



Middletown Press

January 2009

Coming Events

- Adventure Wednesdays resumes – Jan 7
- Upward games begin Jan 10
- Book Discussion Group – Jan 17
- PrimeTime*Plus* – Jan 19
- All Church Winter Rally Potluck – Jan 25
- Annual Congregational Meeting – Feb 8
- Pancake Breakfast – Feb 8

Opportunities to Serve

- Souper Bowl food drive
- Blanket Drive
- Upward Basketball & Cheerleading
- Aid for Friends Cook-in –Jan 11
- Visit Fair Acres – Jan 21

January Sermons

- January 4 - "There's a Party Goin' On"
Matthew 2:1-12 (Epiphany Sunday)
- January 11 - "The Beloved"
Mark 1:4-11 (Baptism of the Lord)
- January 18 - "An Invasive God"
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- January 25 - "For God Alone"
Psalm 62:5-12

New Year Brings an Exciting Future

On the old Perry Como show (you have to be old to remember that one!), there was a segment each week where Perry would sing, "Letters, letters, we get lots and lots of letters. Dear Perry, would you be so kind, to fill our request for the song we like best?" Then Perry would open up an envelope, read the letter, answer a few questions and sing the requested song. At least, that's the way I remember it. It was a long time ago!

Sometimes I feel like Perry Como, particularly as the new year begins. Except, with me, it isn't letters, it's, "John, we have questions, we have lots and lots of questions. Would you be so kind, to fill our request for the answer we like best?" Unlike Perry, who always had a song, I don't always have an answer, although I usually have some kind of story to tell you! Actually, I spend considerable time in conversations where I often have to ask my own questions in response to others' questions. As I do, I like to encourage all of us to take responsibility for coming up with answers about our future together.

In early January, our deacons and elders will be gathering for an all day retreat. We have many tasks for which we are responsible and we need an extended time where we can begin to strategize regarding how we are going to move forward. Not only do we need to begin planning for a mission study in which all members of the church participate, but we must take a look at how we are organized to accomplish our day to day tasks as church members and church leaders. Along with this evaluation, our leaders need to begin the process of helping each other discern spiritual gifts, natural abilities, schedules and opportunities so that they are working in areas
(continued on next page)

where they can serve with energy, enthusiasm and the right kind of confidence.

Many of us might be thinking, "That sounds like an awful lot of work. I'm glad I'm not serving on a board right now!" Don't get too relaxed. We need you! Our elders and deacons will be looking for volunteers with a multitude of spiritual gifts and abilities to enthusiastically be part of their teams as we move forward in the life of our church. Hopefully, this work will not prove to be burdensome, but a genuine joy and adventure as we advance the greater work of God's kingdom.

We have many hard working servants at Middletown church who continue to serve consistently and often without recognition in many ways. Our faithful youth ministry volunteers, our Adventure leaders, our Sunday School teachers; our musicians, wedding coordinators, folders and collators; our building and property volunteers, Mr. and Miss Fixits, and kitchen helpers; our bookkeepers, statisticians, counters and budget preparers; our Welcome center, ushers, Enrichment leaders and nursery volunteers; these volunteers and countless others are crucial to the weekly responsibilities of our life together as a church.

At this point, you are probably exhausted just reading about all of this. I have always thought that at this time of the year, rather than in September, every local church is in need of a Rally Day, an opportunity to get together and encourage each other as we take on the work of the church. With that in mind, our Adult Ministry Team along with the Church and Community Team will be hosting a Winter Rally Night Pot Luck Supper for all of us on Sunday, January 25. Please plan on being present as we take some time to seek healing for some of the hurts, discouragement and frustration of our past together and as we look forward to a fresh start in the year ahead.

Yours in Christ,
John

Deacons Doings

In the month of January, we will be welcoming to the Board of Deacons Rusty Abrams, Julie Burke, Sue Brower, Joan Davis, Sandy Evans, Linda Lomas, and Linda Mariani. We are very blessed to have such a faithful group serving at MPC! Each new Deacon will bring their own brand of energy and creativity along with their special gifts to serve the Lord by conducting the caring ministry of the church.

The next Aid for Friends cook-in is scheduled for Sunday, January 11th at 2:00pm. Opportunities to serve in this ministry are available to all members. If you are unable to help assemble the meals, you can donate applesauce, rice, frozen vegetables, tea, cookies and/or boxes of plastic snack bags. The meals are assembled then frozen at MPC then they are taken to a distribution facility in Media. Meals are then distributed to the house-bound in both Delaware County and the 5 county area of Philadelphia. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Carol Curtis (610.566.7274).

The Board thanks you for all of the ways you support the work of the Deacons. This month we specifically want to thank all those who have donated cards. Deacons send greeting cards to those who are known to us that are in bereavement, going through difficult times, recovering from illness, and having significant birthdays. Additionally, blank cards and holiday cards are used to send notes to the home-bound. If you have any cards that we can use for these purposes, please place them in the Deacon's box in the office.

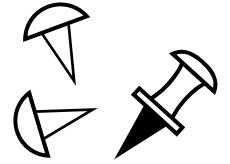
May you be richly blessed in the new year!

Financial Report as of 11/30/2008

	Nov.	Budget Nov.	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date
Budget Income	34,702	29,075	306,148	315,325
Budget Expense	32,548	29,824	322,592	347,177
Gain/Deficit	2,152	-749	-16,444	-31,853
Non Budget Income	1,077		37,879	
Non Budget Expense	3,046		36,036	
Non Budget G/L	-1,969		1,894	

Legacy Contributions are accounted for separately

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.

Blankets Needed

During the cold winter months homeless people and those who live in shelters need blankets to keep warm. Put your old blankets to good use by bringing them to the narthex. Our middle school youth are planning to deliver them in January.

Aid for Friends in January

The next cook-in for Aid for Friends will be January 11 at 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall kitchen. Please bring a casserole to feed 10-12 people. We always are in need of frozen veggies, applesauce, aluminum foil, tea bags, cookies and snack-size baggies. We provided 223 meals to shut-ins from our November cook-in.

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

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 Martin Chapel. The cost is \$25 for a 4 x 6 (fits into a 8 x 10 frame). Contact Donna Coulter 610-566-2351.

Borrowing Chairs and Tables

Please do not borrow any tables or chairs from Martin Chapel. They are not loaned out. If you need to borrow equipment from the church please contact Tana and fill out a request form. Thank you. *Shorty*

Knitting for Others

Olive Bishop has knitted 92 items in 2008.

	2008	Since 1990
Lap Robes	12	287
Vests	19	223
Sweaters	11	201
Slipper Socks	50	1350
Total	92 items	1969

Merci, Gracias, Danke, THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!

... to all who helped make the Outreach and Publicity table at the Penncrest Craft Fair such a success! Whether you donated some beautiful hand-crafts, helped to set up or take down the display, or staff the table during the day (or for some people, all three), we are so very grateful.

We earned \$400 for Legacy Fund, with the remaining items going to the Presbyterian Children's Village to be given as Christmas gifts.

Every gift of time and talent, given in service and love to others, is another act of thankfulness to God for His countless blessings in our lives--- the greatest of which is His son, Jesus.

Thanks!

Linda Fox



Souper Bowl of Caring



For Middletown Presbyterian Church, every January brings an effort to bring in food to help stock local food closets. This year there will not be the traditional “game” challenge between the worship services. No scores will be kept so everyone will be a winner! We encourage you to bring in non-perishable food items every Sunday beginning January 4 through February 1. So get ready to clip coupons, seek out the best prices and help those of our local community who are in need. Last year we brought in 7,847 food items.

Join us in making a difference in eliminating hunger in our local community.



The Middletown Presbyterian **Book Group** will meet on the library on January 17 at 8:30 AM to discuss The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. It is a first-person narrative which tells the story of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and sister of Joseph, a talented midwife and proto-feminist. The book's title refers to the tent in which women of Jacob's tribe must, according to the ancient law, take refuge while considered unclean, and in which they find mutual support and encouragement from their mothers, sisters and aunts.

Upcoming selections:

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

Winter Rally Night Potluck

A Winter Rally Night potluck dinner will be held at 5:00 on Sunday, January 25 in Martin Chapel. We hope you will all come out and join us! If you're interested, please fill out the request in the church participation form at Sunday services or let Tana know by calling the church office. Please bring the following according to your last name: A-H main course, I-N vegetable/salad, N-Z dessert or indicate if planning to bring something else.

PrimeTimePlus

This month at noon on January 19 Senior Care Ministries will present “Fall Prevention & Recovery” for Middletown Presbyterian Church PrimeTimePlus. The presenter will be Steve Rakoczy of Liberty in Home Care of Devon, PA. If you have ever fallen or slipped, you need to come and learn how to avoid repeating it.

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

Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

A lot has happened in this third season of Upward Sports Ministry. Evaluations were held and 196 players cheerleaders are currently registered. At this time last year we had 144 players with a total of 160 by the end. We will continue to accept registrations even after games begin. On Monday, December 15, hundreds of people filled the church sanctuary as players and families came to meet the coaches. The excitement is building!

Saturday, January 10 is the first day of games. 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. **With Upward, every child IS a winner!** Come see what an impact your church is having in the community. Join the FUN!

Volunteers Make Upward Happen

This fun for kids is 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 of one Saturday, you will be welcomed. Devotions are offered to the spectators at each halftime and the snack bar fundraiser is open all day. Can you sell some Pizza coupons at work, in the neighborhood or in your extended family? Each \$10 coupon sold puts \$4.00 in the Upward treasury and a delicious Cocco's pizza on someone's table.

Joys and Concerns

God's people



Dee, Cora McCrabb's daughter, as she struggles with side effects from her hear medication.

Jim Dempsey (son-in-law of Bill and Jane Evans). Jim has paralysis from bells palsy.

Cindy as she handles the discomfort of radiation

therapy and its side effects.

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 several members of our church family upon the loss of loved ones:

Donna and **Ethel** upon the death of James Coulter, father and husband;

Sally Bechtold and **Susan Lindsay**, in the death of their father;

Don McBride upon the loss of his mother, long-time member Jane McBride;

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

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 January 13. 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.



Well, here we are, January 2009 already! What a busy year 2008 was for me. I don't know how I would have made it through last year without the help of so many wonderful people here at Middletown Presbyterian Church. Each and every one of you are very special to me. You have become my "Second Family".

Thank you to all: for your help and support throughout the past year especially through the death of my sister, Therese. And during our transition days, when things were confusing and overwhelming for me here in the office. And thank you for your patience when you needed something and it took me a while to find it for you.

To the Newsletter Collators and Donald Sones...a special thank you for volunteering your valuable time, effort and help throughout 2008.

God bless you.

Serving in HIS name.

Your Church Secretary, *Tana*

Thanks

- I want to thank everyone who prayed for me during my recent biopsy. Healing graces were achieved. Grace and blessings to all.

Carol Curtis

- Thanks to all who took the time to stop and sign the letter and added a little note.

Jane Rowley

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.

Margaret Essaf is a 2nd Mile person.

Margaret's smile and chuckle show her joy and delight in the Lord. She is as sweet as the marvelous fudge she makes for so many special occasions and receptions. She sings in the choir, serves on Worship Committee and helped start PrimeTimePlus for the seniors. But her love for God and the congregation is most evident in how she under girds everyone and everything in prayer.

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 January.

Youth Rally

January 9-11 is the Youth trip to Ocean City, MD for Youth Rally with Mr. & Mrs. Abrams. We still have a few spots. Contact Mrs. Shoemaker or Mr. Abrams if you are interested.

Youth Group

Regular meetings on January 4 and 18.

NO Youth Group on 1/11.

We will join the all church Winter Rally Potluck on Sunday, January 25.

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

Montreat in July

We are signed up for Georgia Lodge at Montreat for July 26 to August 1. Be sure to sign up for this life-changing week! Youth who are current 8th graders and up can sign up. A \$100 deposit will be needed in January.

Write to Graf!

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

Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

Registrations will still be accepted at the church after Upward begins but a late fee of \$10 will be added to the \$75.00 cost per child.

This program promotes character and self esteem in every child. The program provides equal playing time for all players. There is a one-hour practice and one game a week. Games begin January 10.

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 resumes on January 7. Adventurous Wednesdays is for all ages – children, middle school, youth and adults. This is a midweek program from 5:45 PM to 7:30 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 followed by music, skits, discovery centers and a whole lot of fun! Come join us.

Cookie Walk Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who baked helped with the sale and brought cookies to this year's Cookie Walk. We had over 7000 cookies and sold them until noon plus had cookies left for the Sunday's Coffee Fellowship and for Christmas Caroling.

Our total sale brought in \$1,600 to benefit our children's programs throughout the year.

With grateful hearts for a blessed holiday season.

Bob & Carol Curtis and Debbie Plummer

JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year	2 2:00 PM NO Release Time 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group 7:30 PM Standish Small Group	3 9:00 AM Session Retreat
4 All Annual Reports are due today Communion Sunday Souper Bowl Begins Today 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 Memorial Service for Mrs. Jane Pierce 5:00 PM Youth Group	5 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch Group 7:30 PM Adult Ministry Team 7:30 PM Mission Team 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	6 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM CEF Meeting 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	7 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:45 PM Adventure Wednesday 6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	8 4:30 AM Trevose 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Trp 85 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 7:30 PM Youth Team Meeting 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	9 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	10 Upward-1st game of the season
11 Deacon's Collection 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 Friend's Cook-in 5:00 PM Youth Group	12 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch Group 7:30 PM Deacon's Meeting 7:30 PM Deacons 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	13 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Nursing Mothers Club 9:30 AM Quilting 7:30 PM Children's Ministry Team 7:30 PM Delco Cruizers Car Club 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	14 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:45 PM Adventure Wednesday 6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	15 4:30 AM Trevose 1:00 PM I and S Team 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Trp 85 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	16 9:00 AM Mom's Club of Media 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Seeking 2 Serve Small Group 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	17 8:30 AM Book Club 7:30 PM Mayer Small Group
18 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	19 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch Group 12:00 PM Prime Time Plus 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	20 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 7:00 PM Session Prayer Time 7:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	21 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study-sings at Fair Acres 5:45 PM Adventure Wednesday 6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	22 4:30 AM Trevose 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Trp 85 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	23 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	24
25 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 Pot Luck Dinner	26 10:30 AM Mom's in Touch Group 7:15 PM Lydia Circle 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	27 9:15 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Fruit of the Spirit 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	28 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Newsletter Collating 5:45 PM Adventure Wednesday 6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Band Practice 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	29 4:30 AM Trevose 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Trp 85 7:00 PM Hand Bell Practice 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	30 2:00 PM Release Time 7:30 PM Standish Small Group 8:00 PM Easy Does It Group	31

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