



# Middletown Press

November 2011

## Coming Events

### November

- 11/6 Installation Service for Doug McPheeters 3PM
- 11/13 Pancake Brunch following Worship
- 11/19 Men's Fellowship Supper at 6PM
- 11/19 Outreach at Penncrest Craft Fair
- 11/19 Building and Property Work Day 8AM to 12
- 11/20 Congregational Meeting to elect officers
- 11/21 PrimeTimePlus lunch at noon
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Worship at 9:30AM
- 11/27 Advent Workshop in 4:30-6:30 PM

### December

- 12/3 Women's Advent Communion Breakfast 9-11
- 12/10 Cookie Walk 9AM
- 12/10 or 17 Children's Party
- 12/11 Aid for Friends Cook-in 2 PM in Fellowship Hall
- 12/18 *Broadcasting Christmas* Pageant during 10:30 Worship
- 12/21 Caroling 6:15 PM
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship 6:00PM & 8:30PM

### Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Hospitality Time  
10:30 AM Worship

### Wednesday Bible studies

9:30-11AM Adult Bible study  
5:00-7:00 PM Adventure Club  
6:00 supper  
5:00-7:00 Middle school study  
6:30-8:00 Adult Bible study  
7:00-8:30 High school study

### Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Dear Middletown Family,

Take a moment and read that passage from Acts again. Wow! Wouldn't it have been great to have been there, to have seen the early church in action, to have been a part of a community so devoted to God, and to one another, and to their neighbors in need. When people see love acted out in such obvious, intentional and practical ways they can't help but be attracted to it. When they see generosity of spirit, something so positively counter-cultural, they want to be a part of it!

That's really what the "S"-word is all about . . . "S"tewardship refers to what it means to be a steward. A steward is one who is put in charge of, or manages, someone else's money and property. It is a reminder to us

that all that we have, our money, our homes, our cars, all the rest of our stuff, our skills and talents and even our families . . . none of it is really ours. It ALL belongs to God and he has entrusted it to our care and management. Biblically speaking, God expects to see growth. He expects to see us use the resources that he has given us to build and to expand His kingdom here on earth.

I believe that the Acts passage gives us a glimpse of what that should look like . . . living life generously. It is not an act of charity, but a lifestyle of being generous with our time, with our talents, with our space, our resources and yes, that even includes our money. Together we can be part of something just like the early church . . . the current church!

Come, let us devote ourselves to the Word of God, to one another and to our neighbors in need. Come, let us seek to live generously, as our God is generous. Come, let us, as a community, seek to lift the name of Jesus higher for Jesus says in John chapter 12, "If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people toward me." Come, let us seek to be the community that God is calling us to be that He might add to our number daily those who are being saved.

*In the generous love of Jesus,  
Pastor Doug*

**Thanksgiving Day (11/24)  
Worship Service  
9:30 AM**



## Just a note or two . . .

Many years ago now, my daughter, Laura, was very involved in High School Band and I was one of those crazy band parents! Football games and band competitions dominated our lives in the fall. Our school district is known for their excellent band program and bringing trophies home from competitions is a regular occurrence and almost routine. But as I think back, one competition stands out in my mind. In addition to other trophies of excellence, the students won the coveted “esprit des corps” trophy.

The definition of esprit des corps is a common spirit of comradeship, enthusiasm, and devotion to a cause among the members of a group. In addition to this definition, the award the band won included the way their respect and interaction with other students and schools who were at the competition was evident. They conducted themselves with dignity and integrity for the good of all.

So, how are we doing with esprit des corps here at Middletown? Do you feel that you are part of this body of believers working with enthusiasm and devotion to the cause of connecting the unconnected to Christ and His kingdom? Or do you feel like you are out on the edge, not sure where to fit in?

I would make the suggestion that you talk with leaders who are responsible for ministries in the church. There is always a need for help in every ministry.

Of course, I have to invite you to be part of the music ministry!! We have a place for you! The choir will begin working on our Christmas Cantata on Thursday, November 3 at 7:30 pm. Come and rehearse with us if you want to sing at Christmas.

The Bell Choir will also begin rehearsal on Thursday, November 3 at 6:45 pm in Martin Chapel. Please let me know if you would like to ring with us.

We will have our Christmas Eve “Instrumental Ensemble” again this year. Let me know if you would like to play. I will get music to you early in December and let you know when we will rehearse.

*Solo dei Gloria,  
Jan Wooden*

## Session Notes

We received correspondence from the Menaul School in Albuquerque, NM for support. Chester Eastside Ministries sent a request for continued support. We received a thank you from Aston Presbyterian Church for our donation of a Wurlitzer Piano.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia sent our statement of apportionment. The Presbytery of Philadelphia sent a memorandum for the per capita apportionment for 2012 which will be \$23.23. This consists of \$14.40 for Presbytery, \$6.63 for General Assembly and \$2.20 for Synod.

A request for transfer was received from the Palm Coast United Methodist Church and we are trying to identify the individual as the name we received is not on our registry.

Pastor Doug’s new member class will begin after the New Year.

Session actions include the approval of two youth fundraisers including Joe Corbi’s and a clothing drive. Session approved three youth trips including the use of the bus if necessary; these are 10/29 to the Renaissance Faire, 11/12 Grand Slam Laser tag, and 12/10 Hershey Park Christmas. Session also approved a youth lock-in for 1/6/12 7PM until 1/7/12 8AM.

The youth will be holding a South Dakota Thank you dinner on 1/14/12 in Fellowship Hall.

Session granted support to the Worship Team in their desire to have communion by intinction on a quarterly basis.

Session approved the Nominating Committee’s slate of officers. The Nominating Committee is still seeking an auditor. Session has called a congregational meeting for November 20, 2011 for the purpose of electing officers.

### Scripture and Sermons for November

**11/6** Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 “*You’ve Gotta Serve Somebody*”

**11/13** Matthew 25:14-30 “*Whose Talents Are They Anyway?*”

**11/20** Matthew 25:31-46 *Sheep and the Goats*  
*Every little thing you do . . .*

ADVENT SERIES – THE GOSPEL IN CLASSIC  
CHRISTMAS MOVIES

**11/27** Isaiah 64:1-9 *The Grinch: It Came Without . . .*

## Deacons Doings

Happy Thanksgiving! Is everybody ready to carve the turkey yet?

Aid for Friends had a wonderful turnout; thanks to your generosity, 311 meals were made. December 11 is the next scheduled date. See Carol Curtis for more info.

One of the functions of the deacons is to visit our homebound members. If available, we will bring flowers donated to the church; and each Easter and Christmas we deliver seasonal flowers to them. Everybody who receives them is so appreciative. Sometimes even I forget that whether it's money, food, a card or a phone call, everyone who receives these blessings from the deacons is always appreciative and they feel special, too. It's always done with a prayer, and with a ton of thanks to all of you who make it happen. You are not only helping your church family but you are also helping your extended family, too.

We also supply the Carenotes that can be found in the Narthex, Education Wing, and Children's Library. They deal with a variety of topics, from divorce to cancer to simple tips on how to pray. The Children's Library has titles that are aimed toward the youngsters, like when a new baby arrives or losing a grandparent. Help yourselves to them, they're free.

Until next time, remember: "...all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another, love as brothers (and sisters), be tenderhearted, be courteous." (1 Peter 3:8, Gideon Bible, parenthesis mine)

## Stewardship

In November, you determine the ministry of the Church through your financial commitment. What you are willing to give determines much of what we can do. And like anyone's budget, there is never enough and this current year has had its challenges. We have to prioritize what can be done, what can wait, and what can be financed in some other way.

What you do this month will help to determine the future of this congregation. Will you take the time to pray about how much God would have you give? Will you faithfully give as you can for the ministry? Will you help Middletown make a difference in our community and world?

November is a month when we think about what we are thankful for. We look at the blessings

we have been given. But we also think about how we can give to be a part of what God is doing, especially in the ministry of Middletown Church.

As you consider what you can offer to God remember to seek God's leading in how He wants you to use the gifts and talents He has given you. As Pastor Doug has challenged us to "Worship Plus 2" and that means participation in *at least 2* activities – one that encourages your own spiritual growth and one that engages you in ministry—be intentional to find a place where you can serve and grow and thrive here at Middletown.

## Is this a Possible "Plus 2" for you?

Pastor Doug was talking to the Prime Timers in October and he sensed among the holy hub-bub that there was a lot of energy that could be channeled into good works. Got me to thinking—always a scary thing—some ways we could all get our hands involved in this Lord's work.

Do you have a heart for little girls and a desire to do some good? Little or no skill needed, just willing hands. We're still playing this out in our heads, but we want you to think about the project and consider joining us after the holidays.

It's called Dress A Girl project and they make simple dresses out of pillow cases or 1 yard of fabric. There's a way to participate at any level. Maybe we could meet before or after Prime Time for a couple hours; we could combine it with Sticks and String; or we could do another time and combine it with everyone's favorite—food.

Do you have a heart for cancer patients? Fox Chase cancer center gives their patients a small pillow to hold against their incision for support. They use it for a brief time, but it makes a big difference. They would be very simple to make and stuff with love and prayers for health and comfort.

It would be a great way to socialize, improve a young girl's life, bring comfort to a patient struggling with cancer surgery, get to know each other better, and pass the cold months. So think about the possibilities and watch for more info to come. Idle hands, you know, they EAT!

*Janet Gemsheim and Linda Fox*





## Coming Events

### Men's Fellowship

Saturday the 19th of November the men of the Church will gather in Fellowship Hall for dinner and a program. All are welcome. Bring a friend, neighbor, co-worker, etc. It is open to all.

### PrimeTimePlus

PrimeTimePlus started their 5<sup>th</sup> year on October 17 with a visit with our pastor, Doug McPheeters. There were about 30 Prime Timers who discussed possible programs and ideas for the future.

Chef Andy served hot roast beef on a roll, potato salad and lots of desserts were available at Margaret's dessert table.

Chriss Benson has agreed to be the special speaker at our November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and will present a Thanksgiving story. All seniors are welcome and guests as well—at noon in Martin Chapel. No reservations are needed.

### Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 24 at 9:30 AM. Join us to give thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives



### Advent Workshop

Sunday, November 27 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

We will be making Advent wreaths and decorating gingerbread stables. Advent is the time the church prepares for the coming of the Christ child. During the worship services a church family lights the Advent Wreath and you can carry on the tradition at home by making your own wreath at the Advent workshop. Please bring fresh greens in the morning to help make your special wreath.

The Advent Workshop is for the whole family. Come make an Advent wreath and a gingerbread stable and enjoy a light dinner. The Advent Workshop is a tradition for many to start the Christmas season.

### Women's Advent Communion Breakfast

Saturday, December 3 is the annual Women's Advent Communion Breakfast for all the women of the church and their friends. The breakfast begins at 9:00 AM in Martin Chapel.

The Reverend Kathy Busch, Pastor at Pastor Doug's former church in Wilmington, Delaware will be our speaker. We look forward to meeting her and we know she is sure to inspire us to prepare for the birth of Jesus throughout the Advent season.

During the year many women put aside money to commemorate blessings in their lives. This Thanks Offering will be received at the breakfast. (Make checks out to Middletown Church Women.)

Tickets cost \$8.00 and will be sold prior to the breakfast

Please let the church office know by November 30 if you are planning to attend.

### Christmas Pageant

This year our Christmas pageant, *Broadcasting Christmas*, will be held on Sunday, December 18, during the 10:30 AM service.

Practice began Sunday, October 23 and will run from 9:00 to 9:30 on Sundays. Sunday school class will follow from 9:30 to 10:00. If your child hasn't signed up, and would like to participate, contact Chriss Benson or JoAnne Gallagher as soon as possible.

There will be two Saturday practices on December 10 and 17. They will run from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. All ages are welcome.

### Upward

Upward Sports™ has an evaluation for basketball and cheerleading leagues at Indian Lane Elementary School on Saturday, November 5 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Registrations can be completed with a brochure from the church or downloading the form from the church website at [www.middletownpres.org](http://www.middletownpres.org). This fun filled experience is open to boys and girls grades K through 8, from any church, school or local community.

*Practices* begin the week of December 5, 2011

*First games* are on January 7, 2012

*Season Celebration* will be March 11, 2012



For those battling cancer and treatment side effects:

**Cindy**                    **Debbie**  
**Alice**                    **Eileen**  
**Bill**                        **Marsha**

**Marjorie**

For those dealing with surgery, disease and rehabilitation.

**Sharon Stradling**

**Millie King**

**Vance LaVanture**

**Bonnie Semple**

**Judy Belk**

**Bob Hammer**

**Lloyd Spangler**

**Carly Berner** and **P.J. Dunn**. Both serving our country in Afghanistan

Praise for the birth of **Caroline Rose** on October 21 to Christina and Marshall Lammers. Proud grandparents are Lindy and Jolyon Lammers.

Danielle Abrams is taking over the Pray Chain for Margaret Essaf. *Thank you, Margaret, for your service to that ministry for the last four years.*

Danielle's contact information is:  
 djabrams@jacks.sdstate.edu or 610-566-2946.

## Cookie Walk Time

Cookies, Cookies, we need lots of cookies. December 10 will be here before we know it. On the table in the Narthex is a recipe that makes four different cookies from one basic recipe.

Please support the youth with their Joe Corbi cookie dough sale. It makes baking cookies easy and we do love easy.

We will need people Friday, December 9 to put boxes together and set up. On the 10<sup>th</sup> we will need helpers at the cookie walk (from 8AM to noon) and to help clean up.

Sign your participation slip in the church bulletins on Sunday mornings in November.

We don't want to send anyone away because there are no cookies left. Please contact Bob or Carol Curtis (610-566-7274) if you have any questions.

## Hearing from God

This year our Sunday School Theme is "Listening for the Voice of God!"

Scripture is God's love letter to us. As we study and get to know God's Word, we are better able to discern His voice from the other voices we encounter in our lives.

Jesus experienced this truth firsthand in the Gospel of Matthew. When He went out to the desert, the tempter tried to convince Jesus to do several things, He stood firmly against temptation by quoting God's Word. God's Word helps us discern whether what we're hearing is truly from God. By becoming familiar with Scripture, we are more equipped to detect God's voice in our lives.

Try this activity – Every day in the upcoming month, set aside time to read Scripture. Choose a particular person to study all week, or select a book of the Bible to focus on, such as 1 John. Before you read, take time to ask God for clarity and understanding. Share what you learn with a friend.

## Christmas Toy Offering

There is the opportunity to give presents to children in less fortunate economic circumstances by giving to the Toy Offering through Dec. 10.

Bring a gift (Board Games, Play dough, Art supplies, Books, Hair accessories, Puzzles, Infant toys, Blocks, Stuffed Animals, Photo albums, Dolls (of all ethnic types), Kids video movies, small games, Watches, Balls, Frisbees, Baseball caps, Legos, Trucks/cars, Gloves/scarf sets.

Bring unwrapped gifts in a store bag or Christmas bag.

## Teacher Training Classes

Child Evangelism Fellowship offers teacher training classes on various topics throughout the year.

Morning classes (10AM –noon) are held at Manoa Presbyterian Church and the evening ones (7:00PM-9:00PM) are in Martin Chapel on the first Tuesday of the month.

- November 1—Paul and Christmas; Ministering to children of divorce
- No class in December

For more information see Chriss Benson or call 610-565-8317

## Cookies or Pizza---Um...Um...Good.

What could be better than a freshly made pizza right in your own freezer? The Middletown Presbyterian youth are selling Joe Corbi Pizza. There are some great food items besides pizza such as cinnamon rolls and cheesy bread, calzones and COOKIE DOUGH!!! And the best part is you can buy that cookie dough and it will be delivered to the church on December 7 just in time for the Cookie Walk on December 10. So you could help out the church community twice in one purchase!

If you would like to buy anything please see your favorite middle or high school student or pick up a brochure in the office or narthex.

Please return all orders by **November 27** to office or Misti Love. Any questions please call Misti at 610-490-0951 or [love10@comcast.net](mailto:love10@comcast.net). Checks should be made payable to Middletown Presbyterian Church.

**DELIVERY** is on Wednesday, **December 7** between 4:00 and 7:00 PM at the Church.

## Used Clothing Drive

The Youth Team at Middletown Presbyterian Church will be having a Used Clothing Fundraiser Drive from November 5 through November 27.

We're hoping to collect 100 bags! The Youth Team will receive money for every pound we collect. Our goal is to collect at least 500 lbs. of clothing. All items donated are given to those in need.

We will be collecting:

- Wearable and Usable Clothing (Men's, Women's and Children's)
- Shoes, Belts, Handbags, Backpacks, Scarves, Ties ...
- Linens (Bedding, Curtains, Towels ...)
- Stuffed Animals (finally a home for them!)
- Hard Toys (must fit in a 24" X 24" box)

Please put all items that you are donating into tightly tied plastic bags except hard toys which go into boxes.

We will NOT be collecting:

- VCRs
- Tapes

- CDs
- Books
- DVDs

Drop-off Dates & Times: Sunday morning services  
Wednesday evening gatherings

Location: Narthex or Youth Room

Questions: Please contact Misti Love  
610-490-0951

## Stewardship Nugget by Herb Miller:

### *Which God Shall We Elect?*

Loren Mead says he often asks the question in many church audiences across America, "Are you rich?" "The usual audience response is denial. 'Raise your hand if you are rich.' Most hands stay down, and only slowly and reluctantly, one by one they go up. Some refuse to participate.

"Objectively the question should be easy to answer. I have never asked the question in any audience in which every person present is not rich. Some are absurdly rich in comparison to 99% of those in the world. And others, just by being Americans, are probably better off than 95% of the world's population...

"You see wealth...is the natural condition of all North Americans.

"Why do we work so hard to hide the fact that we are rich? Why hide it even from ourselves? Why does our wealth embarrass us?

"Somewhere deep inside us is a place that cannot come to terms with what it means to be what we are. This is a spiritual question, and it is the one spiritual question all Americans share. It may be the one that most threatens us." [*Financial Meltdown in the Mainline*. Loren B. Mead]

In the deep places of our souls, we know that Jesus was right when he said, "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." (Matthew 6:24). In each of our lives, two candidates are running for election as president. Each day of each week, each of us must decide which god to elect.

The weekly offering in our worship service helps us to make the right choice.



# Bulletin Board

## “Sticks and String” Wednesdays

This group has been meeting and creating various needlecrafts for over three years and it continues to be a pleasant night out to just relax, chat, and work on various projects.

We gather on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday nights at 7:30 to enjoy each other’s company and see what everyone is up to. If you want help with something you’re making or are a beginner who needs basic instructions, we have people who know how to teach and explain how to needle and knit and crochet.

We’re growing in number and may move to a larger area but currently we are meeting on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Linda Fox (610-574-0936).

## Calling all Recipes

Over the past several months we have been treated to many delicious dishes prepared by members of the congregation at various receptions—generating requests for those recipes. If you would be willing to share your special recipes, please send them to the Press (by taking them to the church office or emailing to [tana@middletown.org](mailto:tana@middletown.org) ).

## NOTICE to all ministry teams:

If your activities are intended to reach the outside community, please remember to forward any pertinent information to Linda Fox [mamalinda101@comcast.net](mailto:mamalinda101@comcast.net) for inclusion in the Delaware County Daily Times, News of Delaware County, and the Town Talk newspapers.

John Bell [john\\_bell\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:john_bell_2000@yahoo.com) is the contact for posting on the MPC website. And, of course, Tana is the “keeper of the calendar” for all events. Remember to call her first!

## Come Be a Part of Worship

The Worship Team meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM in Martin Chapel (except in November because of Thanksgiving it will meet November 17.) Join us to help plan and help develop a meaningful worship program.



Christmas is just around the corner and we will be preparing special music for Sunday, December 18. Rehearsals for the Christmas music will begin on Thursday, November 3, at 7:30 pm. Please contact me if you would like to sing with us for Christmas.

Also, if you play an instrument and would like to play in an instrumental ensemble on Christmas Eve, please contact me and let me know the instrument you play.

ALL are welcome to join us!!

Jan Wooden  
610-203-3092  
[jan.wooden@verizon.net](mailto:jan.wooden@verizon.net)

## Christmas Gifts

Mark your Calendars!!! We will be collecting Christmas gifts for the Presbyterian Children's Village again this year. Please check out those sale papers and make a child smile. Gifts will be collected November 20 thru Dec 10. They are looking for anything new and unwrapped including gift cards.

## Love the Adventure with Jesus... a New Class for Adults

Prepare for a life-transforming encounter with Jesus and be drawn into a more satisfying life than you’ve ever known. Starting on Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall we will learn how to love the adventure with Jesus. Session one would be a shorter session with no homework to discuss. Come check it out!

Let Ken or Shelia Schreffler know if you are interested in attending and would need a book. The cost for the book is \$10.00.

## Opening for an Alternate Counter

If you would be interested in serving as a counter on an occasional basis, please contact Bill Mayer.



## Ways to Share with Others

### **Mission Opportunities:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each Month – bring non-perishable food items for food pantries in Media and Chester
- Now until 11/15 – bring in items for Christmas boxes
- 11/19 and 12/17 City Team – help distribute food for the Holidays.

### ***We need YOUR SMILING FACES!***

On Saturday, November 19 from 10AM-4PM we will have a table at the Penncrest High School Craft Fair. This event gives us the opportunity to represent MPC in the community and it's our opportunity to get information packets about our various activities to those outside the church family.

We would really appreciate an hour of your busy day to help: set up and unpack, staff the table, or pack up at the end of the day. Please consider lending a hand and sharing both the responsibilities and the rewards of our efforts! Contact Linda Fox. *If you can smile we can use you!*

## 2011 Adopt a Family Program

Each year, there are hundreds of children in Chester and the surrounding areas in Delaware County that will not receive toys for Christmas without some help from people who care. This year, City Team expects at least 750 families in need (with over 2,500 children) to register with them. They can't help them on their own. Please consider adopting a child for Christmas. Here's what is expected....

Choose the number of children (age and sex if you have a preference) that you would like to adopt.

- The minimum requirement is 2 toys per child, according to their requests.
- Please budget \$30-50 per child.
- If you're interested in doing something for the parents, gift certificates to Giant, Acme, or Pathmark are a welcomed blessing.
- Please do not include cash gifts

If you are interested please send Tim Love an email at [love10@comcast.net](mailto:love10@comcast.net) by November 16. That will give us a few days to get assigned from City Team and get the details from your family back to you.

## ***The Power of a Simple Gift***

We have empty shoeboxes for you to fill or you may just bring in items for the children to complete a box. Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. School Supplies, Toys, Hygiene Items, Hard Candy and lollipops, mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches and flashlights etc. The Adventure Club children will be putting boxes together and writing notes to send in the boxes on November 16. The cost for shipping is \$7.00 per box. They will be mailed out to different countries all over the world.

## **Be a Good Sport! Be Part of Upward**

All the people who power this fantastic outreach are volunteers. For the league to grow and improve we need your help. Do some small part for one week or one hour or for one season and you will make a difference for a lifetime for a player and their family.

Brochures are available at the church to share with family and friends.

Contact Don Heilala 610-459-0703, or Chriss Benson 610-565-8317 to discuss opportunities to serve the Lord. Some opportunities include:

- **Prayer** to keep our program excellent and welcoming; for gym space, for adults and teens to coach, to reach families and most of all to change lives with the Good News of the Gospel.
- **Funding** to pay for gym rentals for Saturday games and weekday practices, equipment and scholarships for families in need of assistance.
- **Hands-on help** is always needed for a multitude of "positions." Some are as easy as coming to help with registrations, telling your friends and neighbors about the program or signing up to work at the snack bar for part of one Saturday. Become a prayer partner. Referee games. Be a coach or an assistant coach. Don't worry about experience. Training and handbooks with all you need to know are provided.

Yes, we need you for the program to run but you will gain from the experience as well. **These jobs last only a season but the impact on lives could last a lifetime—and you can be a part of that.** Prayerfully consider joining the fun of Upward Sports Ministry this year.

**Moving  
into**

# DECEMBER

## **Thanksgiving Day Services**

Join us on Thanksgiving morning at 9:30 AM to thank God for the many blessings you have received. Opportunities to help serve Thanksgiving dinner at City Team are also available.

## **Advent-uring into Christmas**

Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves for Christmas—not to buy the presents, decorate the house and make the cookies—but to ready our hearts and minds to renew the experience of the birth of Christ. Will you pause in your hectic schedules and activities to reflect on that night 2000 years ago when God exploded into our world and promised to remain with us as His very name reveals, *God with us*—Emmanuel?

We invite and encourage you to experience *God with us* this Advent season.

- **Advent Workshop and supper:**  
Sunday, Nov 27 - 4:30-6:30 in Fellowship Hall  
*Make an Advent wreath to reflect on the meaning of the Sundays of Advent at home .Children may make gingerbread stables.*
- **Women's Advent Communion Breakfast:**  
Sat, Dec.3 - 9-11:00 in Martin Chapel *Women of the church focus their hearts on Jesus by listening to a devotion and seasonal singing.*
- **Caroling:** Wed, Dec 21 – 6:15 PM  
*Sing carols to our homebound members.*

## **Christmas Pageant**

*Broadcast Christmas* is our Christmas Pageant to be presented on Sunday, December 18 during the 10:30 worship service. We believe that children will discover their performance is a gift to God and to the congregation. If your child is not already signed up, contact Chriss Benson.

Sunday practices are from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM on Sundays November 6, 13, 20, December 4 and 11. Saturday practice will be from 9:00 until 11:00 AM, on December 10 and 17.

## **Children's Christmas Party**

A Christmas party for all children, whether they are in the pageant or not, will be held December 10 or 17 from 11 AM until 12:30 PM. Lunch and a birthday cake for Jesus will be provided.



## **Cookie Walk – Dec 10 Cookie Walk**

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Cookie Walk will take place in Martin Chapel on Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 AM to noon or until the last cookie is sold.



People will walk around tables of homemade cookies and for \$12.00 fill a box with whatever kind of cookies they like. A gift table will offer fudge, jams, breads and other holiday goodies.

## **PrimeTimePlus**

This day time adult fellowship group will meet at noon for lunch on December 19 to have our Christmas Party while we enjoy hearing the Riddle Village Women's Chorus. Join us in Martin Chapel to sing in the season!

## **Caroling on Wed, Dec 21**

Bring your cookies to share and voice to sing carols to our homebound members. After a pizza supper, our children, youth and adults will head out in groups to sing. Everyone is invited to join us at 6:15 PM for 6:30 departure. We will return to the church by 7:30 PM.

## **Christmas Eve Services**

A family service is on Saturday, December 24 at 6:00 PM and the Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service is at 8:30 PM with choir and brass orchestra.

## **Adopt-A-Child or Family**

You have the opportunity to "adopt" a child or family for the holidays. You will receive a list of the children's ages and suggested toys and clothing sizes for each (approx. \$35-50 for each child). The deadline for gifts is Saturday, December 10. If you are interested in adopting or contributing money, please contact the church office or Tim Love at 610-490-0951 or [mistiandtim@netzero.net](mailto:mistiandtim@netzero.net) Nov.16.






## **Upward Basketball and Cheerleading**

Upward is a family friendly league teaching skills for the game and values for life. Registration fees are \$80 till Nov. 5, then \$90; with sibling discounts and need based scholarships available.

Contact the Chriss Benson at 610 565-8317 or League Director at 610-459-0703 with questions. Registration brochure can be found on line at [www.upward.org](http://www.upward.org) under league locator when you type in the zip code 19063.

# NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>7:00 PM</b> CEF Teachers <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>2</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> AM Adult Bible Study <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Adventure Club <b>5:00 PM</b> Middle School Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:30 PM</b> PM Adult Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> High School Bible Study	<b>3</b> <b>3:25 PM</b> Kid's Club <b>4:30 PM</b> Trevose Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Boy Scouts <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Practice <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>4</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Seeking 2 Serve Small Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Standish Small Group <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>5</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth - Frenetic Saturday
<b>6</b> COMMUNION SUNDAY CORBI'S Fundraiser Begins <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday school for all ages <b>10:00 AM</b> Hospitality Time <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>3:00 PM</b> Installation of Pastor Douglas W. McPheeters	<b>7</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Misti Love-Prom Mom's <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>8</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>7:00 PM</b> Delco Cruisers Car Club <b>7:30 PM</b> Children's Ministry <b>7:30 PM</b> Youth Ministry <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> AM Adult Bible Study <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Adventure Club <b>5:00 PM</b> Middle School Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:30 PM</b> PM Adult Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> High School Bible Study <b>7:30 PM</b> Sticks 'n' Strings	<b>10</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> I & S Team <b>3:25 PM</b> Kid's Club <b>4:30 PM</b> Trevose Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Boy Scouts <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Practice <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>11</b>  <b>7:30 PM</b> Seeking Eye Puppy Club <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>12</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth - Laser Tag <b>7:30 PM</b> Mayer Small Group
<b>13</b> DEACONS COLLECTION <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday school for all ages <b>10:00 AM</b> Hospitality Time <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:45 AM</b> Pancake Brunch	<b>14</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Misti Love-Prom Mom's <b>7:30 PM</b> Deacons Meeting <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>15</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>7:30 PM</b> Session Meeting <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>16</b> OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES <b>9:30 AM</b> AM Adult Bible Study <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Adventure Club <b>5:00 PM</b> Middle School Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:30 PM</b> PM Adult Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> High School Bible Study	<b>17</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Worship Team <b>3:25 PM</b> Kid's Club <b>4:30 PM</b> Trevose Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Boy Scouts <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Practice <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>18</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Seeking 2 Serve Small Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Standish Small Group <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>19</b> CITY TEAM - TURKEY DELIVERY <b>8:00 AM</b> B & P Work Day <b>10:00 AM</b> Penncrest Craft Fair <b>6:00 PM</b> Men's Bible Study & Fellowship <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Group
<b>20</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday school for all ages <b>10:00 AM</b> Hospitality Time <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service followed by Congregational meeting to elect officers	<b>21</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Prime Time Plus <b>7:00 PM</b> Misti Love-Prom Mom's <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>22</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>7:00 PM</b> Delco Cruisers Car Club <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>23</b> NO EVENTS SCHEDULED TODAY	<b>24</b>  HOLIDAY <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship	<b>25</b>  HOLIDAY <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>26</b> NO Youth Group Tonight <b>7:30 PM</b> Mayer Small Group
<b>27</b> CORBI'S Fundraiser Ends HEALING SERVICE <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday school for all ages <b>10:00 AM</b> Hospitality Time <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>4:30 - 6:30 PM</b> Advent Workshop	<b>28</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Misti Love-Prom Mom's <b>7:30 PM</b> Building & Property Team <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>29</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>7:15 PM</b> Lydia Circle <b>8:00 PM</b> NA Group	<b>30</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Adventure Club <b>5:00 PM</b> Middle School Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:30 PM</b> PM Adult Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> High School Bible Study			

# 2011 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM FOR FLOWERS TO DECORATE THE CHURCH

(Please Print)



**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants you wish to purchase: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$7.75 each

Total cost \$\_\_\_\_\_

DEDICATION TO BE IN THE BULLETIN SHOULD READ:

Dedicated in loving **memory** of: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In **honor** of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 14. Flowers may be taken after the Christmas Service.**

## Poinsettias FOR YOU

This year the Church's Boy Scout Troop is making available poinsettias for you to purchase for your own decorating at home or to give as gifts. These poinsettias come in various sizes—from small single blooms to large 8" pots full of flowers. The plants come in white, pink, red, and in the larger pots you can choose a combination of red and white blooms. Your order needs to be received by December 4 and the plants will be available the following week. If you have any questions, contact Bill or Karen Mayer 610-565-4398. Payment should be in cash or checks payable to Boy Scout Troop 85.

Color	Pot Size	# of Blooms	Price	#	Cost	Color	Pot Size	# of Blooms	Price	#	Cost
<b>White</b>	4 1/4"	1	\$3.00			<b>Red</b>	4 1/4"	1	\$3.00		
	6"	4-6	10.00				6"	4-6	10.00		
	6 1/2"	6-9	12.00				6 1/2"	6-9	12.00		
	7"	10-14	16.00				7"	10-14	16.00		
	8"	15-20	27.00				8"	15-20	27.00		
<b>Pink</b>	4 1/4"	1	\$3.00			<b>Red &amp; White</b>					
	6"	4-6	10.00								
	6 1/2"	6-9	12.00				6 1/2"	6-9	12.00		
	7"	10-14	16.00				7"	10-14	16.00		
	8"	15-20	27.00				8"	15-20	27.00		
<i>Name</i>						<i>Phone</i>					

Middletown Presbyterian Church  
273 S. Old Middletown Rd.  
Media, PA 19063

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***Press Submissions:***  
*To submit information and articles to be printed in the Press, please email or drop your information to Tana in the office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the issue in which you want your information to appear.*

<b>Middletown Presbyterian Church</b> 273 S. Old Middletown Rd., Media PA 19063 610-565-4080 (phone) 610- 565-4306 (fax)		
Pastor	Douglas McPheeters	Doug@middletownpres.org
Children's Ministries Director	Chriss Benson	Chriss@middletownpres.org
Youth Ministry Director	Matt Miazga	Matt@middletownpres.org
Music Director	Janet Wooden	Janet@middletownpres.org
Treasurer	JoAnne Gallagher	JoAnne@middletownpres.org
Senior Care Ministries	Ken Schreffler	Kschreff1@verizon.net
Office Administrator	Tana Kalesnik	tana@middletownpres.org
Sexton	Shorty Mains	610-565-4080
Cemetery Administrator	Jane Evans	610-485-9747
Wedding Coordinator	Janette Weldon	610-566-2537
Nursery Attendant	Elizabeth George	610-565-8317 (Chriss' office)
<i>In case of an emergency or if you know of someone in the hospital, please contact the church office 610-565-4080 during business hours or call the Pastor at <b>302-762-0851</b>.</i>		

**Sundays at Middletown**  
9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship