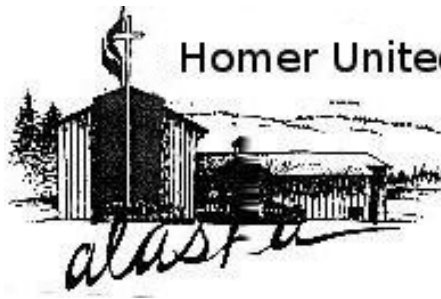


# UNTO YOU

March, 2011



Homer United Methodist Church

## **“A Call to Life”**

By *Charles Martindell*

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

I want to lift up the words of that verse from the gospel of John as our call to the season of Lent this year. It's from one of Jesus' most famous teachings and sometimes where it says “...and have it to the full”, the translation puts it: “have it more abundantly”; or what it brings up for us, is the idea of “abundant life”. That can be miss-used and somehow turned into a word of assurance about wealth or abundance of possessions, but I think Jesus is talking about life with eternal qualities- spiritual things. Not that Jesus isn't talking about real life in this real world. But what the world sometimes sees as having life to the full can fall so sadly short from the full life that is God's gift to the world through Jesus Christ. Truly a life that is more than only life in the here and now.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. We'll have a brief but meaningful worship at 6:30 PM in the church Sanctuary. We'll offer the “imposition of the Ashes”, an ancient symbol of repentance and intentional spiritual growth. Thank you to the Jubilation! Bells for being with us at the Ash Wednesday service, and sharing a special gift of music.

How will we be open to Jesus' words about having life to the full, during the six weeks of Lent in 2011? Will we “fast” and pray by abstaining from something that is a regular part of our lives, and replacing that something with a greater devotion or prayerful time with God? Will we take part in any of the special services of Lent, the Bible Studies, the Holy Week services?

My “call to life” to myself and all of us as Lent draws near, is that we begin with a few moments of prayerful consideration about what will help us grow spiritually in relationship with our Lord. That's how we are in a receptive posture, to have the life that is full, the life Jesus brings.

## **New Members Orientation Group**

Will it help you in your walk with Christ, to take the step of membership at Homer United Methodist? Our New Members Orientation Group will be offered at 2 time slots on Sundays, March 6, 13, and 27th at 9:45 OR 12:30. The groups will meet in the Church Office. All adults of the church are welcome to join one of the groups to learn more about full membership at Homer United Methodist Church. Childcare is available if desired. Please contact the pastor if you would like to be a part of one of the groups.

## Responding to Sudan

About twenty of us attended the UMW (United Methodist Women) Mission Study in January with Annie Kendell. We learned so much more than we knew before about what is happening in Sudan. It seems as though there are so many needs there and we do not know exactly how we can help. Of course we can always pray for the people there. The Advance, A Resource Guide for Giving in the Methodist Church, suggests several projects in Sudan that we could support with our monetary gifts.

These include the following:

1. Animal Livestock and Beekeeping - Training farmers in animal husbandry and beekeeping to improve the community's economy. #3020638
2. Southern Sudan College of Vocational Studies - Providing skills for social and economic development. #3020664
3. Sudan Emergency - Assisting the country through emergency and long-term development projects #184385
4. Sudan Shalom Ministries - Supporting children orphaned by war and HIV/AIDS #3020787

If you want to support any of these projects monetarily just write your check to Homer UMC and designate it for Sudan with the number after the project that you would like to support.

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### For the Love of John: The letters of John

In March the United Methodist Women invite everyone to participate in this year's Bible Study called For the Love of John: The letters of John. The study will be offered on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 until 3:00 with a break for lunch.. Our study leader will be Kay Shock from Moose Pass. She is a retired pastor and a musician and a fun person. I experienced this study last fall at the UMW annual meeting and found it to be very inspirational.

These epistles were written to encourage deeper, more meaningful faith and therefore speak to us as much as they spoke to congregations 20 centuries ago. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley believed that 1John was truly the heart of the Gospel Message. He thought that it should be the model

of young preachers because its message was clear and direct and

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contained the essence of the Christian message. The intent of the epistle was to increase the spirituality of the believers.

### Coming - Active Parenting Group at Homer UMC

Sponsored in part by our Witness Committee, an Active Parenting group is going to be offered to the Homer community through our church. Sherry Stead has recently become a Trained Active Parenting leader and is going to be leading this group. More information can be found here:

<http://www.activeparenting.com/>

The group is open to any parent of the church, but it is especially hoped this will be a way to offer an invitational ministry to the Homer community- meeting people where they are in their daily lives. That's why our Witness Committee is helping to sponsor this ministry. The cost is \$15, and if any help with the costs are needed, please contact the pastor. Let's pray for

this ministry, and help pass along the invitation. The group will meet on Sundays at 6:30, April 10th-May 15th.

**Relay For Life -  
Coming** in June

It's a ways off, but the preparations are happening already. Homer United Methodist will be fielding a team this year. The Relay is happening on June 10/11. If you want to be a part of this worthy effort, contact Alan Olson or David Martindell.

**Thanks from the Food Pantry**

We are blessed to have a good working relationship with you all. Not only do you contribute financial consistently, but also you collect food regularly for us. We value your help and are happy to pass it on to others. Your donations go toward purchasing food to distribute to those in need as well as assist our clients with emergency shelter, rent and utilities. Our community is indeed blessed by your giving and support for those in need. Love and kindness are never wasted. Thanks for being a good neighbor. You do make a difference.  
*Diana Jeska and the Homer  
Community Food Pantry Board*

**Pat McBride's Caringbridge  
Information**

A Caringbridge page has been set up for Pat McBride. Informational updates and a place to sign a guest book with notes of prayer and encouragement are available.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/patrickmcbride>

Please contact the office if you donated a rug for the Sanctuary during the construction and would like it back. If we do not hear from you, they will be donated to the April Rummage sale.