



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

September 2011

Dr Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

In church this past Sunday we sang the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God." While this song is usually reserved for the season of Thanksgiving, I think its message is appropriate for every Sunday of the year. Consider the first verse:

"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today."

These words (including and those of the remaining two verses) are appropriate because we live in a world where there seems to be little rejoicing. We are torn with conflict, aggressive behavior, and economic strife internationally. The biblical reference to "wars and rumors of war" echoes around us. We don't seem to be faring a lot better on the national front. We Americans struggle economically, politically, and (I might add) spiritually. The good news is that we can still stand, as Christians, and sing with gusto, "Now Thank We All Our God" with hearts, hands, and voices. This is the paradox with which we all live!

This paradox was evident in an article I recently read. In it, Dr. Chet wrote: "I'm a Buffalo Bills fan." But he went on to say that being a Buffalo Bills fan wasn't always easy to admit, given their record in the past 10 years. What impressed him about this year's team was not the team per se, but a recent statement by the Bills coach, Chan Gailey. Gailey was asked about the new rules regarding the number of practices allowed as he prepared the team for the coming season. The coach's reply was that he didn't like them. But what was profound was his follow-up statement: "You can gripe and complain about what you don't have, or you can get excited about what you do have. You get to choose every day."

This everyday choice is one we all have. We can complain and gripe about the conditions of our world/country/community, OR we can get excited about what we have and enjoy. **WE GET TO CHOOSE EVERY DAY!** The paradox is with us every day of our lives, but so is the element of choice. That choice is how we will respond to life and all that life brings, both good and not so good. Still, we have the choice to be thankful for all that we have and experience. For this reason we, too, as Christians can sing (or at least say together):

"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today."

Have a great day/week/month and school year! See you in church Sunday. Regardless of our circumstances, we indeed have much about which to be thankful!

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Community Breakfast

The free Pancake Breakfast is be held at the Kuhlmann Center 7:30-9:00am on Sept 4th. Our church service will follow at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship! Call Rob Fagner if you have questions.

Judy's News

Granger Community Food Pantry Granger Community Food Pantry
In spite of the heat they were lined up at the door an hour ahead of time to get food for their table. Getting groceries helps them pay for their utilities. So many of the families are on a very limited income. Our shelves are bare once again. We are planning Food Drives in October to help restock. We had 48 families come through this month.

5th Sunday Community Service

The majority of the churches were represented for this service. There was great music and singing praised to our Lord as well as fellowship. The next one will be held in October.

UMW

The South District Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday Sept 10, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church, Killeen, TX. Registration begins at 9:00 am and the meeting begins at 9:45 am. Registration forms are being distributed at our church and must be returned to Betty Jett for mailing by Sept 2, 2011. The meal is \$10 per person and daycare is available. See the registration flyer.

Cowboy Church

Plans need to be made soon for our schedule for this event. I've already lined up the music and speaker for October but a definite date needs to be set. Let's pray for the weather to be cooler.