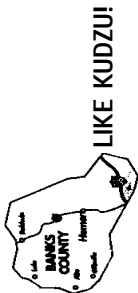


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FIRST
CLASS

HOMER UMC COVERS



LIKE KUDZUI!

“Where The Doors
Are Always Open”



Homer
United Methodist
Church

The Homer Herald

Homer United Methodist Church

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Steve Lewallen, Assistant to the Pastor	Bud Reisel, Board/Stewards Chair
Helen Caudell, Worship Chairperson	Chris Erwin, Lay Leader
Judy Thompson, Prayer Leader	Tim Wilbanks, Board/Trustees Chair
Sandra Smith, Hostess	Darlene Brown, Church Pianist
Harold Smith, Building Superintendent	Merritta Thompson, Office Manager
Mike McLendon, Security	Tiny & Norma Collins, Admin. Assts.
Chuck & Lisa Ensen, Directors, AFM	Rev. Bill Ratliff, Chaplain, NE Ga. Med Ctr
Barbara Gates, Typesetter	blgates@windstream.net

Vol. 13

May 2, 2010

No. 18

WELCOME TO YOUR WORLD, GRACIE FAITH!



Gracie Faith Cook
daughter of

Mitch & Amber Cook
born

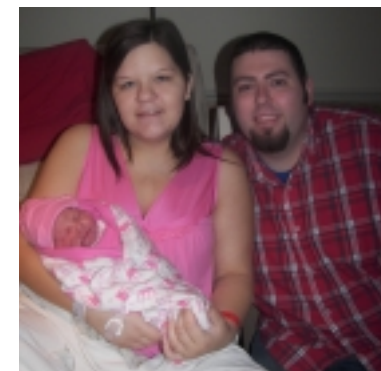
April 24, 2010
at

Northeast Georgia Medical Center,
Gainesville

Maternal Grandparents:
Dwayne & Karen Sexton

BIRTH OF A BABY

Gracie Faith Cook, daughter of Mitch & Amber Cook, born April 24, 2010 at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville. A flower is placed upon the altar this Sunday in honor of Gracie Faith's birth. Maternal grandparents are Dwayne & Karen Sexton of Homer Methodist. Congratulations to Amber & Mitch and the whole family!



“In the Spirit of Jesus who came not to be served, but to serve, we now must walk in the world. We must reach out our hands with help and open our hearts in love.”

P.O. Box 37
Homer, Georgia 30547

homerumc@windstream.net
www.homermethodist.org

Sycamore Street
Ph. (706) 677-3364

Calendar

Sunday, May 2, 2010:

7:30a.m. Community Brotherhood (DSH)(Members & wives)
8:45a.m. Early Morning Worship
10:00a.m. Sunday School (All Ages)
11:00a.m. Morning Worship

Monday, May 3, 2010:

(DEADLINE) Homer Herald News (Call 677-5084)
6:30p.m. Rehearsal: Handbells

Tuesday, May 4, 2010:

11:00a.m. BCHS Testing (FLC)
7:00p.m. Boy Scout Troop 106 (Scout Hut)

Wednesday, May 5, 2010:

5:45p.m. ALL YOUTH
6:30p.m. Celebration of Discipline Bible Study
7:00p.m. Rehearsal: Sonshine Choir
8:00p.m. AA (SB - downstairs)

Thursday, May 6, 2010:

8:00a.m. BCHS Testing (FLC)
2:30p.m. Program Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00p.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30p.m. Rehearsal: Chancel Choir

Friday, May 7, 2010:

8:00a.m. BCHS Testing (FLC)
6:00p.m. Christian Crusaders Lock-in

Saturday, May 8, 2010:

10:00a.m. STAND CONFERENCE (BCHS)
11:00a.m. Mother/Daughter Banquet (DSH)

Service of Divine Worship

Sunday, May 2, 2010 — 8:45 A.M. & 11:00A.M.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Altar Color: White

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever. (Psalm 96:7b; Revelation 5:13b)

*(Parts of the Order below are intended for one service only.)
(Please turn off all cell phones before services begin.)*

THE GATHERING — 8:45 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

THE RITUAL OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND CELEBRATIONS

(Please sign the Registration Booklets & Stand when Recognized.)

THE RINGING OF THE HERITAGE BELL — 8:45 A.M. & 11:10 A.M.

THE PRELUDE WITH LIGHTING OF CANDLES

THE CHORAL INTROIT

THE OPENING SENTENCES (8:45A.M.)

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise the Lord in the heights!

People: Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted, whose glory is above earth and heavens.

*THE HYMN No. 400 Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881 The Apostles' Creed

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE TO GOD No. 70 The Gloria Patri

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON Miss Judie (8:45) Miss Elizabeth (11:00)

(Children leave for Nursery)

THE MUSIC SPECIAL Judie Wendt (8:45) Michael & Savannah Gill (11:00)

THE GIDEONS' REPORT Mr. Chess Howard

THE ALTAR OF PRAYER

*THE OFFERTORY HYMN No. 369 Blessed Assurance

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept the offering of your people.

People: Remember in your love those who bring it and those for whom it is given,

All: and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all peoples, and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE TO GOD No. 95 The Doxology

THE MUSIC SPECIAL Sonshine Choir (8:45) The Chancel Choir (11:00)

THE SPOKEN WORD **FEEDING CHRIST'S SHEEP** Rev. McLendon

(Pew Bible: NT, St. John 21:1-19, pg.115-116)

*THE HYMN No. 381 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

*THE TAKING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

Grant you peace, perfect peace, strength in every endeavor.

Lift up your eyes and see His face and His grace forever.

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

*THE RINGING OF THE HERITAGE BELL

CIRCLE OF PRAYER



The "Circle of Prayer" is included in the bulletin each week and updated monthly. Those known to be on the **permanent** list are listed first. If you know of others who should be added to this list, please provide their name(s) below and write "permanent". As always, we begin by remembering: *our service men and women, all of whom are named on the "Armed Forces Honor Roll," Jay Baumgardner, Andrea Bishop, Calvin Boshell, Cheryl Carroll & Family, Bobbie Drew, Burt Estes, Margaret P. Evans, Joe Flanagan, Zoe Freeman & Family, Claudette Griffin, Weyman Griffin, Frances Hill, Chick Kittell, Wylene Lathem, Troy Lee, Cookie Martain & Family, Nancy Smith (Clint's mother), Clarence Tucker Jr.*

Please place on an attendance sheet any for whom you would have the whole church pray on Sunday and/or included in the "Circle of Prayer" for the month of May. Included for May are the following: *Jean Bell, Andrea Bishop, Judy Boone, Mitchell Boyd, Don Carroll, Ruth Cochran, Elizabeth Collins, J.C. Collins, Johnny Earl Collins, Sue Cook, the Dailey Family, Sandy Deaton, Haywood Dodd, Bobbie Drew, Heather Evans, Margaret Gaddis, Ronald Gary, The Goodson Family, Bonnie Hill, Larry Hogan, Larry Holland Family, Tim Hubbard, Mark Keefer, Rose Leachman, Jessica Lewis & Family, Kay Mainor, Heather Martin, Tim Martin & family, Teresa Meister, Debbie & Pappy Moore, John & Nancy Moore, Dr. John & Jean Steinhaus & family, Charles Sullivan, Romona Urbauer, Neal Whitsel, Mildred Young.*

Add or Delete: _____

IN MEMORIAM



Christian sympathy is extended to **Chris & Tonya Tucker** and family upon the loss by death of **Tonya's** uncle, **Michael Takach**, of Irmo, SC. Memorial services were conducted on April 21, 2010 in Irmo. Her father's brother was 60 years of age and died of cancer.

IN MEMORIAM

Christian sympathy is extended to **Matt & Shearl Ouzts** and family upon the loss by death of **Matt's** cousin, **Larry Holland**, of Winder. Memorial services were held in Winder on April 25, 2010. **Matt** lived with the **Holland** family during his teenage years.



COMMUNITY BROTHERHOOD TO HEAR REV. TERRY RICE

Community Brotherhood members will have the opportunity to hear **Rev. Terry Rice**, a retired and former Baptist minister of Level Grove in Cornelia, when they meet with their spouses this Sunday, May 2, at 7:30a.m. in Don Stewart Hall for the yearly breakfast program dedicated to Christian mothers everywhere. Mother's Day is the following Sunday on May 9th. Homer UMC is hopeful of having its usual good crowd for the monthly breakfast. **Rev. Roy Rogers** is Brotherhood president.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Will Boomer 5/5. Congratulations, **Will!** Our church family rejoices and celebrates with you!



WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Guests are special at Homer UMC always; and, if you are numbered among this fine group present this Sunday, that means **YOU** are warmly welcome, too! If you are searching for a spiritual home where you will be accepted as "family" from the very start, then you have found it at the corner of Sycamore & Church streets in downtown Homer. Be sure to sign the guest register and an attendance sheet; let us have your complete address, including telephone number; and, please do not depart before the pastor and others have an opportunity to speak with you. Bless us with your presence again — soon and often!

GETTING WATER FROM OF A ROCK

I'm reading the Old Testament and it is interesting to see how God used Moses and Joshua to accomplish His plans and purposes here on earth. The power to part seas, destroy enemies, and take care of the basic needs of the nation always came from God Himself. Moses and Joshua just had to be obedient to God's commands. As they were obedient and as God demonstrated His mighty power to do what He said no matter how unusual or unlikely, their faith or trust in God and His commands grew. Obey in faith, and you will grow in faith.



Some of the most faithful Christians I know in today's world operate and live by this same principle. They are simply obedient to God in every area of their life. They have learned to trust God. Obedience sometimes comes from a healthy fear or reverence for the consequences of sin and disobedience. We know that where there is sin and disobedience there is also separation in our relationship from God. On the other hand, repentance comes from turning away from, or, being repulsed by, the sin itself...and not just the consequences of the sin. Therefore, obedience comes more naturally if we have truly repented of our sinful ways.

I'm not sure God will use you in building His kingdom, or in ministry to others if you refuse to be obedient to His commands. He kept Moses out of the Promised Land for a seemingly simple act of disobedience. Begin with the most obvious part of your life where you are clearly living outside of God's will...turn that sin over to Him...don't fight it, don't try to quit, just ask Him to help you, and he will. Cry out for help. Turn to God for help. That is the best way to start being obedient.


Faithfully yours, **Steve Lewallen**

WILL YOU STAND

Dear Church Family: We are very excited about our upcoming Stand Conference. The high schoolers in our church and school have been working hard on the conference. It is an opportunity for young people to come closer to Christ. The conference offers music, drama, food, fellowship, and dynamic Christian speakers. It will be held on May 8 at Banks County High School in the auditorium from 10:00a.m.-7:00p.m. We are still in need of support through financial donations and prayer. Any questions or donations, please contact **Kieffer Hellmeister** at hellmeisterkieffer@yahoo.com or 678-617-3456. Any church youth who want to attend can meet at

the church at 9:30a.m. the morning of Saturday, May 8. Thank you for all your support. **WILL YOU STAND? -- Kieffer Hellmeister**



From Di's Pen.... 

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you are not receiving the Homer Herald by email, you are missing the color version of the Homer Herald. By email, all the photos are in glorious color! Plus, you save the church the expense of the paper, the printing, and the mailing labels and stamps. We currently have 120 people on our email list but I know many, many more of you have email addresses. Remember, we can send it to as many email addresses as you want. It takes about 15 seconds to attach the Herald and send it to 120 people! Send your email address to HomerUMC@windstream.net.

*THE POSTLUDE

*Denotes standing if you are able and so desire.

USHERS

Grant Reed, Chairperson

8:45a.m.: Kevin Thomas, Captain; Tim Carter, Cliff Garrett, Wayne Mainor, Matthew Moon, Cliff Seahorn.

Offering Counters: Kevin Thomas & Usher

11:00a.m.: Harlee Pearce, Captain; Reid Caudell, Horace Chandler, Glenn Cooper, Bobby Lewallen, Bev Thompson.

Offering Counters: Harlee Pearce & Usher

HOLY COMMUNION & PRAYERS

Holy Communion is made available to worshippers each Sunday at 8:45a.m. and 11:00a.m. Worshippers are encouraged to receive the consecrated elements.

✠ ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP ✠



8:45a.m.: **Acolytes-at-Large:** Tyler Moon & Taylor Ward; **Greeters:** Hoyt & Sherbie Harris; **Children's Sermon:** Judie Wendt; **Music Special:** Sunshine Choir, Judie Wendt; **Nursery:** Betty Brookshire; **Sound System Engineer:** Fred Wendt.

11:00a.m.: **Acolytes-at-Large:** Robert Garner & Faith Turk; **Welcome:** Bud Reiselt; **Greeters:** Loy & Eloise Crowder; **Liturgist:** Mildred Young (Lesson); **Children's Sermon:** Elizabeth Walker; **Music Special:** Chancel Choir, Michael & Savannah Gill; **Nursery:** Deanna Glenn; **Sound System Engineer:** Fred Wendt.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

April 25, 2010 — OFFERING: Budget, \$3,200. Building Fund, \$250. Monthly Miracle, \$250. Youth Fund, \$85. **TOTAL:** \$3,785.

GIDEONS SEND FRIEND CHESS HOWARD TO HOMER UMC

Gideon Sunday is this Sunday, May 2, at both 8:45a.m. and 11:00a.m. services. Making the Christian lay organization's "annual report to the churches" from the Banks-Jackson East Camp is Maysville friend, **Chess Howard**, well known throughout the area and outstanding layperson at large Grove Level Baptist. "**Brother Chess**" has been with us twice previously and blessed us both times with personal warmth and commitment to Gideons ministry. **Brother Jim** will also preach at 8:45a.m. and 11:00a.m. and has chosen as his sermon topic for the day "FEEDING CHRIST'S SHEEP" (St. John 21:1-19).



FUTURE PROJECTS FOR THIS YEAR

Among other projects for 2010 the ones below are either underway or soon to be addressed: (1) Preschool organized; (2) Playground completed; (3) Family Life Center porch enclosed; (4) Exterior illuminated sign erected; (5) Annex (old parsonage) painted outside to complement Sanctuary Building and Family Life Center; (6) Area beyond R.L. Sullivan Family Memorial Parking Area cleared for future parking and development; (7) Pictorial Directory published; (8) Public address system updated in both Sanctuary & Don Stewart Hall.

“THE WALK” SET FOR FRIDAY, MAY 14TH

The annual “Walk” for Relay for Life on behalf of the American Cancer Society will be held at Leopards Stadium located at BCHS. Three wood chests -- two small, one large -- will be given away by Homer UMC’s campaign the night of the walk. Raffle tickets are priced at \$3 (large) and \$2 (small). **Sandra Garrison** is the “go getter” of this year’s financial drive at Homer Methodist.



DEADLINE FOR OLAN MILLS PHOTOS PASSES

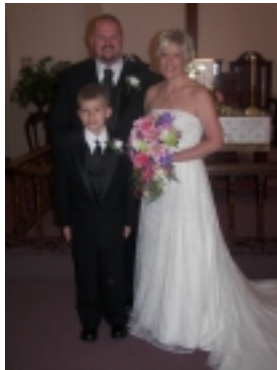
olan mills Many, many thanks to all who have participated these past several months in our exciting Pictorial Directory effort. The project has met with great success. Little more needs to be done before group pictures and other pertinent information is remitted to Olan Mills, all to be included in the new directory. Time is left for any who did not have their pictures made by Olan Mills to hand project director, **Phyllis Carter**, a COLOR print they might wish to be included. Deadline for this offer is Sunday, May 16. The church can also take pictures needed as an alternative up to that date.

HOMER UMC 2010 GRADUATES


Please check this list for accuracy. If there are names omitted notify the church at once by calling 706-677-3364. We are especially interested in the names of seniors who are officially related to Homer Methodist as members or constituents. Homer UMC current list: **Andres Aguilar, Maria Enslin, Courtney Erwin, Kieffer Hellmeister, Kristofor Hellmeister, Courtney Hill, Brittany Nickerson, Georgia Pennington, Jason Sexton, Zach Sprayberry.**

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Homer UMC’s **Angie Okland & Ron Howington** who were wed in the church sanctuary on Saturday, April 24, by **Rev. Jim McLendon**, pastor. A reception was held in Don Stewart Hall. The couple will reside with **Angie’s** son, **Dayne**, in Jefferson. We are happy for this fine couple and wish them a long and blessed marriage.



MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET -- SATURDAY, MAY 8

 The annual Mother/Daughter Banquet, sponsored by Homer UMC’s two United Methodist Women circles (Faith & New Life), is scheduled this year for Saturday, May 8, at 11:00a.m. in Don Stewart Hall. A fashion show is part of the exciting event, and mothers/grandmothers who would like to enter one or more daughters/granddaughters (teen or under) are asked to please sign their names on a sheet located in the entrances of both the Sanctuary Building and Family Life Center. This promises to be a real fun time for all on the day before Mother’s Day.

HOMER UMC HOSTS AA GROUP

We are privileged to serve as hosts to a AA group here in Homer in Banks County and hope these friends will feel at home among us as they meet each week on Wednesdays at 8:00p.m. in our Sanctuary Building downstairs. Homer Methodist is continually open to new ministries dedicated to meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

TIMOTHY MARTIN GRADUATES FROM BERRY COLLEGE

Tim Martin graduates from Berry College at Mt. Berry near Rome on Saturday, May 8, at 2:30p.m. An invitation is extended Homer UMC members by **Tim** and his family. RSVP: 706-677-5192. **Tim** has enjoyed a rewarding experience while a student at Berry and now begins making further preparations for entering Christian ministry through The United Methodist Church by entering seminary this fall. Congratulations to this fine young man whom to know is to love.

LUNCH BUNCH LUNCHEONS IN MAY

Chick Kittell, coordinator, announces a Lunch Bunch luncheon for Tuesday, May 11th, at 11:30a.m. in Don Stewart Hall. It is a covered-dish affair and promises to fill every tummy. The fellowship is always grand.... so, circle the May date now and plan to attend. You’ll be happy you did!



Don & Vicky Carroll are seen at the close of the service being officially welcomed into the Homer United Methodist family of God. This fine Christian couple of Sautee transferred their memberships from a sister United Methodist church in metro-Atlanta. Joined by family members and the preacher, **Don & Vicky** are pictured here 4th & 5th from the left.

THE REFUGE CORNER

The goal at the refuge camp after the fire disaster in December was to be able to operate the camp for summer camp meetings and accommodate all who were scheduled to be with us. **Dilliard, Linda, & Debbie**, along with the camp advisors, came up with a plan to “make it happen.” A series of events was set up that included raffles, camp events and singings to raise money and interest in the rebuilding process.



Then insurance company sent a check for over \$740,000 and it was applied to the loan at the bank. The bankers wrote off over \$100,000 in interest and fees associated with the loan and the debt was retired, paid in full. A small loan was made available by the bank and along with all the money raised by benefits, pledges, and Friday night singings started the rebuilding process. All the damaged building were removed and the site cleaned up. The boys’ dorm will be ready within 30 days for camp meeting. The women’s dorm is 75% complete and will be ready in the same time frame.

The “storm shelter” stands apart from the main complex and was not damaged. It was an open pavilion that seated about 1200 people and was used during good weather for many of our singings. It has been closed in and heat & air has been added. To give more comfort to our guests, it has been insulated and the seating upgraded through wonderful gifts and donations. The concession shack has been enlarged and set up as a kitchen; and, is now operating and serving food. The storm shelter will share duties as a dining hall, sanctuary, and singing pavilion until funds are raised to rebuild the former complex.

The refuge is indeed “out of the ashes.” Praise the Lord, bless **Dilliard, Linda, & Debbie** for all the planning, worry, and work. Continue to pray for the camp so the wonderful work of the Lord can continue.

In God’s Love, **Brother Michael Gill**

CHRIS ERWIN ELECTED TO LEADERSHIP POSITION NATIONWIDE

Our very own **Chris Erwin** has been elected to serve a three year term on the Executive Committee of the American Association of School Administrators. AASA is the professional organization for school superintendents and other school system leaders nationwide.

"I am honored by this opportunity to serve the leading association for K-12 educators," said **Mr. Erwin**. "As a member of the AASA Executive Committee, I look forward to contributing to AASA's efforts to advance high-quality education for all children."

Founded in 1865, the AASA is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders across America and in many other countries. AASA's mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. AASA's major focus is standing up for public education.



LADY LEOPARDS GO TO STATE IN TENNIS

Congratulations to **Maria Enslin & Kara Murphy** and other Lady Leopards tennis team members who excelled in their sport so well this spring that they are going to the state playoffs. This is an outstanding achievement for the BCHS team, and we are extremely proud of coaches and players alike.

NURSERY WORKERS TO BE HONORED ON MAY 16TH

The group which makes as much sacrifice as anyone in helping parents on Sunday morning are those who faithfully work in the Nursery for Sunday School and both morning worship services. In recognition of the important role they play each week, this fine group will be honored on Sunday morning, May 16, at the 11:00a.m. worship hour. **Phyllis Carter** is Nursery chairperson and performs an excellent ministry in this critical role.

RELAY FOR LIFE: FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 14-15 BCHS Stadium

Reception begins at 5:30p.m. -- Opening Ceremonies
& Survivor's Lap begins at 6:30p.m.

Luminaries recognize loved ones who are surviving cancer and remembering those who have lost their battle. \$5.00

Sign up sheet for team members wanting to walk will be available in the narthex. Any questions please feel free to contact **Sandra Garrison**.

Please come out and support your team while enjoying some local talent:
Holy Reign (formerly One Choice), Other Side of Homer.
Also performing will be the Maxwells, Mike Wheeler Group.



INQUIRING MINDS WILL BE HAPPY TO KNOW

Inquiring minds will be happy to know more about the landmark commercial building at the corner of Historic Homer Highway and Sycamore Street which currently serves as headquarters of Charles L. Sullivan Construction Company. The familiar building has been home to several Sullivan family enterprises through many years. Its history as told by church historian, **Bobby Lewallen**, and family members -- including

Charles Sullivan (present owner) and **Bonnie Sullivan Hill** (**Charles'** aunt) -- is discovered to be a most interesting one. Enjoy the story as found below.

Bonnie Sullivan (& Charles L. Sullivan, nephew): My Daddy, **R.L. Sullivan** was County Ordinary (Probate Judge) from 1928-1944, then, from 1945-46 he inspected Shell gas stations which inspired him to open his own gas station. During 1947-48 **Telford Borders** built the original store and Daddy sold outdoor furniture. In 1949 he decided to open a country store. Grandson, **Charles Sullivan**, named the store "**Uncle Remus Country Store**." Credit was extended to all as he trusted everyone. Most of the time it meant self-service -- you got what you wanted and made your own change or credit slip. He enjoyed the store and the customers until his death in 1968. In the meantime, grandson **Charles Sullivan**, had his own construction company so he decided to move in the old vacant store in 1969 and started years of remodeling -- adding 4 rooms and bath. After his father, **Emory Sullivan**, retired, he joined **Charles** in his construction business until his death in 1998. Today, **Charles** and his son, **Tony**, are still updating the inside and outside of the building, expanding the business and adding new equipment. Long live Charles L. Sullivan Construction Company!

Jerry Hill, grandson: The first things that come to mind are the fun things. Like getting to pick out what candy and treats we wanted. Having my first Mountain Dew, which I still drink to this day. Looking through the change in the cash register for old coins. I still have some of these in my collection. But the best part was just getting to spend time with my grandparents. As we usually lived great distances away, visits were few and far between. The things we talked about and the things they showed are the best memories of all.

Vicki Hill, granddaughter: I remember the BIG glass showcases (especially the candy showcase). I always got to select one piece to eat. **Charles** still has the candy case in his building. I remember Granddaddy ran the store on the honor system. You made your own change. I love to hear him laugh.

Walter Hill, grandson: I was too young to remember much. I do remember the candy case -- my favorite? Peppermint.

MEMORIES

Marie Creel: I remember while in high school **Liz Cheek** & I left school and went to the store to get a 3¢ drink

Nolan Ragsdale: I remember he had some chocolate drop candy with very good coconut inside.

Bobby Lewallen: In the 1950s & 1960s, would stop by the store a lot in the afternoon after school. **Mr. Sullivan** and those present would be discussing local political problems, state problems, and even national problems. I entered politics in the 1960s and **Mr. Sullivan** was a great help to me since he knew just about everybody in Banks County. He always enjoyed a good laugh. I have heard that **Emory**, his son, made a lot of the cement block used to build the building.

CHURCH CELEBRATES PASTOR'S BIRTHDAY WITH SURPRISES GALORE

Each year on or near April 25th our church has remembered **Brother Jim's** birthday with an element of surprise to him (if not for **Marilyn**). This past Sunday was no different. And, was he surprised! Wonderfully so -- capacity congregation and all!

Here, **Brother Jim & Marilyn** are seen with church staff and officers whose names appear each week at the top of **The Herald's** frontis.



And here, **Brother Jim** is seen with everyone his age and older present for the special day. He could not have been prouder. For some, he has been their pastor the whole time he has been at Homer Methodist. Indeed, a few have been Homer UMC members most, if not all, their lives.



Here, "**Brother Bud**" **Reiselt**, chairperson of the Board of Stewards, is seen speaking warm words of appreciation to **Brother Jim** as the celebration begins.

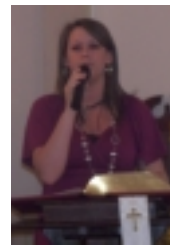


Here, **Steve Lewallen** is seen presiding over the touching service.

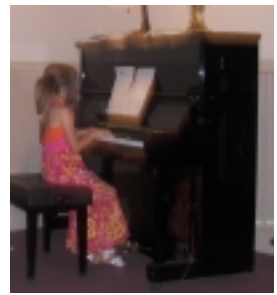
Here, the Chancel Choir sings a beautiful medley of favorite selections.



Here, the Edith Cheek Corley Memorial Handbell Choir rings wonderfully several familiar songs.



Here, **Jessica Thomas** is seen singing every heart with "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

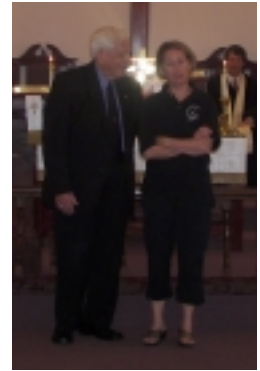


Here, **Destinie Martin** begins to play sweetly "Jesus Loves Me" on the piano.



Here, **Chuck Enslen**, chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Sunday School superintendent, and **Brother Jim** embrace following **Chuck's** perfectly placed and touching remarks about the pastor.

Here, **Brother Jim** is seen expressing love and appreciation to "**Sister Di**" **Cochran** who coordinated the whole wonderful day. And, as **Dianne** was quick to add, she had little to do with "all that took place across the street," meaning the great food which fed so many people in Don Stewart Hall which followed the service. Nearly always the "unsung heroes" are those busy all morning long in the kitchen and hall attending to scores of details. **Brother Jim** thanks them all from the bottom of his heart. A real debt of gratitude to **Carl Gibson** for taking the many pictures which appear her and tell the story well of last Sunday's celebration.



Brother Jim & Steve. "I hope one day," said **Brother Jim**, "he will be my pastor."

The crowd was outstanding -- both at worship and dinner. Thanks to all who prepared so many delightful food dishes. What a variety! And, more than enough to feed "Pharaoh's army."



GIFTS HONOR BIRTHDAY

Donations have been made to the church in honor of **Brother Jim's** birthday by **Frances Heaton** of Savannah and **Sam & Mary Anne Bowers** of Perry. Both are greatly appreciated and come from donors who have been faithful to support our program of Christian ministries in the past.

NEW Thursday Women's Bible Study 4pm
"2 Words That Changed Everything"
 A 5 part Study of Colossians by **Louie Giglio**