



Middletown Press

December 2008

Coming Events

- MCW Advent Communion Breakfast– Dec 6
- Cookie Walk – Dec 13
- Children’s Christmas Party – Dec 13
- Operation: Christmas Rescue! – Dec 14
- Dinner and Caroling – Dec 17
- Children’s Christmas Pageant – Dec 21 at 11:00 worship service (no 8:30 worship; 9:45 Christmas reception in Martin Chapel)
- Christmas Eve Services – Dec 24 6:00 & 8:30 PM (No 11:00 PM service)

Opportunities to Serve

- KIT program for college students
- Upward Basketball & Cheerleading
- Visit Fair Acres – Dec 17
- Adopt-A-Family for Christmas
- Christmas Toy Offering

Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve

- 6:00 PM Family service with the Celebration Band
- 8:30 PM Traditional Service with chancel choir and brass ensemble (Note: no 11:00 PM service)

Christmas Day

- 10:00 AM Informal family service

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 30 - 4:30-6:30 in Fellowship Hall
Make an Advent wreath to reflect on the meaning of the Sundays of Advent at home.
- **Advent Communion Breakfast:**
Sat, Dec. 6 - 9-11:00 at White Horse Village
Women of the church focus their hearts on Jesus by listening to speaker and singer Susan Piper.
- **Operation: Christmas Rescue!**
Sun, Dec 14 - 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.
A dramatic, music and dance presentation by the Sacred Dance Classes of Parkside Academy of Music and Dance.
- **Dinner and Caroling:** Wed, Dec 17 - 6:00PM
Sing carols to our homebound members.
- **Sunday Worship Services**
11/30 *"The Gift of the Grace of God"*
I Corinthians 1:3-9
12/07 *"The Gift of Hope: A New Heaven and Earth"*
II Peter 3:8-15a
12/14 - "The Gift of the Faithful One"
I Thessalonians 5:16-24
12/21 – One service – Christmas Morning LIVE!
12/28 - *"The Favor of God Was Upon Him"*
Luke 2:22-40

An Advent Ambush

A Story for the Christmas Season

Normally, I'm pretty easy to get along with and, even though you could never figure it out by the way I'm feeling now, I really like Christmas. In fact, it's my favorite time of the year, better than summer vacation, but not by much. And this year, I was really looking forward to the Advent season at church because it's my first year in high school and that means I don't have to be in the Christmas pageant anymore. For me, that's the best of both worlds because I like the Christmas pageant. I just don't like being in it. All those practices and having to stand in front of all the people and worry about forgetting your lines and, worst of all, having to sing out loud. I hate that! But I get a kick out of watching my little brother and sister and all the other little kids do their thing. Some of them are really talented. And the greatest thing about the Christmas pageant is watching the parents and grandparents. They love those little kids no matter what they do or don't do. I rarely express it to anyone, but that's my favorite thing about my church. The people there really care about us and as I get older, I'm realizing that they care even when we act like idiots, even when we criticize them (and sometimes they deserve it!), even when we want to sleep in or hang out in the cemetery during Sunday School and church, despite the promises we made when we joined the church after confirmation class.

But last Sunday's ambush was the last straw! I even sat with my parents during worship. You would think that God would give me some points for that. So there I was, walking out the back door with them, along with Nina and Tommy, when Mr. Crenshaw, our pastor, says, "Hey, the Bartons! I have a question for all of you. Would you be willing to light the first Advent Candle in two weeks during the worship service?" My mother began to blush. I thought that was a good sign. I figured she might find some gracious way to say no. I should have known better. It must have been a blush of pleasure at being asked. Without hesitating, she responded, "We would love to do that, Jake. Tommy just asked me the other day if our family would ever get a chance to

light a candle." With that, they began discussing the details and I separated myself from the family and walked outside. My Christmas was ruined. This would be worse than being in the pageant. I wouldn't be able to hide. I'm as big as my dad and he wouldn't let me stand behind him, anyway. There was no way any of my friends were going to find out about this. I just had to pray that they all skipped church on the first Sunday of Advent.

I was pretty quiet on the ride home, but no one noticed because Tommy, my seven year old brother, never shut his mouth. He was convinced that the greatest thing in the world had just happened to our family. You would have thought that our house was just selected for the Extreme Makeover show on television. Nina, my eleven year old sister, wasn't talking as much as Tommy, but she was excited, too. She kept nodding her head at everything he said. They were both a couple of hams, so this Advent thing was right up their alley. They were going to totally embarrass me. Tommy was a really good reader for a second grader and he was just looking for an opportunity to show off his ability to the whole church. And Nina would probably sing her part whether she was asked to or not. The kid could really sing! Don't get me wrong. I actually like my little sister and brother, which isn't too difficult because they kind of look up to me, but at times like this, they are just too young to understand.

The following Sunday, I grabbed a donut at the fellowship table and was on my way to Sunday School when Mr. Crenshaw called out to me. I kind of like Mr. Crenshaw. For a pastor, he's almost normal and it doesn't hurt that his daughter, Alana, is one of the neatest girls in our class. Not only is she cute, but she's genuinely nice and she's not always focused on herself like some of the other guys and girls. I figured any father who has a daughter like her has to be a good guy. I stopped and when he caught up to me, he said, "I just wanted you to know, Adam, that I gave your Mom and Dad a little script for next week's lighting of the Advent candle. There's a part in there for you to read. I thought that would be the easiest way for all of you, but if you would like to change your part, feel free. Whatever you feel comfortable with. If you would like some help, give me a call or stop by the church sometime this week." And with that, he was gone,

walking briskly down the hallway to track someone else down.

“Wait till I get my hands on that script,” I thought. “I’ll change it, all right. I’ll erase my whole part!” I walked over to the youth room for the high school class and when I walked in, I felt like everyone was staring at me. Pretty quickly, I realized that they didn’t know anything about who was lighting the Advent candles this year. I was just a little hypersensitive. I quickly began to partly ignore Mrs. Engleman, our teacher, and started daydreaming about what I was going to do next Sunday. My parents, obviously, weren’t going to let me get out of this, so I was going to have to come up with something to say that was short and easy because I wasn’t going to read what Mr. Crenshaw prepared. It would make me look like a little kid like Tommy. And there was no way I was going to memorize the script! Earlier, I had stopped in the narthex of the church and there were little devotional booklets there that were about the Advent candles. I read the beginning and discovered that the candle for the first week was the Prophet’s Candle and the theme was, “Listen.” After Sunday School, I needed to go back to the narthex and buy one of those devotionals. They were only a buck and with a little bit of help from that booklet, I might be able to come up with something. I still didn’t want to do this, though!

It was a long week. I was pretty quiet around the rest of the family. Friday night after dinner, my dad insisted that we practice what we were going to do on Sunday. Since we had our own Advent wreath on the kitchen table, we went through our little routine there. Tommy, of course, insisted on lighting the candle, the first purple candle. Nina and I didn’t really care so we just helped to make sure that he didn’t set the house on fire. Then, we all read our parts that Mr. Crenshaw had prepared for us. He knows our family pretty well, so some of it was pretty good and not nearly as stupid as I thought it would be. There was even a good joke in it. I went with the program for our rehearsal, but, unbeknownst to the rest of the family, I was planning to do my own thing on Sunday.

Actually, when all was said and done, the first Sunday of Advent turned out to be a very memorable day. As our family stood before the congregation, everything went as planned. Some

of my friends were sitting near the front and they weren’t laughing at me or making fun of me. They actually were looking like they expected us to have something important to share. Tommy lit the candle (just the candle, nothing else!) and everyone read or said their part, leaving me to close. I put the script down on the communion table, received the microphone from Nina and said, “I really didn’t want to do this, but I didn’t have much of a choice. We’ve been talking about the Prophecy Candle and the fact that it reminds us to listen for those voices that would point us toward Jesus, the Messiah. Well, I’ve done a lot of thinking about that this week and I’m pretty sure I know who those voices are in my life. My family, obviously, is a very loud voice in showing me who Jesus is. But they’re not the only ones. Ever since my friends and I have been little kids, all of you, in one way or another, have been pointing us toward Jesus, some of you by the lives that you lead, some of you by being our teachers and youth group leaders and some of you by just caring about us, challenging us, and forgiving us when we act in ways that really aren’t so cool. The Prophecy Candle reminds us that we have a lot to be thankful for and most of those special voices are sitting in this sanctuary. So, from our family to all of you, ‘Have a merry and blessed Christmas!’”

As our family walked down the steps to take our seats in “our” pew, Carl Turner, one of my best friends, stuck out his hand and gave me a low five as I walked by. He, and several others, were all nodding their heads as I was sharing, as though what I was saying was a message from all of us. I didn’t want to do the Advent candle lighting and I would never volunteer for it in the future, but I have to admit, it turned out to be a very special moment in my life. I was looking forward to the most meaningful Christmas I had ever had.

*Enjoy the season,
John King*

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Deacons Doings

The months of November and December are very busy times for the Board of Deacons! At our November meeting, the Board elected to gift each of following organizations \$250.00: Presbyterian Children's Village, City Team Ministries, Chester Eastside Ministries, Radio Bible Class Ministries (the folks who supply us with "Our Daily Bread" devotionals), Aid For Friends, Pathways and Child Evangelism Fellowship. These gifts were made possible by your generous support throughout the year.

During the month of December, each "Shut-In" will receive a poinsettia and a visit from one of the Deacons. This has been a tradition of the Deacons for many years and it is a great time to extend Christmas greetings to those who are homebound.

December is also the time of year we say "good bye" (temporarily!) and give our thanks to the retiring Deacons who have faithfully served on the Board. This year we wish to thank Cheryl Quirk (Moderator), Steve Almond, Ann Boohar, Charles Bowen, Bob Curtis, Kathy Hosier, Carolyn Speakman, Joyce Turnicky and Ellen Wressig. You all are a blessing to Middletown Presbyterian Church!

Throughout the year, the Transportation Committee works hard to provide transportation to medical appointments for those who do not drive or have limited transportation options.

We are seeking to add names to the list of available drivers. If you are able to help in this capacity, please contact the Transportation Coordinator, Marge Krotow at (610.565.1409).

The Deacons thank you for your support and wish everyone a joyous Christmas!

Financial Commitment for 2009

We understand the uncertainties of our current economy may make projecting your future income difficult. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2009 if you have not done so. They



will help us develop a realistic budget for 2009.

Giving envelopes for 2009 will be in the back of the sanctuary in December. Please pick up yours as we do not mail them out unless there is a specific request.

Session Notes

The Session met on Tuesday, November 18 in Martin Chapel. Among the business conducted were the following items:

- Approved a single Christmas Pageant Service on Sunday, December 21 at 11:00 AM. There will be a Reception at 9:45 AM prior to the service in Martin Chapel.
- Approved the request of Sam Devonshire and Cheryl Tonge to be married in the Sanctuary on May 17, 2009.
- Approved the Children Ministries' Pool Party on January 18 at Rocky Run YMCA.
- Agreed to celebrate communion by intinction on February 1, 2009.
- Heard plans for a Potluck Dinner in January and a small group luncheon in February.

Elders

Class of 2009

Jane Evans
Linda Fox
JoAnne Gallagher
Steve Hixson
Keith Robinson
Beth Shoemaker

Class of 2010

Frances Andrews
Margaret Essaf*
Lisa McWaters
Dale Plummer*
Ken Schreffler
Bev Smith

Class of 2011

Brenda Abrams
Kim Fink
Tim Love
Bill Mayer*
Kent Thompson*

Auditor

2008

Chuck Boohar

2009

John Gosselin

2010

Jim Sredenscheck

Deacons

Class of 2009

Lisa Dutka
Marge Krotow
Debbie Plummer
Sheila Schreffler
Bernadine Steinmetz

Class of 2010

Sue Brower
Julie Burke
Carl Hughes*
Meredyth Graham*
Nancy Standish

Class of 2011

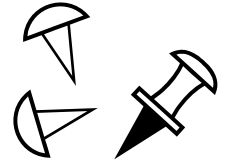
Rusty Abrams
Joan Davis
Sandy Evans
Janet Gemsheim*
Linda Lomas
Linda Mariani

Nominating

Sheila Schreffler
Kate Rainey
Don Heilala
Cheryl Quirk

*indicates second 3-year term

Bulletin Board



Advent Devotionals



We have Advent devotionals and Advent calendars for families available in the narthex to help you prepare for Christmas.

Turkey Bowl

Sunday, November 30 at 2:00 PM

Join us at the Indian Lane field as the adults challenge the youth in the third annual Thanksgiving football game

2009 Flower Requests



We have our new 2009 flower calendar available, and you can make your requests to put flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones. There are forms in the Narthex on the table. We allow only 2 arrangements per Sunday, so if

there are too many requests for a particular Sunday, you may get a call to change to a different Sunday. The cost for flowers is \$30 per arrangement, and you can either take them home with you, or have them delivered to one of our members.

Cookie Walk

The 3rd annual Cookie Walk will take place in Martin Chapel on Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 AM to noon or until the last cookie is sold.



People will walk around tables of homemade cookies and

for \$10.00, fill a box with whatever kind of cookies they like. A gift table will offer fudge, jams, breads and other holiday goodies. April and Bill Reeser set up a book and tape table in the narthex.

Come join the fun and tell your friends and neighbors to come and buy their holiday treats.

NO Aid for Friends in December

The next cook-in for Aid for Friends will be January 11 at 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.

No Legacy Coffeehouse in December

Advent Workshop

The Advent Workshop is for the whole family on Sunday, November 30 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM. You can make an Advent wreath and the children can decorate gingerbread stables.

This year November 30 marks the beginning of Advent. 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.

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.

Thanks for your Support

Through your generosity we sent **107 Shoeboxes** to Operation Christmas Child and collected **\$561** for Thanksgiving turkeys for City Team.

Knit Night

Do you knit or want to learn how to knit? We are looking for anyone interested in gathering to exchange ideas, learn new stitches, discover knitting projects and more! If a Knit Night in January clicks for you, contact Linda Fox.

Watercolor Prints of Middletown

We have a limited supply of this beautiful print of the church by artist Agnes Wilson Bakow. You may view the original watercolor in the Narthex. The cost is \$25 for a 4 x 6 (fits into a 8 x 10 frame). Contact Donna Coulter 610-566-2351.



MCW Advent Communion Breakfast

The women of Middletown Presbyterian Church are invited to

attend an Advent Breakfast with Communion as a part of our preparing for the holidays. We will gather at White Horse Village, on **December 6** at 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Our speaker will be Christian singer-songwriter **Susan Piper**. With her three albums, “God Songs,” “God Is” and last year’s “I’ll Be the Me God Wants Me to Be,” a children’s album, she points to God as healer and comforter, friend and guide, finding evidence of His compassion and beauty in unexpected places.

Mothers: *This breakfast is a wonderful opportunity for a Mother-Daughter “date” to share the wonder of the Advent-Christmas season.* Our program would be appropriate for mature 5th graders and girls in middle school and above.

Please let the church office know by November 30 if you are planning to attend. Suggested donation is \$10.



The Middletown Presbyterian **Book Group** will meet on the library on December 20 at 8:30 AM to discuss The Judge Who Stole Christmas by Randy Singer. This is a short story about a judge who rules on whether a town should have religious symbols for holiday displays. A timely story of what Christmas means.

Upcoming selections:

Jan—The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Feb—Keeping Faith by Jodi Picoult

March—An Irish Country Doctor by Patrick Taylor

April—Mosaic by Amy Grant

May—Persian Pickle Club by Sandra Dallas

Sept—If You Ever Need Me by Kate Breesterup

PrimeTimePlus

There was a tremendous response for our November program featuring the Brandywine Harp Orchestra—50 attendees enjoyed Chef Andy’s ham dinner and the heavenly strings of the harps.

This month at noon on December 15 we will have our Christmas Party with a sing-a-long of favorite Christmas music. Join us in Martin Chapel to sing in the season!

Dinner & Caroling on Wed, Dec 17

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 to those of our church family unable to leave their homes.

Everyone is invited to join us at 6:00 PM for pizza. We will return to the church by 7:30 PM.

Operation: Christmas Rescue!

This dramatic, music and dance presentation by the Sacred Dance Classes of Parkside Academy of Music and Dance will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 14th, at 7:00 PM.

Be prepared to participate, as well, with scripture readings and Christmas carols!

January Means Souper Bowl

For Middletown Presbyterian Church every January is a time to bring in food to help stock local food closets—to reach out and help to care for those of our local community who are in need. So get ready to clip coupons, seek out the best prices and may the challenge be met. Last year we brought in almost 10,000 food items.

We will have 5 weeks for collecting food in the narthex, beginning January 4 through February 1. Join us in this fun and exciting effort to make a difference in eliminating hunger in our local community.

Opportunities to Give to Others



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). Then wrap the gifts, put a gift tag with the child’s name and their family number on it, and bring them to the church library, so they can be delivered. The deadline for gifts is Saturday, December 13. If you are interested in adopting a family, please contact the church office to receive information. You can also contribute money to support a family.

Volunteer at CityTeam to help sort and pack toys for children. Also, there is need to help deliver toys to families in need on Saturday, December 20 at 9:00 AM.

Toy Offering

We support local agencies by giving toys and clothing to be given to needy families and children. This year, you may begin bringing in gifts on Sunday, November 30 through Sunday, December 14.

Please bring in your unwrapped items and place them in the Narthex. They will be delivered in mid-December. Suggested items: Board Games, Play dough, Art supplies, Books, Hair accessories, Puzzles, Infant toys, Blocks, Stuffed Animals, Photo albums, Picture frames, Dolls (of all ethnic types), Kids video movies, small games, Watches, Balls, Frisbees, Baseball caps, Legos, Trucks/cars, Gloves/scarf sets. You may go to the Presbyterian Village website for more ideas. (www.pcv.org/docs/ChristmasWishList.pdf)

Keep-In-Touch (KIT)

The purpose of KIT is to maintain the church connection with our college students, to pray for them, to provide support and encouragement for them. *We still need a few volunteers* willing to be a friend and official contact with our college students. If you are interested, please talk to Kent Thompson or indicate your interest on the participation sheet in the Sunday bulletin.



“Calling All Cookies”

We need members of the church and community to donate at least 10 dozen **HOMEMADE** cookies to sell at the Cookie

Walk. People will be able to fill a box with whatever kind of cookies they want and the \$10 they pay for the box of cookies will benefit Children’s Ministries.

What kind of cookies do we want? – We want a variety of homemade cookies. They can be drop, cutout, decorated, bar, etc. Any cookie that looks and tastes deliciously irresistible is welcomed. Now 10 dozen cookies may sound like a lot but most recipes make 3 to 4 dozen cookies – bar cookies even more. So...when you are getting ready to start your holiday baking, keep in mind the Cookie Walk and set aside some time to bake a few extra.

Please drop off cookies in the Education Building (Yellow room on the first floor) on Friday, December 12 from 10:00 AM until early evening. Carol Curtis will be there to meet you.

We also need help to set up in Martin Chapel on Friday afternoon beginning at 3:30 PM.

Sign up sheets are in the narthex or contact Carol Curtis at (610) 566-7274 or Debbie Plummer at (610) 566-1329 or ddplummer@aol.com to let us know that you are willing to donate or help volunteer.

Please join the fun and buy your holiday treats at the Cookie Walk!

Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

Upward needs your help! This growing sports outreach ministry needs prayer support. It needs others to take part as coaches, devotions leaders, referees, snack bar helpers, assistant coaches, equipment managers, announcers, on site coordinators, desk-top publishers and event planners. The blessings are many and we have training available.

Please prayerfully consider some type of involvement this season, be it one time, a few Saturdays or two hours a week for the season. If you have questions speak with Don Heilala, Chriss Benson, Sarah Hosier or Jinny Heilala.

Thanks for joining the team — the team that’s sharing the Good News and having such a good time doing it!

DECEMBER

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat, Dec 6 | 9-11 AM
7:00 PM | MCW Advent Breakfast at White Horse Village
Coffeehouse |
| Sat, Dec 13 | 9:00 'til gone
11:00-12:30 | Cookie Walk
Children's Christmas Party |
| Sun, Dec 14 | 7:00 PM | Operation: Christmas Rescue! A dramatic music and dance
Presentation by the Sacred Dance Classes of Parkside Academy |
| Mon, Dec 15 | 12:00 noon | PrimeTime <i>Plus</i> Christmas Party |
| Wed, Dec 17 | 6:00 PM | Christmas Dinner and Caroling |
| Sun, Dec 21 | 9:45 AM
11:00 AM | Christmas Reception in Martin Chapel (No 8:30 worship)
Children's Christmas Pageant and Worship Service |
| Wed, Dec 24 | 6:00 PM
8:30 PM | Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Note: <i>No</i> 11:00 PM Service |

2008 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

(Please Print)

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Number of plants you wish to purchase: _____ @ \$7.50/each

Total cost \$ _____

DEDICATION TO BE IN THE BULLETIN SHOULD READ:

Dedicated in loving **memory** of: _____

OR

In **honor** of: _____

From: _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Flowers may be taken after the Christmas Service.



Joys and Concerns



Cindy as she handles the discomfort of chemotherapy, pain and numbness;

Lee Geist as she recovers from surgery;

CJ Cassey as his stress fracture heals;

Graf Eggars as he goes through Boot Camp;

Don and Jane McBride

as Jane's health declines;

Bill and April Reeser as they plan to answer God's call to serve in Thailand. Pray the details involved in applying to Mission to Unreached People, settling home and health concerns and obtaining the needed visas are resolved easily.



Our sympathies go to Carol and Dave Jones and Bradley and Steve on the death of Carol's mother and long time member, **Jane Pierce**. A memorial service will be held at a future date.

Prayer Chain

Margaret Essaf coordinates the prayer chain. You can forward requests to her by the prayer cards or by emailing her at margessaf@yahoo.com

2nd Mile People

In the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two" (Matt. 5:41).

When Jesus said, "Go the second mile" Jesus was saying his disciples need to do more than the legalists who do no more than what is required of them.

Gladys Martin is a 2nd Mile person. Gladys lights up a room with her laughter and smile. Gladys tickles the ivories for the Wednesday Bible Study and Release Time Program. She sings in the choir

and started the PrimeTime*Plus* to involve others in learning opportunities and have a social gathering for the seniors.

Gladys is always encouraging others to be the Church and get involved. Gladys participates because she loves to share God's love. Thank you.

Eat Pizza and Support Upward

Middletown Church's Upward Basketball and Cheerleading League need to raise money for equipment costs for the growing program, the multi-child discount for families as well as need-based scholarships; and fees for the gym facilities for games and practices.

By purchasing Cocco's Pizza coupons and enjoying a family favorite, you can be helping Upward grow in our community. One policy that sets Upward apart is that children are never asked to participate in fundraisers. Coupons will be available through the leadership team. They would make great gifts, too. See Don or Jinny Heilala, Chriss Benson or Keith Robinson.

Thank you for helping!

Support for Separated and Divorced

"Separated or divorced, or know someone who is? There is a program at Wallingford Presbyterian called "You are Not Alone". It is a support group for separated or divorced that meets the second Tuesday of each month until June. The next meeting is December 10. Each session includes a video seminar and discussion time. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Meeting is 7:30-9:00. If you are interested or have questions, please call Wallingford Presbyterian at 610-566-1644.

Financial Report as of 10/31/2008

	Oct.	Budget Oct.	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date
Budget Income	19,135	27,075	266,798	286,250
Budget Expense	38,715	30,827	290,044	317,353
Gain/Deficit	-19,580	-3,257	-24,246	-31,103
Non Budget Income	3,321		36,519	
Non Budget Expense	577		32,990	
Non Budget G/L	2,744		3,529	

Legacy Contributions are accounted for separately.

Youth News and Events

Bible Study continues on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM for middle school and at 7:30 PM for high school through December. There will be no Bible Study on 12/17 (Christmas Caroling), 12/24 or 12/31.

On 11/2 twelve youth created 28 pillowcases for children with cancer and nursing home patients. It was so much fun we are planning another opportunity in January.

We hope you can be part of the many things happening this month with the Youth.

It's FUN when we are all together!

Don't Forget to sell JOE CORBI's Pizza AND Cookie Dough!!!!

Congratulations KATIE SCHREFFLER - PING PONG CHAMP!!!!

Write to Graf!

SR. Eggers, Earl Graf
Ship #11, Division 021
3505 Sailor Drive
Great Lakes, IL. 06008-3505

Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

Registrations are up to 192 as of November 11— compared to a total of 160 last year. Registrations will still be accepted at the church through December 31, 2008 but a late fee of \$10 will be added to the \$75.00 cost per child.

Every girl and boy kindergarten thru 8th grade must attend one evaluation for team placement. The make-up for late registration is scheduled for Friday, December 12 at 6:00-8:00 PM at the Indian Lane Gym.

Coach and referee training will take place on December 3 at 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Meet the Coach Night is December 15. Practices begin December 16 with games beginning January 10.

Christmas Pageant

Christmas Morning LIVE! Is our Christmas Pageant to be presented on Sunday, December 21 during the 11:00 worship service. Through their participation, 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 or JoAnne Gallagher as soon as possible.

Sunday practices are from 10:15 AM to 10:45 AM. This will enable the children to have Sunday School, followed by practice for 30 minutes. Practices are scheduled for Sundays November 16, 23, December 7, 14, and 21. Saturday practice will be from 9 until 11 AM, December 13 and 20. Attendance at pageant practice is very important. Please make every effort to have your child at practice.

Bible Study for Parents on Sundays at 9:45

You'll love the session called a Toolbox of Consequences offering seven categories of consequences along with a plan for how to use each one.

Understand the three components of a bad attitude and ways to bring about deep, heart-level change. In all, you'll discover eight parenting tools that focus on the heart. Please join us on Sundays in the Children's Library.

Children's Christmas Party

A Christmas party for all children, whether they are in the pageant or not, will be held December 13 from 11 AM until 12:30 PM. Lunch and a birthday cake for Jesus will be provided. Adults and youth who can assist with the Christmas Pageant in any way are welcome to join the fun.



Adventurous Wednesdays

Adventurous Wednesdays will not meet December 24 or 31. We'll resume on January 7.

Pool & Pizza Party

On Sunday, January 18 we will be having a splash party from 3:45 PM until 6:00 PM at the Rocky Run YMCA. Children age 5 and under must be accompanied by a parent. We will swim for the first hour and then have pizza a room reserved just for us. Cost per child is \$5.00 and adults get in for free. Call Chriss at 610-565-8317 if you have any questions or would like to help.

DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch 7:30 PM Mission Team Meeting	2 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM CEF Meeting 7:30 PM C & C Team	3 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:45 PM Adventure Club 7:30 PM Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study 7:45 PM Upward-Coach & Referee Training	4 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	5 9:15 AM Friday Exercise 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	6 9:00 AM Christmas Pageant Practice 9:00 AM Women's Advent Breakfast 7:30 PM Mayer Small Group
7 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 5:00 PM Youth	8 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch 7:30 PM Deacons	9 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Nursing Mothers 9:30 AM Quilting 7:30 PM Children's Ministry Team	10 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:45 PM Adventure Club 7:30 PM Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	11 9:00 AM Stage Set up 1:00 PM I & S Team 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 7:00 PM Youth Team 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	12 9:15 AM Friday Exercise 12:00 PM Corbi's Pizza Delivery 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	13 NO Legacy Coffee House Tonight 9:00 AM Cookie Walk 9:00 AM Pageant Practice 11:00 AM Children's Christmas Party
14 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 5:00 PM Youth	15 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch 12:00 PM Prime Time Plus 7:00 PM Upward-Meet the Coaches	16 1st Upward Practice DEADLINE for Poinsettia Orders 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilting	17 NO Teens Bible Study Tonight 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study-sings at Fair Acres 6:00 PM Adventure Wednesday-Dinner & Christmas Caroling 7:30 PM Band Practice	18 7:00 PM Handbell Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	19 NO RELEASE TIME Poinsettia Delivery 9:15 AM Friday Exercise 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	20 8:30 AM Book Club 9:00 AM Pack Toys at City Team 9:00 AM Pageant Practice
21 ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY-11 A.M. 11:00 AM Worship Service and Christmas Pageant NO Youth Meeting tonight	22 NO Lydia Circle Tonight 9:30 AM Newsletter Collating 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch	23 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Fruit of the Spirit	24 NO Adventure Club NO Band Practice NO Teens Bible Study NO Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service 8:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Merry Christmas!!!! 10:00 AM One Worship Service only	26 NO RELEASE TIME	27
28 NO Youth Meeting 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	29 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch	30 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilting	31 NO Adventure Club NO Band Practice NO Teens Bible Study NO Women's Bible Study	1	2	3

Middletown Presbyterian Church
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To submit information to be printed in the Press, please email or drop off your information to Tana in the office by the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which you want your information to appear.

MIDDLETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 273 S. Old Middletown Rd, Media, PA 19063		
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Cemetery Administrator	Jane Evans	cemetery@middletownpres.org
Wedding Coordinator	Janette Weldon	
Church Sexton	Shorty Mains	
<i>In case of 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 302-765-2460</i>		

Sundays at Middletown

- 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
- 5:00 PM Youth Group