



Middletown Press

February 2010

Coming Events:

- 2/7 – SuperBowl Party
6:00 PM Martin Chapel
- 2/15 – PrimeTimePlus
noon in Martin Chapel
- 2/17 – Ash Wednesday
Service 6:30 PM
- 2/20 – CEF Annual
Banquet
- 2/21 – Pancake
breakfast 11:30
- 2/26-27 – 30 Hr Famine
- 2/28 – Congregational
Annual Meeting
- 3/13 – Upward
Celebration
- 3/20 - Elder/Deacon
Retreat 9AM
- 3/26-28 – Ocean City
MD for Sr Highs
- 3/29-31 – Holy Week
Services 7:30 PM
- 4/1 – Maundy Thursday
Service 7:30 PM
- 4/2 – Good Friday noon
- 4/4 – Easter 10:30 AM

A Hymn For Haiti

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette has written many hymns to help churches and individuals respond to disasters and other current events. Carolyn and her husband Bruce have been the co-pastors of Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware since August 2004. They had previously served as co-pastors in Pitman, New Jersey. In 2003 Carolyn shared some of her hymns with MPC during one of the weeknight Holy Week services.

In response to the earthquake in Haiti Carolyn has written a new hymn to the tune of “Beneath the Cross of Jesus.” Our choir sang this hymn during worship in January and many have requested the words.

In Haiti, There is Anguish

(“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”)

In Haiti, there is anguish that seems too much to bear;
A land so used to sorrow now knows even more despair.
From city streets, the cries of grief rise up to hills above;
In all the sorrow, pain and death, where are you, God of love?

A woman sifts through rubble, a man has lost his home,
A hungry, orphaned toddler sobs, for she is now alone.

Where are you, Lord, when thousands die — the rich, the poorest poor?
Were you the very first to cry for all that is no more?

O God, you love your children;
you hear each lifted prayer!
May all who suffer in that land know you are present there.
In moments of compassion shown,
in simple acts of grace,
May those in pain find healing balm, and know your love’s embrace.

Where are you in the anguish?
Lord, may we hear anew
That anywhere your world cries out, you’re there — and suffering, too.

And may we see, in others’ pain,
the cross we’re called to bear;
Send out your church in Jesus’ name to pray, to serve, to share.

Tune: Frederick Charles Maker, 1881.
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Scriptures and Sermons

February 7 - "Is It Still True?"
I Corinthians 15:1-11

February 14 - Transfiguration
Sunday, "Aglow" Luke 9:28-36

February 21 - 1st Sunday in Lent,
"Don't Ever Forget: The Lord Has Given It To You"
Deuteronomy 26:1-11

February 28 - 2nd Sunday in Lent,
"Don't Ever Forget: I Am Your Shield"
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18



Session Notes

The Session met January 16 and received the following reports and approved:

- Membership Team report to remove five additional members per their request.
- To continue to receive offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Communion by intinction for a date to be determined.
- Aubrey Fink to produce a church wide project called "Who is the Church?"
- the curriculum for VBS as presented by Chriss Benson.
- Middle School Wild Week for 6/21-6/25, 2010 under the direction of Matt Miazga here at MPC.
- The youth rallying in Ocean City, Maryland March 26-28 and the youth will be attending SHACK summer camp retreat August 1-6, 2010 in West Virginia.
- Craig Cassey and Don McBride for three year terms on the endowment committee and appointed James Standish as chair of that committee for the 2010 year.
- a men's group started by the adult ministry team. Please contact Rusty Abrams, Mike Burke or Ken Schreffler for details.

In additional matters, the Session:

- Affirmed the church policy for facility use.
- Called a congregational meeting for the purpose of our annual congregational meeting and to elect our pastoral nominating committee on 2/28/10.
- Encouraged attending the Mission Action Network of Evangelicals: Initial Visioning Roundtable 1/23/10 at Church on the Mall.
- Received Communications including the annual statistical report and annual questionnaire from the Philadelphia Presbytery, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship noting the passing of Reverend Harold Kurtz, and "Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness" was

received from the Presbyterian Church USA as approved by the 218th General Assembly.

Session also received a disbursement from the endowment committee for \$3,696.35 to "replace" monies previously expensed and paid from the general operating budget for the 2008 youth trip to Puerto Rico.

Session appointed Mike Burke as session representative to the nominating committee.

Newly elected officers met on 1/20/10 for orientation and examination. Next stated session meeting will be 2/16/10.

Deacons Doings

For the next few months this column will highlight an outreach service project that the Deacons support and will give you opportunities to participate with the Deacons in serving God by helping others.

The collection of staple food items is ongoing and benefits both the Media Food Bank and CityTeam Ministries. We encourage you to support this project by bringing one or more staple food item each time you come to church and leaving your donations in the narthex.

Here are specific items that City Team needs: canned meats, peanut butter, cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, diapers, baby formula and baby food, and also paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper, and dinner napkins.

Rusty Abrams delivers the food to Media Food Bank, which services the needs of people in central and western Delaware County and to CityTeam, which has a very active ministry in Chester.

Bringing the Dreams and Plans to Reality!

The architectural and mechanical drawings for the renovations to the Administration Wing have been received and are being reviewed by the Legacy team. Temporary offices have been constructed in the Children's Education wing for the pastor and secretary and Pastor John and Tana were moved in Friday night, January 22. A new permanent office has been built for the youth director in the youth room. When construction starts, the administration wing will

be closed. The tower will be open for access to Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary.

The Legacy team have reviewed the drawings we have received from John, the architect and Jerry Fink. We are currently working with Jerry's office to address some questions and concerns in the mechanical plans and will contact John about the construction drawing concerns.

Hopefully the revisions will be completed shortly and we can get a set of construction drawings to proceed with bidding the project out to local contractors. The elevator company will proceed with the manufacture of the elevator.

We will try to complete some of the demolition, prior to contractors bidding, with members of the Church.

Nominating Committee Update

The Mission Study of Middletown Presbyterian Church was submitted to the Committee on Ministry of Philadelphia Presbytery in December 2009. The committee is currently reviewing our Mission Study and will vote to approve it on February 4, 2010. At that time, we have requested approval from Presbytery to elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC).

The Nominating Committee is currently meeting to consider nominee to form the PNC. Our goal is to have a potential PNC to be presented to the congregation for election at our annual meeting on February 28, 2010.

Please pray for wisdom and the Lord's guidance for the Nominating Committee as they consider PNC nominations

Here are the NEW terms that were voted on at the congregational meeting 1/17/10:

Elders serving a 3 year term:

Jane Evans* Steve Hixson*
Linda Fox* Joanne Gallagher*
Beth Shoemaker*

Elders serving a 1 year term:

Karen Krissing Craig Cassey

Deacons serving a 3 year term:

Lisa Dutka* Sheila Schreffler*
Don McBride Carolyn Speakman
Steve Almond

Deacons serving a 1 year term:

Lois Bowen Charlie Bowen

Auditor – Karl Dubendorf

Nominating Committee – Don Heilala, Sheila Schreffler, Cheryl Quirk, Kate Rainey

*meaning second term

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGH)

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it is people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God! Yet for many people, life can be tough and disasters can destroy whole families, towns and cities.

One Great Hour of Sharing joins our hearts with God's by providing decisive aid when disaster strikes and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Your gift strengthens struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds and wells. This year the earthquake victims in Haiti will be recipients of OGH gifts.

When we care for God's treasured children, we ourselves are transformed. We see more clearly what matters most in life and are inspired to live courageously. Our hope rises as we realize new life is possible.

May you find your treasure and your heart through sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. The OGH campaign will begin February 21 with the offering received April 11.

Volunteers Make Upward Happen

The Upward Basketball and Cheerleading program creates fun for kids but is only possible through the hard work of many adults. Over 50 coaches and referees are on board and volunteers are still needed.

If you can help one hour on one Saturday, we could really use your help in the snack bar. Can you sell some Pizza coupons at work, in the neighborhood or in your extended family? Each \$10 coupon sold puts \$3.00 in the Upward treasury and delicious Cocco's pizza on someone's table.

Angels All Around You

The Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study is learning about God's Angels. Our hours are 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM on Wednesday mornings.

The third Wednesday of each month we do not meet at 9:30. That's our day to go to Fair Acres for a sing along. We meet at 1:00 PM at the church to practice and leave to go to Fair Acres by 1:30 and return no later than 3:00 PM.

Adventurous Wednesdays

Adventure Club has a number of special activities coming up:

- Karen Borse will be Sketching our Story on February 10 at 5:00 PM
- There will be a Ash Wednesday service on February 17 at 6:30 PM
- Our Adventure Club Dinner will be on March 10 with families at 6:00 PM

Adventure Club is a midweek program from 4:45 PM to 7:00 PM. The cost for dinners is \$3.00 per night or \$25.00 for a ten-week trimester. Adults are \$5.00. Dinner starts promptly at 6:00 PM until 6:30 PM. An Adult Bible Study meets at 6:00 PM.

You Can't Cancel Christmas

December 19 and 20 found the Philadelphia area blanketed with almost two feet of snow causing Sunday services to be canceled. Ironically, the Christmas pageant entitled "You Can't Cancel Christmas" was scheduled for that Sunday. But Christmas wasn't canceled and neither was the pageant.

Christmas Eve services were filled as we heard once again how God through his zeal acted so that we might experience His grace through the gift of his son, Jesus. How freeing it is to understand that we are not dependent on our own efforts to bring about salvation—truly, the indescribable gift provided by God.

On Sunday, December 27 the Christmas Pageant was performed, proving once again that "You Can't Cancel Christmas."

What to do if another storm hits

When severe weather hits, watch the local TV and radio (KYW) stations for worship and activities closing at MPC. Or, you can call the church and listen for a special announcement.

Super Bowl Party

On Sunday, February 7 we gather in Martin Chapel to watch the Super Bowl and a special half time presentation from Power to Win. Bring something to share and join us to watch and fellowship with each other. We always have a great time!

PrimeTimePlus

The January's PrimeTimePlus was a big success as Bill Steinmetz showed us his Hawaiian photos and told stories about this beautiful state. Andy Nelson's lunch was a big hit as well and 6 tables needed to be set up for the 48 people attending.

We had a table of guests from Reformation Lutheran Church, "The Owls"—Older wiser Lutherans. It was a holiday so some people who normally are working came to enjoy PrimeTimePlus, a successful group of seniors having interesting programs both entertaining and interesting. Why don't you come on February 15 --- the third Monday of each month—at noon to enjoy a time of good eating, conversation and friendship. Our topic will be "How to make your assets last your lifetime."

If you plan to come and bring extra friends, do let the office know so we can be prepared.

Andy, Margaret and Gladys

Looking Ahead to Lent and Easter

The season of Lent begin on February 17. There will be an Ash Wednesday observance in Martin Chapel as part of the conclusion of Adventure Wednesday that evening. It will begin at 6:30 P.M. and conclude by 7:00 P.M. All are welcome to join us.

There will be Holy Week Services in Martin Chapel at 7:30 P.M. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (March 29-31). The theme will be "Shadows - Preparing for Maundy Thursday". The Maundy Thursday Service will take place on April 1 at 7:30 P.M. in the sanctuary and will include Holy Communion and a service of Tenebrae.

The Good Friday service will be at 12:00 P.M. on April 2, focusing on "The Waiting Father and the Prodigal Sons".

Easter Sunday will include the celebration of Holy Communion on April 4 at 10:30 A.M.

Are You Using your Gift?

Pastor John's sermons in January were based on I Corinthians 12-13 which describe the spiritual gifts God gives to people. So are you a hand, a foot or an ear, or perhaps, a knee? Whatever your part, you are needed for the body to function properly. You have been chosen by God to be a part of MPC because of the gift he has given you. Without your gift we will be lacking.

Perhaps, you aren't sure what your gift is. Rather than pondering what it might be, try out different things and see what happens. Henry Blackaby in his book, *Experiencing God*, says if you want to find out what God wants you to do, look for where God is already working, get close and see what you can do to be part of it.

Our gifts are not for us to keep in a box nor do they make us important people. They don't determine our worth but our ministry. Will you accept the challenge to step out—and experience the fullness of what God intends for you?

Here are some places where you can see God at work. Check them out.

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading

- Help work at the snack bar
- Pray
- Give a devotion for parents

Worship

- Help run video recorder
- Ushers or greeters
- Sing or play a musical instrument
- Watch babies in the nursery

Building Maintenance

- Help paint, scrape, fix various Building and Property projects
- Shovel snow from walkways
- Attend B&P workdays and help out where needed

Vacation Bible School

- Assist teachers
- Help with Arts and Crafts, music, memory work
- Help with games and activities
- Advertise VBS
- Pray

Aid For Friends

- Cook
- Shop for food

Food Collection

- Shop for non-perishable food
- Drive food to food pantries

Missionary Involvement

- Contribute \$ for street fair and postage for April and Bill Reeser's ministry
- Pray
- Write letters or emails
- "Adopt" a missionary and keep in touch

Community Outreach

- Join the MPC team at community events
- Knit, crochet or do other handicrafts to sell at fairs
- Make cookies for the Cookie Walk
- Help advertise events
- Organize photo graphics of church activities
- Pray
- Sing at Fair Acres at 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of the month

Congregational Fellowship

- Help cook or serve at congregational events
- Help at coffee hour before worship
- Organize activities

Top 9 Reasons for Joining Choir

1. You're running out of clean clothes and the robe saves on laundry. **2.** The church is usually crowded and you want to make sure you always have a seat. **3.** You've just been selected for jury duty and you want to get used to sitting with a large group of people. **4.** The Collections plate is never passed in the choir loft. **5.** For years you have wanted to know who sits in the back of church but were afraid to turn around and look. **6.** You've been known to nod off during the service and don't want the minister to catch you. **7.** Your favorite movie is "Sister Act." **8.** You made a New Year's resolution "to spend more time with God, while learning to sing and enjoy the fellowship with others." **9.** But the BEST reason to join the choir is the joy of singing praises to God.

For more information, contact Director, Bill Young or any choir member.

Bulletin Board

Despite the upheaval from the renovation of the Administration Wing, the Shawl Ministry is alive and well. Prayer shawls and yarn for knitters have found a new home in the 2nd floor resource room in



the CE Building. We have shawls and lap robes for adults and baby shawls and sweaters for children. We welcome knitters and other needle workers at knit-nite (2nd and 4th Thursdays) or those who want to learn how to knit. We haven't found our new spot so look around on Thursday nights (2nd and 4th.) Need transportation? Give the office a call.

Call Linda Fox at (610) 574-0936 or Janet Gemsheim at (610) 891-1827 to request a prayer shawl or for more information.

Change for Christ

April and Bill Reeser were unable to take their books to Thailand. To help them start their lending library we are collecting spare change to help pay postage and shipping costs for books to be sent to April and Bill. Overseas rates are very high. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. The collection container is in the narthex. God bless you.

Thailand Street Fair

Seeking 2 Serve small group is helping to buy and send supplies for a street fair outreach that Bill and April Reeser are planning in Thailand. If you would like to support Bill and April in this endeavor contact Linda Fox or Janet Gemsheim for items to send or to contribute toward the items and postage.

Videos or DVDs of Sunday Service

Have you missed a Sunday service or are you unable to get out to worship? We have a library of DVDs and videos you can borrow. If you are unable to get out, someone will bring the DVD to you. Call the office (610-565-4080) or Linda Fox (610-574-0936) to request them.

Where is the Office????

The process of renovating the Administration Wing has begun. The pastor and secretary have moved to the first floor of the Christian Education Building and the Youth Director's office is in the lower level.

To get to the office follow the walkway in front of the sanctuary, walk past Martin Chapel and enter through the farthest door into the first floor of the CE Building. The nursery has been split into two offices for Pastor John and Tana.

2010 Flower Requests



The 2010 flower calendar is available and you can make your requests to put flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones. Forms are on the table in the Narthex. The cost is

\$30 per arrangement. You can either take them with you or have them delivered to a member.

Your Donations are Needed Now!

Many people have been bringing in food items for the food cupboard in Media and City Team. Please continue to bring in nonperishable items such as canned goods, cereals, peanut butter, pasta, Jello, dry milk, mashed potatoes, etc.

Annual CEF Banquet

On February 20 the Annual Banquet of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Delaware County will be held at Drexelbrook Banquet Facility. This year's theme is "Whose Child is This?" with guest speaker, comedian and pastor Gordon Douglas. There is no charge for this dinner but reservations are required. Please contact Chriss Benson if you are interested in attending.

Pastoral Visits

We are grateful to people who let us know of pastoral needs in our church. Pastor King or one of the Deacons will be happy to visit people in the hospital as well as in their homes. Please call the office phone: 610-565-4080 or John's home phone: 302-765-2460 if you or someone you know would like a visit sometime soon.



The Adventures of Michael Washington *Continues*

Dear Friends,

It is fascinating to observe the peculiar characters that a church tends to collect over a period of years. One of Wilman Valley's truly unique treasures is our church custodian, Rose McIntyre. There are a number of people who might describe Rose in a different way, but they haven't dug deeply enough to discover the treasure hidden there. And you really do have to dig deeply!

Rose has been our custodian for seventeen years and there are many people who have been actively involved in the church for all of those years and they still know very little about Rose. Rose, however, knows plenty about them. Rose doesn't talk much, but she's always listening....a style of listening that would be better defined as eavesdropping. When you are the custodian of a busy church, there is plenty of opportunity for that. Church buildings are not the easiest institutions to keep clean, but Rose is very efficient in her work and that is why so many people never notice what she does. Everything is always in order, always clean, always set up perfectly for a meeting. Squeaky wheels always get a lot of grease and because Rose rarely squeaks, most people are unaware that she is even around. They better watch themselves. Rose is not only around, she is listening to every word they say....and Rose is very selective about those in whom she confides.

I should know. She put me to the test for a year and a half. We have staff meetings twice a week in which we read the scriptures together, share our insights and pray for each other. Rose rarely says a word. When I first came to Wilman Valley, I thought I had done something to offend her. I worked extra hard to include her in everything we did, but she still pretty much ignored me. It wasn't long before I noticed that she treated everyone that way. But then I began to notice that she also sneaked in little kindnesses, special favors and indications of concern, to people who were struggling or experiencing a crisis in their day or in their lives. She would do this very quietly and very subtly. You had to watch very closely to notice.

She began to catch me noticing her. I never said anything. I just smiled at her knowingly and

we both knew that we understood each other. That's when the visits began. I would be working in my office and the door would open and Rose would walk in and plop down heavily in one of the wing chairs facing my desk. She never knocked and she never greeted me and she didn't hesitate to come in, even if I was on the phone. She would wait until she had my full attention and then she would start talking as though a dam had burst within her. Sometimes she just reviewed her day for me. I rarely asked a question. She would talk and I would laugh, shake my head, tell a story, lightly reprimand her, challenge her or give her some other appropriate response. After a year and a half of observing me and remaining aloof, she was letting me know that she likes me....and, more importantly, that she trusted me. I have never taken that trust for granted. And it hasn't been easy. I know more about my parishioners from the ramblings of Rose McIntyre than I could ever glean in any other way. And, with that knowledge, comes a need for the same kind of discretion and confidentiality that is necessary after a much more formal counseling session.

I was in the midst of a conversation with Larry Nalter from Mertz Funeral Home about an upcoming graveside service when Rose came into my office and settled into her chair. I actually had my back to the door, but I knew it was her. I continued my conversation with Larry, knowing that Rose was listening carefully to every word and figuring out any responsibilities that might include her on the day of the funeral. When I finally hung up the phone, she started in like she had been on another extension, telling me what had to be changed, what couldn't be done and chiding me for not knowing certain unknowable details ahead of time. I laughed and assured her that we would take care of all her corrections!

She was obviously in an irritable mood and I knew it wouldn't be long before she started talking about it. "What is it with this stupid Valentine's Dinner this year? Those people have given me more trouble today than I've had in the past five years. I had all the tables set up and half the chairs in place and they walked in and told me I had to take them all down. They said they were doing something different this year. Well, they never told me. And, they're all

giggling and excited and acting like a bunch of high school kids before the Junior Prom."

I was tempted to laugh at her again, but I sensed that it would be like adding gasoline to a fire so I responded by nodding my head and giving her a little information. It's rare that I get the opportunity to tell Rose about something that she doesn't already know! "Those people" were the Planning Group for this year's Valentine's Dinner in Fellowship Hall. I confessed to Rose that I had persuaded them to do things a little differently this year. As you might expect, that got me a frown from Rose.

I have a confession to make. I have never been a big fan of the annual Valentine's Dinner and Molli shares my sentiments. My idea of a nice Valentine's Day is a romantic dinner with Molli or, occasionally, with two or three other couples with whom we are very close. This would take place in a favorite restaurant with special ambiance accented by quiet and enjoyable conversation. A church dinner, accompanied by a guest speaker teaching on biblical love along with group singing and a few skits, was a weak substitute. And, of course, I was the pastor, so I had to be there! We always managed to have a reasonably good time and, quite often, we would do the romantic restaurant thing on another evening, but the Valentine's Dinner event was getting old.

Back in October, I sat down with the Planning Group and, in a fun way, challenged them to do something entirely different this year. And, much to my surprise, they not only agreed to consider it, they were downright enthusiastic. It seems that some of them were feeling the same way as me. They began making plans to transform Fellowship Hall into an intimate restaurant dining room. They rented special tables and chairs, floor lamps, area rugs, various plants and even two electric fireplaces. Instead of inviting a special speaker, they hired a maitre d', a string quartet, a group of professional waiters and waitresses and an excellent caterer who was willing to prepare a variety of meals on site and provide a menu with several selections. All this and the price for a ticket only went up \$10.00 per person. But they forgot to tell Rose....and so did I!

No one had told Rose to begin setting up for the dinner. She just began doing it because the

dinner was on the calendar and she did it like she did every other year. Rose usually knows everything! Somehow, she managed to miss this one, so I took the blame. I apologized, but I could tell that she really wasn't upset with me. She knew I would never do anything deliberately to make her work more difficult and she was quick to forgive me. Her eyes lit up when I told her about the alternate plans and then they became distant as she stared right through me. I sensed that there was something else that we needed to talk about.

I asked her, "Are you and 'my Michael' doing anything special this evening for Valentine's Day (Most people call me Mike, but Rose always calls me Michael and distinguishes her husband of the same name from me by calling him "my Michael"). She grew quiet and a little teary-eyed and then murmured, "Funds are a little short at our house right now. We had to put in a new furnace last month so we canceled our dinner reservation at Orlando's. We've gone there every year for Valentine's Day since the day we were married and, although I know it's stupid, it really upsets me. My Michael feels terribly, but we just don't have the money."

I smiled and responded, "You're not going to believe this, but I have two extra tickets for tonight. We were going to take our neighbors and they canceled on us yesterday because of a delayed business trip. If you don't come as our guests, the tickets will be wasted." She wasn't sure whether to believe me. At first, she thought I was making the whole thing up to make her feel better, but we know each other pretty well after working together for so many years. She looked in my eyes to test me and then said, "We would be honored to be your guests, Michael. We'll see you at seven o'clock." And with that, she rushed out of my office.

Several hours later, with Molli on my arm, we entered the Fellowship Hall....except it no longer looked like anything that resembled a church hall. The organizers had outdone themselves. We had been transported into our own private, exquisitely decorated dining room. The string quartet was playing in the background, delectable hors d'oeuvres were being served and the tables were set for parties of eight in white linen with bouquets of pink roses and baby's breath.

Standing in the center of a small group of people was Rose, talking excitedly with more warmth and affection for which any of those present had ever given her credit. Rose cleaned up quite beautifully....we had never seen her in anything but old jeans and a sweatshirt! Standing next to her, radiant and distinguished in a perfectly fitted tuxedo, was "my Michael", a bit of a mystery to those of us at the church since we only caught glimpses of him on the few occasions he had to give Rose a ride to work.

We took our seats shortly after this and we had a delightful time. The meals were served in several courses, and it was simply elegant. There was no program. We just enjoyed our conversation with the others at our table and, interestingly enough, in a very natural way, much of our conversation focused on our lives together in Christ. We discovered that Rose always calls her husband "my Michael", not just to distinguish him from me, and he calls her, "Roseanna". Guess what she's going to be called around church from now on!

Days after the dinner, people were still talking about what a wonderful time it was. It was amazing to many that you could have a "church dinner" without a program. Paul said to the Thessalonians, "So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us" (I Thess. 2:8). Sometimes, instead of a program, we need to recognize how dear we are to each other and just enjoy each other. Then, the programs take on a new significance and power, as well.

Paul concluded that letter to the Thessalonians with these words, "Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss....The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

(To be continued)

John

Vacation Bible School New Time

This year we will be having VBS during the daytime from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM from July 19 thru 23.

Welcome to our 2010 Holy Land Adventure VBS - Where the Bible comes to life right before

your eyes. Join Joseph on his journey from Prison to Palace!

In Egypt everyone gets to explore firsthand the culture of Joseph's world. They'll experience right alongside Joseph-the heart-breaking trials, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations of this unique Bible hero,

God's Word comes alive as families enjoy traditional Bible-times customs, occupations, food, and even games!

If you would like to help and be a part of this exciting time, please let me know. We will need many more volunteers this summer because our time frame is longer and we are anticipating more children to attend because it is in the daytime. Email me at MPCkids@aol.com or call 610-565-8317 if you can help! Chriss Benson

Special Thanks

We need to thank the following people: Brenda, Rusty, and Andrew Abrahams; Jeff George; Matt Miazga; Dave VanZant; Ken Schreffler; Mike Burk and Bill Warburton for their help Friday evening in moving the offices. It was my hope to get all the large furniture moved and only have boxes and small items to move on Saturday. The move was completed Friday night. It was great.

Tana came in Saturday morning with members of her family and a friend to put things away in her temporary office. They also helped move other things around for us. Carl Hughes and Shawn came in and worked on some of our electrical needs. Karl Dubendorf worked on the communications/computer hookup. We have started the demolition and will remove the flooring in the old office to install it in the youth director's new office. Al. Sredenschek came by Saturday morning but there was nothing left for him to do.

We may not get many people responding to calls for help like this but the ones that show up are awesome. I am so glad God blessed us by leading us to this Church family.

God Bless,
Ray Fox

Joys and Concerns

God's people



The people of Haiti and aid workers helping in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Tracy, friend of Cindy Boyer as she deals with chemotherapy and pain from bone metastasis.

A church member with cancer.

Leslie, sister of Linda

Fox, as she travels 100 miles round trip for daily radiation treatment after removal of brain tumor. **Myrtle**, sister of Ray Fox, as she begins chemo and radiation to treat bone cancer.

Our **College Students** to develop healthy outlooks, consistent focus on their studies, good friends to keep away depression and harmful activities, to keep their paths straight.

Youth News

Upcoming events and trips

2/26-27 – **30-Hour Famine** – Ken, Rusty, Matt planning in conjunction w/ Elam Methodist.

3/26-28 – **Ocean City, MD** for senior highs. Justin Lockadoo – terrific youth speaker is the featured speaker with Friday and Saturday night concerts.

6/21-25 Middle School Wild Week at the Church from 6:30-9:00 PM.

8/1-8/6 – **“Shack”** (Seneca High Adventure Christian Camp) in WV. Youth entering 8th grade and up. Cost –about \$450/person. \$100- deposit by 1/31/10.

8/5/2011-8/14/2011 – **South Dakota Mission Trip**. \$100- deposit needed by 1/31/10.



Smiling Teens Having Fun Serving

Enjoying the Swim Party



Enjoying the Pancake Breakfast



FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 3:25 PM Kidz Good News Club 6:30 PM CEF Teachers 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	2 9:30 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Teaching Children Efficiently 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	3 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 4:45 PM Adventure Club 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Teens Bible Study	4 4:30 PM Trevose Weight 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	5 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	6 7:30 PM Mayer Small Group
7 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Break & Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM Super Bowl Party	8 3:25 PM Kidz Good News Club 6:30 PM CEF Teachers 7:30 PM Deacon's Meeting 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	9 9:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Children's Ministry Team 7:30 PM Delco Cruiser's Car Club 7:30 PM Youth Ministry Team 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	10 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 4:45 PM Adventure Club 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Teens Bible Study 7:30 PM Adult Ministry Team	11 9:30 AM Senior Care Ministries 1:00 PM I & S Team 4:30 PM Trevose Weight 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Knitters 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	12 7:30 PM Seeing Eye Puppy Club 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	13 9:00 AM PineWood Derby
14 HAPPY VALENTINE DAY 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Break & Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Youth Group	15 12:00 PM Prime Time Plus 3:25 PM Kidz Good News Club 6:30 PM CEF Teachers 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	16 9:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Session Prayer Time 7:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 1:00 PM Wmen's Bible Study sings @ Fair Acres 4:45 PM Adventure Club 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:30 Service 7:00 PM Teens Bible Study	18 4:30 PM Trevose Weight 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	19 9:00 AM Mom's Club of Media 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	20 9:00 AM Aston Pres Session Retreat 6:00 PM CEF Banquet 7:30 PM Mayer Small Group
21 Pancake Breakfast following the Worship Service 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:30 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Youth Group	22 3:25 PM Kidz Good News Club 6:30 PM CEF Teachers 7:15 PM Lydia Circle 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	23 9:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Fruit of The Spirit 7:30 PM Delco Cruisers' Board Meeting 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	24 FLAG DAY 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 4:45 PM Adventure Club 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Teens Bible Study	25 4:30 PM Trevose Weight 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Knitters 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	26 30 Hour Famine with Elam Methodist 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It NA Group	27 30 Hour Famine with Elam Methodist
28 HEALING SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM Coffee Break & Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 Annual Meeting 12:00 PM Youth Group	1	2	3	4	5	6

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

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Middletown Presbyterian Church
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610-565-4080 (phone)
610- 565-4306 (fax)

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Cemetery Administrator	Jane Evans	Cemetery @middletownpres.org
Wedding Coordinator	Janette Weldon	
Nursery Attendant	Daria Prizzi	

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 in which you want your information to appear.

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.

Sundays at Middletown
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship
12:00 PM Youth Group