMME

The United Methodist Men will meet on September 11th at 8:00 am the fellowship hall and breakfast will be served. They meet in conjunction with the United Methodist Motorcycle Enthusiasts each month.

## UMW

The Temple District UMW meeting will be held in Temple on September 11 with registration starting at 9am and the program begins at 10am. Please let Mary Cude know if you will be attending. Lunch is \$10 and we have to call ahead so they will have plenty of food.

The regular meeting will be on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Fellowship Hall of the church.

## Judy's News

### **Granger Community Food Pantry**

Wow! What a busy day with 40 families coming through the doors. Because school is starting and we have many families with children, we also had some school supplies to help out. Many thanks and many smiles, especially from the children, were received.

Again I thank you for all you contribute to make this mission productive.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service of Song**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our regular service at 10:45 but with a twist. Music, including oldies, but goodies, & gospel music will be our message. Ed Stockton has agreed to bring several of his buddies to come sing and play for us. Come and join us for a great way to worship!

### **Tuesday Night Bible Study**

Bible Study starts at 6:30 PM. It is being a great study and everyone looks forward to the next week. Anyone is welcome.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Community Service**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Community Service will be held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church at 6:00 P.M. on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month. All churches in the community are invited to attend – to sing, or sing along, and to enjoy the fellowship of Christ. Everyone is asked to bring a snack to share with others as food and fellowship follow immediately after. Everyone is welcome.

### **Waco Prayer Conference**

Five of us attended this wonderful inspiring conference. “Don’t just talk about praying, Let’s pray!” It was a great message for everyone there.

## Cowboy Church

We will see you all again in October!