



Middletown Press

May 2009

Coming Events:

- Youth vs Adults Softball game 5/3
- Pride Day 5/9
- Men's Breakfast 5/16
- Book Discussion 5/ 16
- 9:30 Sunday worship begins 5/17
- Sunday School picnic 5/17 at 10:30 AM
- PrimeTime *Plus* 5/18
- Thursday night worship begins 5/21
- Graveside Memorial service 5/24 10:45 AM
- Church Picnic 6/7
- Graduate Sunday 6/14
- Golf Outing 6/22
- Youth Carwash 6/27
- VBS 7/19-23

When you recognize God as creator, you will admire him.

When you recognize his wisdom, you will learn from him.

When you discover his strength, you will rely on him.

But only when he saves you will you worship him.

(from in the *Eye of the Storm* by Max Lucado)

Looking Ahead

Many of you have participated in two pot-luck suppers over the past year in which we considered our history together at the Middletown Church. Not only were they great times for warm fellowship and more food than all of us could eat, but they were also times to celebrate many of the good memories of our lives together and to begin to heal from some of the wounds from which we have suffered, both individually and as a church family. As is always the case, we don't always agree on all things and don't even remember some of them in the same way, but, like all families, we love each other and we need to remind ourselves of that as often as we can!

Because the Adult Ministries Team, along with our faithful C & C gang, have organized these dinners, they have asked the question, "When are we going to have a pot-luck to discuss our future history?" I have responded by letting them know that the Church Mission Study, required as a part of the Pastoral Search Process, is our opportunity to dream and make concrete plans for our future ministry together. Our Session will be responsible for initiating this process and it is a major undertaking. They will be recruiting a Mission Study Committee, led by an elder and composed of various members of the congregation. These people will lead us in composing and interpreting a congregational survey that will not only include a written response, but opportunities for small group feedback. Then the Committee will

compile all the information and write a completed Mission Study which must be approved by the Session and then by the presbytery's Committee On Ministry.

We are hoping to organize this Mission Study process during the summer months and then kick it off in the fall when everyone is back from travels and vacations. And yes, we will probably kick it off with another pot-luck supper! Hopefully, we'll have so many people present that we'll have to set up tables in the Christian Ed building!!

Please begin to pray and prepare for your involvement in this process. You may be asked to serve on the Mission Study Committee. If so, we need you so don't be too quick to say no! If you are considering being a candidate for the Pastoral Nominating Committee, serving on the Mission Study Committee would not disqualify you from serving on the PNC. What is most important is that all of us participate in the survey and in the discussion groups which follow.

This is the beginning of a long, but exciting process as God uses us to prepare for an exciting future at Middletown Church. Begin to pray now for all of those who will serve and for all of us who have the privilege of supporting them and working with them as we take this important step in "running with perseverance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Yours in Christ,
John

Developing a Mission

Over the next months, the congregation will be asked to help define what the mission of Middletown Presbyterian Church is. The mission differs from a vision in that it reflects the basic core purpose of the church and is more permanent. A vision may be renewed, adapted and adjusted to the current time or culture in which the church lives. The vision provides us with a picture of what the mission will look like as it is realized in the community. Now is the time to spend some time thinking and praying about God's role for our church.

Why is the ministry's mission so important? It affects the church in numerous essential ways. Here are six.

1. The Mission Dictates the Church's Direction

Before embarking on a flight, most people want to know where their plane is going. Otherwise, as Yogi Berra, the former New York Yankee catcher, once said, *"If you don't know where you're going, you might end up somewhere else."* Leaders and their churches must have a direction, and it is the mission that provides that important direction.

It answers the directional question, *Where are we going?* Thus the church's mission is directional. It provides a compelling sense of direction, a target for everyone to aim at, and it serves to focus the congregation's energy

2. The Mission Formulates the Church's Function

Besides direction, the mission helps a ministry to formulate or determine its biblical function. It answers:

- What are we supposed to be doing?
- What function does the organization exist to perform?
- What is the primary or main thing that God has called us to accomplish?
- What are we attempting to do for God and our people?

Therefore, the mission is an expression of strategic intent. It summarizes and provides the church with its biblical task, and it defines the results that it seeks to obtain.

3. The Mission Focuses the Church's Future

Both the directional and functional questions above address the church's future. That is because the mission, like the church's vision, has everything to do with its future. Though we cannot predict the future, we can create it, and that is the job of the mission. A clear, biblical mission serves to bring into focus the church's ministry future. The converse is also true: no mission, no future.

In addition, by focusing on the future, the mission helps the ministry not to live in and focus on the past. We must learn from the past but not live in the past.

4. The Mission Provides a Guideline for Decision Making

Every day church leaders have to make decisions. A dynamic mission or intent not only focuses the church's future, it sets important boundaries. It guides what the church will and will not attempt. It provides direction for when to say yes and when to say no. Mission is to the ministry what a rudder is to a ship, a compass to a navigator, a template to a machinist. It provides a framework for critical thinking, a standard or criterion for all decision making.

5. The Mission Inspires Church Unity

A clear direction communicates a unifying theme to all the members and draws them together as a team or community. It broadcasts, "Here is where we are going. Let's all pull together and with God's help make it happen." At the same time, it encourages those with a different intent or another ministry agenda to look elsewhere.

6. The Mission Shapes the Strategy

A dynamic mission tells the church where it is going. It is the strategy, however, that gets it there. Though both are mutually dependent, the mission leads and shapes the church's strategy. The mission tells what, and the strategy tells how. The mission always comes first—it is found at the front end of the strategy. The strategy is only as good as the mission that directs it. *If you do not know where you are going, then any expressway will take you there.*



Bulletin Board

Veterans' Memorial Service

There will be a Veteran's Memorial service in the cemetery on Sunday May 24 at 10:45 AM, after the church service. It will be at the grave of Burton R. Suter, Jr. Mr. Suter served in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years during the Korean War. He served in Fuji, Japan and received the Good Conduct Medal. He died in 2008.

Buddy, as he was known to his friends, was married to Wanda Cartwright Suter. Wanda was raised in Middletown Presbyterian Church, she attended Sunday School and Vacation Bible School as a child. Wanda died in 1996. Her family, the Cartwrights and Viguers, have burials that go back as far as 1880 in our cemetery.

Middletown Pride Day

'COME ONE, COME ALL!!!' Middletown Township Pride Day at Williamson Trade School on Saturday, May 9 at 11 AM - 4 PM (set up by 10 AM)

If you have been part of this great outreach event in years past, you know how many people spend a sunny afternoon enjoying all that our area has to offer for families. If you haven't yet had the chance to help "showcase" Middletown Presbyterian Church and its many opportunities at this excellent outdoor extravaganza, please consider joining us for an hour or so. We will need smiling faces and helping hands all day---from set-up to take-down and the hours in between---many small tasks are made quick and easy with willing hearts to help. Please see Linda Fox to offer your time and energy with this VERY important ministry. Thanks!

Attention Graduates

If you or a son or daughter will be graduating from high school or college this spring, please email the office (tana@middletownpres.org) or call the office (610-565-4398) to let us know the details. Recognition of our graduates will be done at the 9:30 AM Sunday worship service on June 14.

Men's Breakfast (Women invited, too.)

On Saturday, May 16 come and hear how April and Bill Reeser are following God's call to be missionaries in Thailand. The breakfast will be in Martin Chapel at 8:30 AM. The cost is \$750 with advanced reservations by May 13; \$10 at the door.

Mark June 22 for the Annual Golf Outing

In its 15th year the Annual Men's Golf Outing will be held at Moccasin Run Golf Club on Monday, June 22 beginning at 8:00 AM. The cost including ½ cart fee is \$42; seniors discounted fee is \$38. Reservations required by contacting Jim Standish at 610-399-4336 or 610-805-6304 or email stndsh@comcast.net or call the church office 610-565-4080. Provide names and ages of players.

Knit Night Continues to Grow

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month stop in for an hour or so to share the needlework you are working on, pick up some yarn, ask questions or just chat. Need transportation? Give the office or Linda Fox a call.

A Kruse Legacy

David Kruse, grandson of former MPC pastor William Kruse, and his wife, Edna served as missionaries for 40 years in Japan. Edna has written **Pouring out Memories** about those years. Copies of the book are available for a \$10 donation. Contact the office to reserve one.

Youth vs. Adults Softball May 3

On Sunday, May 3 the Youth challenge the Adults to a softball game. The game starts at 3:00 PM at Lenni field. A Hotdog supper will be enjoyed after the game at Lenni Field. Come out and join a team or gather with other fans to cheer on your team.

Church Office Re-do

Stop by the church office and see its new look!



MPC MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday May 16, 2009

Middletown Presbyterian Men's

Breakfast Club will host a church-wide breakfast on Saturday, May 16, 2009 for the men and women of the church.

- Where: MPC - Martin Chapel
- Time: Breakfast at 8:30 AM
- Cost: \$7.50 per person with advance reservation; \$10 per person without advance reservation

Program

Our program for this event will feature **April and Bill Reeser**. April and Bill will be returning from their first several weeks in Thailand prior to journeying to North Carolina for an additional two months of missionary training. April and Bill have promised to bring pictures and other articles and talk about their experiences in adjusting to the Thai culture, learning the Thai language and interacting with the Thai people.

All receipts in excess of expenses for the breakfast will be provided to April and Bill for their missionary work. ***Come out and hear how Christ is working in the lives of April and Bill as they respond to His call to serve Him in Thailand.***

Transportation Available

We will provide transportation from the retirement communities as may be requested.

Mark the date and time on your calendar.

Reservations required. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, May 13!!

Please complete the flyer in the Sunday bulletin or email the office (tana@middletownpres.org) or call the office (610-565-4398) with:

- Your name and any guests you are bringing
- Your telephone number
- Transportation needs

PrimeTime Plus

Come out on Monday, May 16 for a musical treat and meal. This group of active adults meets at noon in Martin Chapel. Mark your calendar to join this active day time fellowship!

Sunday School Picnic

At the close of Sunday School on Sunday, May 17 the children will enjoy a picnic with games and fun activities.

Release Time

This was the 17th year MPC has sponsored Release Time for children dismissed from Indian Lane Elementary School for an hour of religious instruction. The last class for this year's program was April 24 and closed with a picnic. This year thirty-seven children participated in the program. 10 Bibles have been given out and children are reading them together at home.

Youth Group News

Softball Game

On May 3 come out to Lenni Field to help the Youth challenge the Adults to a softball game at 3:00 PM. Hotdogs after the game at Lenni Field.

Bible Study

On May 6 the Bible Study will finishing "The Domino Effect." This is the last Bible study until June 3 when we will begin a new study of I John.

Youth Gourp

5/3 Softball Game

5/10 Spend the day w/ your MOTHER.

5/17 meet in the Youth Room

5/24 - Memorial Day Weekend – no meeting

5/31 – No meeting

Montreat (7/26 - 8/1)

There is still room to sign-up for this fun and life-changing conference in Montreat, NC. Talk to Mrs. Shoemaker or Matt ASAP.

Youth Car Wash June 27

On Saturday June 27 the youth will have a Car Wash at Elwyn Sunoco from 9 AM – 2 PM. The station is at the corner of New Middletown (Route 352) and Glen Riddle Rds.

Come Hear 4th Man in the Furnace

Matt's Band, "*4th man in the Furnace*" will be playing at the Car Show held at Faith Community Church on Saturday, May 16 on Edgmtown Ave. in Brookhaven.

Aid for Friends

The next cook-in for Aid for Friends will be May 3 at 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall kitchen. Please bring in a casserole to feed 10-12 people. We are always in need of frozen veggies, applesauce, aluminum foil, tea bags, cookies and snack-size baggies.



Book Discussion Group

The Middletown Presbyterian Book Group will meet on the library on May 16 at 8:30 AM to discuss Persian Pickle Club by Sandra Dallas.

Upcoming selection for September:
If You Ever Need Me by Kate Breesterup

Session Notes

The Session met on April 21, 2009. A number of services and events were scheduled.

- Building and Property will be replacing the floor and cabinets in the office.
- A Men's breakfast with women included will host Bill and April Reeser on May 16.
- The summer Sunday Worship schedule will begin on May 17 with the Thursday evening services beginning on May 21.
- The church picnic will be June 7.
- The worship committee will be exploring one service to replace the two Sunday services.
- The session voted to have a Lay Renewal in 2010.
- Legacy Team requested a special meeting of the session for April 29 to discuss a recommendation to present to the congregation.
- The current financial status will require some cuts in the operating budget.

April Financial Report as of 3/31/2009

	Mar.	Budget Mar.	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date
Budget Income	30,553	29,047	81,296	91,690
Budget Expense	24,726	30,377	80,487	91,230
Gain/Deficit	5,827	-1,330	809	460
Non Budget Income	2,410		9,289	
Non Budget Expense	96		4,589	
Non Budget G/L	2,314	0	4,700	

Legacy Contributions are accounted for separately

An Opportunity for Your Input

“There are five essential questions of congregational life,” said the Rev. Lloyd John Ogilvie, former chaplain of the U.S. Senate, “five questions that must be asked and answered sequentially. If you skip any of them, the best that your church will ever do is limp.” Consider this first question:

What kind of people does God want us to produce in this body of believers?

The biblical answer to that question is “Go and make disciples.” But what does a disciple look like? What target are we aiming for?

To answer this question, begin with a Bible study on the mandate to make disciples. This is the job of every church and every believer. Then go alone, pray, and write down what traits of a disciple God reveals.

Prayer and study becomes crucial at this point, as the question asks, “*What kind of disciples does God want?*” **Not** “*What do I think makes a good disciple?*”

Send your list to the Press—either c/o tana@middletownpres.org or place in the mailbox in the office.

Sermons and Scripture for the Sundays of Easter

May 3 – I John 3:16-24

“Signs of Good Health: Eyes to See Those in Need”

May 10 – I John 4:7-21

“Signs of Good Health: Love for Each Other”

May 17 - I John 5:1-5

“Signs of Good Health: Obedience”

May 21/24 – I John 5:9-13

“Signs of Good Health: Knowing the Son”

May 28/31 – John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 “I Believe in the Holy Ghost” (Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday)

Joys and Concerns



Maryann as she beats breast cancer;

Jason as he begins treatment for leukemia;

Sherri as she prepares for surgery on May 18;

Julie with cystic fibrosis needs a lung transplant; Bill and April in language school in Thailand and returning to the U.S. in mid-

May to continue preparation for missionary service.

Upward: pray for more gym space to become available for practices and games; more leaders to step up and take leadership training; additional people to help plan for next season; expanded Upward outreach for flag football and community projects with parents and kids.

Vacation Bible School (July 19-23): need prayers for volunteers to help. Decorating group, led by Naomi met prior to Children's Ministry meeting.

Milestones

Jane Rowley flew to St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, to attend the wedding of her grandson, Benjamin Grover to Rebekah Fetterman on April 4, 2009. The ceremony took place on the beach.

Upward Evaluation

"This program was very impressive. Most importantly, every person involved was completely onboard with the values of the program, loved the kids, and promoted having a great time and glorifying God."

All the families involved in Upward were invited to respond to a survey. The results showed:

- Strong response to the survey – 47% of the families responded. Excellent feedback, good constructive criticism where needed.
- Overall – very positive response, average rating for "Overall Quality of Upward Experience" was 9.15 on 1-10 scale, where 10 was Excellent.

- High ratings for player introductions, balanced playing time, games, snack bar, facilities at Indian Lane, value received, and coaches.
- Also received positive feedback for key objectives of the program including fun for kids, learning basketball skills, supportive environment, building confidence, self-esteem, and character in the kids.

The success of this program is dependent on many people doing a part. Pray and then talk with Don and Jinny Heilala or Chriss Benson about how you might become involved.

Thanks to all who Donated Yarn

Olive Bishop thanks everyone who donated yard to her for her knitting projects. With the yarn, Olive was able to knit 92 items (such as lap robes, vests, sweaters, and slippers) for others.

Thanks for Being a Part of the Sendoff

Sincere thanks to everyone who had a part in presenting the commissioning luncheon for Bill and April Reeser on March 29. From set-up to clean-up---and all the food (beautiful, plentiful and DELICIOUS), so many helping hands made it a special time for our dear friends as they leave MPC to "spread His word"! It was a truly a warm and wonderful show of appreciation for them and we thank you all!

With love and gratitude, C&C and Seeking 2 Serve small group

What do we say to those who face physical mobility challenges?

People who face physical challenges due to decreased mobility face limitations and anxiety that may not be obvious to others. How accessible are the physical MPC church buildings?

- Check out the accessibility – look for steps, narrow doors or walkways, and uneven surfaces.
- Is there clear access to entrances and exits?
- Are bathrooms available that allow a family member to assist?

Look with our buildings with new eyes and begin a discussion of how we can better welcome those with decreased mobility.

MAY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Office Closed 9:15 AM Exercise 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Group 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	2 9:00 AM B & P Work Day at MPC 7:30 PM Mayer Small Group
3 C & C Spring Plant Sale 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School Class 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 2:00 PM Aid for Friends Cook in 3:00 PM Softball Game 4:00 PM Christian Inquiry Class for those seeking membership at MPC	4 7:30 PM Called Session Meeting	5 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Exercise 7:30 PM Youth Team	6 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study 7:30 PM Legacy Team	7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	8 9:15 AM Exercise 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	9 Pride Day!!!
10 MOTHER'S DAY! Deacon's Collection New Members Welcomed NO Youth Group 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School Class 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	11 7:30 PM Deacon's Meeting	12 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Exercise 7:30 PM Children's Ministry Team	13 NO Youth Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study 7:45 PM Knitting Club	14 1:00 PM I & S Team 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	15 9:15 AM Exercise 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Group 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	16 8:30 AM Book Discussion 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 7:30 PM Mayer Small Group
17 9:30 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Youth Group	18 12:00 PM Prime Time Plus	19 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Exercise 7:00 PM Session/meet with Confirmation Class 7:30 PM Session Meeting	20 NO Youth Bible Study 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study @ Fair Acres 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study	21 7:30 PM Thursday Worship Service begins	22 9:15 AM Exercise 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	23
24 Healing Service New Members Received to MPC NO Youth 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Veterans Memorial Graveside Service	25 MEMORIAL DAY Holiday-Office Closed	26 9:30 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Exercise 7:00 PM Fruit of the Spirit	27 NO Youth Bible Study 9:30 AM Newsletter Collating 7:45 PM Knitting Club	28 7:30 PM Thursday Worship Service	29 9:15 AM Exercise 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	30
31 NO Youth 9:30 AM Worship Service Confirmation Sunday 11:00 AM Luncheon						

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

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

Middletown Presbyterian Church 273 S. Old Middletown Rd., Media PA 19063 610-565-4080 (phone) 610- 565-4306 (fax)		
Interim Pastor	John King	jck26@comcast.net
Children's Ministries Director	Chriss Benson	chriss@middletownpres.org
Music Director	Bill Wheeler-Young	wheeleryoung@msn.com
Youth Ministry Director	Matt Miazga	484-995-8457 cell
Treasurer	JoAnne Gallagher	gallagher611@comcast.net
Senior Care Ministries	Ken Schreffler	Kschreffl@verizon.net
Office Administrator	Tana Kalesnik	tana@middletownpres.org
Sexton	Shorty Mains	610-565-4080
Cemetery Administrator	Jane Evans	Cemetery @middletownpres.org
Wedding Coordinator	Janette Weldon	
Nursery Attendant	Daria Prizzi	
<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 302-765-2460.</i>		

Sundays at Middletown
 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
9:30 AM Worship beginning May 17
 5:00 PM Youth Group