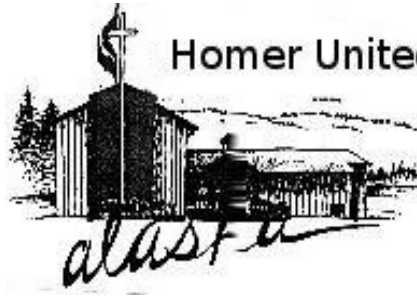


UNTO YOU

July, 2011



Homer United Methodist Church

“Smiles, Paint, and New Friends...”

By Charles Martindell

As the month of June wrapped up we are gradually recovering from the excitement, and lots of extra work associated with the 2011 Alaska United Methodist Annual Conference meetings that took place here over the first week and weekend of June. Thanks to the commitment and efforts of too many to name, the conference was a wonderful success (see the article in this edition of “Unto You” that shares some of the notes the church has received). Hospitality is a powerful gift to share in the life of the church, and that was the word-of-the-conference, as we greeted, hosted, provided transportation, housing, food service, snacks, and on and on and on! Whew!

As June concluded, the special gifts of this summer continued with a Volunteer In Mission group from Oklahoma State University's Wesley Foundation. The Wesley Foundation is a United Methodist student ministry led by Rev. Elizabeth Horton-Ware who, along with her husband Eric, and a group of students from the Foundation, led a Vacation Bible School for the children of the church and community. Then, in their spare time, they joined with Allen Combs (a long-time member of St. John United Methodist in Anchorage) in painting the exterior walls of the Education wing of the church. We all enjoyed getting to know our new friends at worship on June 19th, and at the delicious Pot Luck that followed. The team from Oklahoma State also joined with the work of the Community Food Pantry and our Community dinner in June. A fruitful mission trip to be sure! Thank you to all our new friends for sharing the love of God in such visible ways among us.



There's something special about a season that includes gifts that are shared one life to another. This June, our gifts have included: Smiles... Paint... and New Friends.

In A “Jam”

A new supply of homemade JAM is needed so we can continue to give ‘The gift of Jam’ to first time worshippers on Sundays. Thank you to everyone who helps!

Summer Lecture Series

We are pleased to welcome visits by long-time members of the Homer UMC Church Family, Erin Cline (Assistant Professor of Comparative Ethics, Georgetown University) and Kelly Cline (Associate Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, Carroll College) who will be in Homer this month visiting with parents Mike and Dotty Cline. Erin and Kelly have agreed to share a 2-lecture series of presentations at the church. Let's mark our calendars so we take advantage of these thought-provoking gifts!

July 14th: "The Contemporary Relevance of Confucianism" by Erin Cline

July 21st: "Mayan Astronomy, Calendars, and the 2012 Prophecy" by Kelly Cline

Both presentations will begin at 7 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall, and are free and open to the public.

Notes after the Alaska United Methodist Annual Conference....

From Lana and Brei (of the Homer Community Food Pantry- who prepared all the delicious foods for the meals at the church):

Thank you Pastor Charles and Karen, Roberta, Dave, all of the rest of you that helped Lana and I serve our Lord Jesus and your Conference attendees. In Christ, Brei

From Abbe Dunning-Newbury:

Congratulations and thanks for a wonderful Conference. What a lovely Church and it was good to be in Homer!

On a note in the Offering plate:

"Thank you so much for having Annual Conference at your church. Your welcome and hospitality was awesome."

On a note in the Offering plate:

"I'm here for the Alaska United Methodist Conference. Thank you for hosting us!"

From Bishop Grant Hagiya:

Thank you so much for all you did to make our Annual Conference a big success. You exemplified radical hospitality! Thank you so much for everything, and I know I speak for the whole Annual Conference. I noticed the Phillies beat the Dodgers again!

Other recent Notes to the church...

From one of the new families attending the church:

We love attending this church. Most welcoming congregation we've ever encountered!

From one of the ones attending our Community Meal:

Thanks for offering this to the Homer community! The fellowship and food is great.

From one of our recent Sunday attendees:

Thanks for a fun Children's Sermon about our Bishop- what a fun way to learn!

(2)

St. Augustines' Episcopal Church Food Pantry Garden

We would LOVE to have help with plant donations, and volunteer labor would be welcome, too. Right now we need to put up a fence along the north side for wind protection, and hope to get that done soon. All kinds of plants are welcome, but I will not have as much time to help with planting right now, so will need to coordinate our volunteers closely with any plant donations to make sure we get them safely in the ground in a timely way. We would love to have some more perennial flowers for the front. We'd also love to plant some raspberry bushes, and perhaps strawberries. Herbs would be great, and we'd consider potatoes and other vegetables, depending on the timing and the labor availability. We'd certainly love to hear about any other plants that may be available, and will try to be good stewards of any gifts. For more information, contact Catherine Knott, 226-1102.

ALL-CHURCH Pot Luck Meal on July 24th

Let's mark our calendars for the next ALL-CHURCH Pot Luck meal that will be on July 24th right after worship. With us that day, will be a Volunteers In Mission team from eastern Pennsylvania. This team will be working on some projects in the Homer community while staying at the church. Plan to stick around for the meal... bring something to share (beverages and table service will be provided).

Summer Bible Study Coming in July and August

Led by Charles Martindell, our Summer Bible study will be offered over the course of 5 Sundays at 12:30 in the Orange room. The Sunday's we will meet are: July 10,17, 24; August 21 and 28.

After input from the church, our study will focus on the Basics of our Faith. Topics will include: God, Jesus, Salvation, Forgiveness, and Community. We'll study these themes while reflecting on some of the key Biblical passages that help nurture the Christian faith and shed light on these topics. If you have not registered your plans for attending on the Sunday "Connect Slips", please email the church (humc@acsalaska.net) to let us know that you plan to attend.

Alaska United Methodist Conference Office changes

Starting July 1, the new office hours will be Monday through Thursday, 8 AM till 3 PM. Crystal will remain in the Conference Office at 1660 Patterson Street, but the Superintendent David Beckett and Director of Connectional Ministries Leila Disburg will be working from their homes in their new home offices. You can reach Dave by email at aumcdave@gmail.com or at either his home phone (349-4832) or his cell phone (250-9143). Leila can be reached by email at ldisburg@gmail.com or at either her cell phone (250-8539) or her home phone (563-7356). The Conference Office email is still umc@gci.net and the phone number will remain the same (333-5050).

(3)

Conference Mission Education Event for Men and Women and United Methodist Women Annual Meeting

Annual meeting will be early this year, September 9 and 10, and as last year will be held at the same time as a conference wide Mission Education Event. The schedule is designed so that you can attend both events or just one. This event will be held in Anchorage at the First United Methodist Church, Anchorage. There is an early bird registration form in the UMW newsletter, and it would really help our planning if you sent in the registration as soon as possible.

The next issue of the United Methodist Women newsletter will be full of information about both events, and another registration form, but get it on your calendar now, and encourage women and men to attend. See you at the Annual Meeting and Conference Mission Education Event. *By Ruby Nofziger*

The Advance Special of the United Methodist Church and ImagineNoMalaria

What is the Advance Special? The Advance Special began in 1948 and is an official church program for voluntary financial giving. Through the Advance Special, United Methodist individuals and groups support specific, approved mission programs or personnel with their financial gifts. Additional information on Advance Special Projects is available at the General Board of Global Ministries: <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/>

The **Advance** is considered **second-mile giving** because in The United Methodist Church, the first mile (priority) is for local churches to support World Service and other apportioned funds, which are part of our regular church budget.

How to contribute to Advance projects? To make a gift to any Advance Special Project, make your check **payable to your local United Methodist Church. Be sure to write the Advance code number and/or the name of the project on the check.**

ImagineNoMalaria (Imagine Saving Millions of Lives) The Homer U.M.C. Outreach Committee has designated a summer mission project for anyone wishing to participate in *second-mile giving*. The name of the project is **ImagineNoMalaria (Advance Code #3021190.)**

ImagineNoMalaria is an effort of the people of The United Methodist Church to raise \$75 million dollars to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. Building on the success of the *NothingButNets* initiative, ImagineNoMalaria is a more comprehensive approach that includes prevention, education, communication, and treatment. Additional information may be found at ImagineNoMalaria.org.

On July 17 during worship, an informational flyer will be included in the bulletin. The following Sunday, July 24, envelopes will be available for anyone wishing to support this global health crisis (please see 3rd paragraph above on how to contribute.) Together, we can make a difference. *By Karen Martindell*