



Middletown Press

February 2009

Coming Events

- Super Bowl Party – Feb 1 at 5:45 PM
- Knit Night – Feb 4 at 7:45 PM
- Pancake Breakfast – Feb 8, 9:15-10AM
- Annual Congregational Meeting – Feb 8, 10AM
- Pool & Pizza Party – Feb 15, 3:45-6:00PM
- PrimeTimePlus – Feb 16 noon
- Book Discussion Group – Feb 21, 8:30AM
- Ash Wednesday service February 25 at 6:30PM
- Muskingum College Choir Friday, February 27 Covered Dish Dinner, Concert at 7:30 PM and Dessert reception

Opportunities to Serve

- Souper Bowl food drive ends February 1
- Blanket Drive
- Upward Basketball & Cheerleading
- Visit Fair Acres – Feb 18 at 1 PM

February Sermons

February 1 - *"To Tell The Truth,"*
Deuteronomy 18:15-22

February 8 - *"To Tell The Truth: Hard and Hopeful Words,"* Isaiah 40:21-31

February 15 - *"To Tell The Truth: Simple Instructions,"* II Kings 5:1-14

February 22 - *"To Tell The Truth: A Double Share,"* II Kings 2:1-14

Remember Your First Love

Certain months arouse certain thoughts and memories in our minds and hearts and February is certainly filled with a bucketful for most of us. The Presidents Day holiday (which used to be separate Washington and Lincoln birthday celebrations) has long been a favorite of car dealers and shopping mall patrons. How many "deals" have you taken advantage of during one of those Presidents Day sales? For skiers and snowboarders, the long holiday weekend has been a great time to get away and enjoy the slopes or, for some, to avoid the slopes because the lines are too long! For many people involved in youth ministry, it's an opportunity to create an event for the kids on one of the days that they are off from school. There are a number of lives that have been transformed by Christ that were initiated on a ski weekend or winter weekend with a youth group or other ministry.

In our family, we always celebrate several birthdays in the month of February, thankful for the gifts of those special people in our lives who arrived in our midst in the month of February. Quite often the celebration has occurred at an extended family dinner with all the birthday boys and girls present to be celebrated.

But we are avoiding the elephant in the room, aren't we? What most of us think of in February is Valentine's Day! Everywhere we go, there are red hearts on doors and in windows with little Cupids flying around shooting arrows with their bows. Candy shops, card shops and florists gear up for a landslide business and elementary school children wonder how many little valentines will be placed in the big box in their classroom with their name on it.

We always had a lot of fun with Valentine's Day in our family. Dinner on the 14th was always a party with decorations on the table and special

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gifts for each of the boys. One year our younger started crying because he only received two gifts. His older brothers immediately straightened him out, letting him know that this wasn't Christmas and that most of his friends didn't get any gifts for Valentine's Day.

My brother and I were particularly good at the Valentine thing. We were a year apart and often worked together on what we would get for that special girl in our life. We would save our allowance and then go shopping at the candy shop (drug store candy wasn't good enough for our girls!), purchasing something special with a fancy box and then wrap it up with a complementary gift of clothing or jewelry. Those were the days! And none of those girls ever married us!

Most of all, the Valentine's tradition reminds us of how important our relationships are with all the people we love and, of course, all of that begins with our relationship with Jesus. Just as many of us remember those feelings of "first love" in our childhood, adolescent, and young adult years, we also remember the rush of "first love" when we gave our lives to Christ.

In chapter 2 of The Revelation, the Lord commends the church in Ephesus for all of their hard work, their perseverance, and their commitment to sound teaching. Like the church at Middletown, they were a church family that was devoted to the work of the church. But the Lord stops them short when he says, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first." They had become so conscientious in the work of the church that they lost sight of the love that had brought them into the church, their first love for Jesus and their love for each other.

In this month which surrounds us with Valentines, let's be reminded together to rekindle our love for Christ and each other, not a frivolous love, but one in which we shower each other with God's grace, forgiveness, encouragement, and affection.

In Christ's love,
John

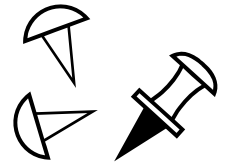
Show Your Heart

We all need to be encouraged in our walk with God, and our personal relationship with Jesus. How can you show heart to others? How can you love with the love of Jesus? Be genuine, authentic, and real in expressing the value of each person. What's their love language? People tend to express and like to receive love in one or two of five languages: words, gifts, quality time, affection, or acts of service.

- **Speak love.** Words of encouragement, affirmation, and gratitude go a long way. Positive comments lift us up and cause us to walk a new walk. Listen and watch for times when someone touches another heart and life. Be there with a note or a comment. Let others know you notice and appreciate their ministry.
- **Give love.** A meaningful gift, small token of appreciation, or helpful resource is an unexpected touch that lifts the spirit. The impact of a simple gift is very powerful.
- **Spend time on love.** For people who speak this love language, nothing says I love you better than time together. Go out for coffee, take a walk together, meet at the park or McDonald's Playland to visit while your kids play. The investment of your time is a genuine, specific way to tell someone you care about them.
- **Embrace love.** A hug, a pat on the back, a handshake, even a high five communicates love in this language. So don't be stingy with your affection.
- **Serve love.** Never discount the power of a casserole in times of need. To a person who speaks this love language, this simple act of service is better than getting flowers. Look for practical ways to meet needs.

Adapted from *Tending the Ragged Edges* by Sue Lennartson

Bulletin Board



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. 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.

Upward Needs You!

Please let Chriss Benson, Sarah Hosier or Don Heilala know if you can help in one of the following ways.

- Become a prayer partner
- Coach or help coach/sub when needed
- Referee once in a while
- Offer a half-time devotion
- Help ready the gym Sat morning
- Snack bar sales
- Sell (or buy) Cocco's Pizza coupons
- Usher at the Season Celebration

Knit Night

--- ready, set, click! The first of many knitting -- learning, helping, sharing---sessions will be held on Wednesday, February 4 at 7:45 PM in the library. Bring your ideas, questions, current projects, problems (or just yourself) and we'll decide the rest when we get together. The evening could be all social or include a topic or reading, so be thinking about what you would like to include. Friends are welcome, too!

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

The Narthex Laptop Project is almost ready for its big debut and everyone is invited to share in the fun! Just put your MPC-related activities and events on a CD, leave it in the TECH box in the office and see your photos on display each Sunday morning. Be sure to check each week to catch the latest adventures of ...who knows???

Muskingum College Choir

On Friday, February 27 the Muskingum College Choir will be performing in the sanctuary. Prior to the concert the congregation is invited to a covered dish dinner. Sign up on the worship participation card or call the church office. A dessert reception will follow the concert.

If you can host students Friday night and return them to the Church Saturday morning after breakfast, contact Janet Weldon.

Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8 at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Join us at 9:15 to 10:00 AM for a Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

Calling ALL MCW !!!

(that includes all women in the church!)

Several of the MCW who attended this year's Advent Breakfast felt that our guest, Susan Piper, with her music and testimony, was truly an inspiration. In order that she might share her wonderful gifts with others on a grander scale, we are drafting a request to the "Women of Faith" tour, in hopes that they would look into having her join their presentation.

If you would like to be included in a letter of support to the "Women of Faith" to encourage them to listen to Susan and hear for themselves about her love for the Lord, please see Linda Fox.

Session Notes

Pastor John will be leading an **Ash Wednesday service on February 25 at 6:30 PM**. Even though this is during Adventurous Wednesdays all members are invited to participate.

Secondly, session reorganized in a unique fashion. Pastor John asked each of the ruling elders to "mingle" and discuss their desires to lead and serve. After a short while, new committee assignments were in place with an enthusiasm and support not often seen. Many session members will be leading one committee while serving on another!

A Heart for Reading



The Middletown Presbyterian **Book Group** will meet on the library on February 21 at 8:30 AM to discuss Keeping Faith by Jodi Picoult. When the marriage of Mariah White and her cheating husband, Colin, turns ugly and disintegrates, their seven-year-old daughter, Faith, is there to witness it

all. In the aftermath of a rapid divorce, Mariah falls into a deep depression—and suddenly Faith, a child with no religious background whatsoever, hears divine voices, starts reciting biblical passages, and develops stigmata. And when the miraculous healings begin, mother and daughter are thrust into the volatile center of controversy and into the heat of a custody battle—trapped in a mad media circus that threatens what little stability the family has left.

Upcoming selections:

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

A Heart for Knowledge and Truth

On **Sundays**, the Adult Class will be studying the book of Jonah. The format provides for lots of give and take, discussion, etc. There is no specific end date - that will depend on where questions take us. When we finish, we'll move on to another study. The class meets in A-4 at 9:45AM.

Our **Wednesday** evening Adventure study is "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly", a study of various kings of Israel and Judah. Starts at 6:30 and concludes (if we're lucky!) at 7:30.

A Heart for Music PrimeTimePlus

At noon on February 16 PrimeTimePlus will be treated to *From Bach to Broadway* --- various selections will be presented by violinist Bernadine Steinmetz, accompanied by Gladys Martin on the piano.

Join us in Martin Chapel for a delicious meal at noon followed by this musical presentation.

Sharing Your Heart at Fair Acres

For a two-hour investment of your time you can make a difference in the lives of the residents at Fair Acres. Once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, a group meets at the church at 1:00 PM to give testimonies and sing hymns at Fair Acres from 2:00 to 2:45 PM. Many of these residents have no other visitors and look forward to this contact with others.

Consider sharing your heart on Wednesday, February 18 - or March 18, April 15 . . . you get the idea. Join us whenever you can. No experience necessary to bring a smile to some appreciative people.

A Heart for Children Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

You can catch the action at Indian Lane School gym from 8:30 am till 2:30 pm through March 14. Enter the school from the back door, which is opposite the playground. Plenty of bleacher seating is available. Boys and girls from kindergarten to 8th grade will be dribbling, shooting, laughing and exercising with the Upward Cheerleaders and many enthusiastic spectators encouraging them. Come see what an impact your church is having in the community. Join the FUN!

Sharing Heart with College Students

Adult Ministries will be mailing goody boxes to our students at their meeting in early February.

With a Heart for Ringing

It is a joy to sing for the Lord, we do our best, and it is a joy to ring for the Lord.

Regarding the latter, our bells may have to go silent if we do not get at least one new ringer. While reading music can be helpful, it is not a requirement.

It is helpful if you can count to four and can tell one color from another.

Our rehearsals are on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Martin Chapel.

Please get word to Bill Young at 302-571-8007 or call the church office 610-565-4080 if you have an interest.

Thank you.

William Wheeler-Young

Joys and Concerns



Dee, Cora McCrabb's daughter, who is recovering from pneumonia. Also pray for quick relief from the pain of pleurisy.

Cindy Boyer who is recovering from radiation therapy. Pray for her ability to tolerate the side effects and the

elimination of all the cancer.

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 Debbie Frederick and her family upon the death Debbie's mother.

And to the Mariani family upon the sudden death of their nephew.

Forward prayer requests to Margaret Essaf by the prayer cards or by email: margessaf@yahoo.com



The Coulter family would like to thank our church family for making dad's memorial service so special. My

mother and I appreciate the cards, calls and all the expressions of caring. *Donna Coulter*

ICE Alert

How many of us fill out those emergency cards in our wallets anymore? Few, no doubt. Try this instead:

In your cellphone, place an entry entitled ICE (In Case of Emergency) and the phone number of your contact.

This idea came from Allstate Insurance, and makes good sense. Most of us have many names and numbers in our speed-dials, but, in case of an accident, the police wouldn't be able to figure out who would be the correct person to contact.

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.

Carol Curtis is a 2nd Mile person. Carol shares her heart in all that she does:

- Her **Love** for children is expressed as she cheerfully teaches our little ones in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.
- Her **Love** for those in need is seen through her organizing Aid for Friends cook-ins.
- Her **Love** of reading shows itself by moderating the book discussion group every month.
- And last, but not least, Carol shares her **Love** of cookies ☺ by coordinating and organizing the Christmas cookie walk in December to benefit the church's ministry to children.

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 February 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.

January Financial Report as of 12/31/2008

	Dec.	Budget Dec.	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date
Budget Income	44,075	42,516	348,644	359,400
Budget Expense	33,899	35,655	357,068	381,077
Gain/Deficit	10,176	6,861	-8,424	-21,677
Non Budget Income	5,280		43,864	
Non Budget Expense	4,085		41,300	
Non Budget G/L	1,195		2,564	

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 February.

Youth team meeting changed for February to Thursday 2/5 at 7 PM in the library.

30-Hour Famine

Our youth will participate in the 30-Hour Famine with Elam Methodist Church. The program will begin February 27 at 6 PM and continue to Saturday, February 28 at 6 PM. Contact Rusty Abrams or Ken Schreffler for more details and sponsor kits.

Pancake Breakfast

On February 8, the youth will prepare a Pancake breakfast before the congregational meeting. Please come and help support the youth. Set up for the breakfast is Saturday, February 7 at 6:00 PM.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will join the congregation at the Super Bowl party on February 1 in Martin Chapel. Regular meetings will be held on February 8, 15 and 23.

Pillowcases

On February 15 the youth will make more PILLOWCASES at the Brady's. This time we will be making the pillowcases for nursing home residents.

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.

Adventurous Wednesdays

Adventurous Wednesdays is a midweek program from 5:45 PM to 7:30 PM for all ages – children, middle school, youth and adults.

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 followed by music, skits, discovery centers and a whole lot of fun! Come join us.

Pool & Pizza Party

On Sunday, February 15 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.

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!

FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service- Communion by Intinction 9:30 AM Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service- Communion by intinction 5:00 PM NO Youth Group - Souperbowl Party instead	2 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch Prayer Group 7:30 PM Adult Ministry Team 7:30 PM Mission Team 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	3 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:00 PM CEF Meeting 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	4 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:45 PM Adventure Club 6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study 7:45 PM Knit Night	5 4:30 AM Trevoise Group 6:30 PM Upward Cheerleader Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Youth Team 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	6 9:15 AM Exercise 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	7 12:00 PM Pine Wood Derby 6:00 PM Youth - Pancake breakfast set up 7:30 PM Mayer Small Group 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group
8 Annual Congregational Meeting 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 2:00 PM Aid for Friends Cook in 5:00 PM Youth Group	9 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch Prayer Group 7:30 PM Deacon's Meeting 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	10 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Nursing Mothers 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:30 PM Children's Ministry Team 7:30 PM Delco Cruizers Car Club 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	11 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:45 PM Adventure Club 6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	12 4:30 AM Trevoise Group 1:00 PM I & S Team 6:30 PM Upward Cheerleader Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	13 9:15 AM Exercise 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Seeing Eye Pup Training 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY !!!
15 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 3:45 PM Pool Party at Rocky Run 5:00 PM Youth Group	16 Presidents Day Holiday-Office Closed 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch Prayer Group 12:00 PM Prime Time Plus 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	17 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:00 PM Session Pray Time 7:30 PM Session Meeting 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	18 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study-sings at Fair Acres 5:45 PM Adventure Club 6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	19 4:30 AM Trevoise Group 6:30 PM Upward Cheerleader Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	20 9:00 AM Mom's Club of Media 9:15 AM Exercise 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	21 8:30 AM Book Club 7:30 PM Mayer Small Group 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group
22 Healing Service 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 5:00 PM Youth Group	23 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch Prayer Group 7:15 PM Lydia Circle 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	24 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM The Quilters 7:00 PM Fruit of the Spirit 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	25 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:45 PM Adventure Club 6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	26 4:30 AM Trevoise Group 6:30 PM Upward Cheerleader Practice 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	27 9:15 AM Exercise 2:00 PM Release Time 6:00 PM 30 Hour Famine at Elam Methodist Church 7:30 PM Muskingum College Choir Performance 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:30 PM Easy Does it Group	28 6:00 PM 30 Hour Famine at Elam Methodist Church 6:00 PM CEF Banquet

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 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		
Phone (610) 565-4080		FAX (610) 565-4306
Interim Pastor	John King	jck26@comcast.net
Children's Ministries	Chriss Benson	chriss@middletownpres.org
Secretary	Tana Kalesnik	tana @middletownpres.org
Treasurer	JoAnne Gallagher	gallagher611@comcast.net
Music Director	Bill Wheeler Young	wheeleryoung@msn.com
Senior Care Ministries	Ken Schreffler	kschreff1@verizon.net
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