



Middletown Press

September 2008

Highlights:

Coming Events

- Legacy Coffee House – Sept 6
7:00 — 10:00 PM
- Rally Day September 14
 - 9:15 AM Pancake Breakfast
 - 11:00 AM Worship Service
- Chili/Dessert Cook-off Sept 24 – 6 PM

Helping Others

- Church Work Day September 6
8AM — noon
- Fair Acres Visit September 17
1:00 — 3:00 PM

Youth and Children

- Full Sunday School begins Sept 24
9:45AM
- Adventure Wednesdays –Sept 24
6:00 — 7:30 PM
- Youth Group Sundays 6:00 — 7:30 PM

John King, Interim Pastor

The Session is pleased to announce our new Interim Pastor, John King began his ministry at Middletown on August 19 as Moderator of Session and will lead worship beginning on Sunday, August 31.

John has a broad and varied background in congregational ministry, youth ministry, teaching and as a conference speaker for Presbyterian for Renewal, Northeast Men's Conference at Lake Champion and InterVarsity and Young Life Youth conferences.

Most recently John has been the Interim Pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square for two years. John lives with his family in Wilmington and looks forward to getting to know those who worship and serve at Middletown.

Try and remember to wear your nametag to help John put faces to names!

Join the Party

On Saturday, September 6 the doors open at 8:00 AM and will remain open until 12:00 noon. Building and Property is throwing a work party and everyone—young and old—is invited to join the fun of making a difference in your church building. Wear old clothes and bring scrappers and other tools to clean up and repair the Youth room. Come for an hour or two or all four!

Then come back in the evening to enjoy the music at the Legacy Coffeehouse with featured artist **Breletto TWO HEARTS...ONE VOICE** beginning at 8:00 PM. Open mic begins at 7:00.



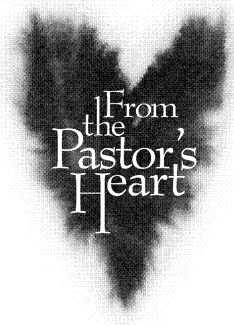
FALL SCHEDULE

Our last **Thursday night worship** service will be Sept 4 with Communion.

On **Rally Day, Sunday, Sept 14**, we will ONE service at 11:00 AM

Beginning Sept 21, we will have two services, at 8:30 and 11:00, with Sunday School at 9:45-10:45 AM

From the Interim Pastor



As I write this, I have just completed moderating the Session for the first time last night and paid a visit to the office early this afternoon to meet

Tana and get a key. While I was there, a couple of folks showed up and now I have more names to forget! One of the great things about interim ministry is the opportunity to meet and establish special friendships with so many different people. In the beginning, however, this is also one of the great challenges. Learning names, putting them with faces, figuring out which kids go with which parents and dying a little inside when you realize you've just introduced yourself to someone you already met!

Many of you know that I am recovering from surgery for a broken hip, but I'm beginning to get around and hoping that you will be seeing more and more of me around the church. Little by little, I'll be bringing boxes from home and moving into my office and, as I finish rehab and

develop a bit more stamina, I will be very present in the midst of you. I'm not in the habit of locking my office and I love it when folks who are around the church feel free to drop in. Don't worry about interrupting me. You're the most important item on my calendar!

At the Session meeting last night, I shared a bit of my heart with our elders. You should know, as I told them, that despite all the years that I've been in ministry, it hasn't gotten old. I am still wildly excited about Jesus Christ and long to see people of all ages know him and grow in their relationship with him. I also continue to get a kick out of digging into the scriptures. We'll all get a taste of this as we worship, study, and fellowship together.

As we begin this interim time, my prayer for all of us is that we will fall in love with Christ all over again and, because of him, this will not be a time of treading water or going backwards, but a time of refreshment, healing and excitement for the future for Middletown Church.

Looking forward to getting to know you.

Warmly in Christ,
John King

Session Notes

The Session met on August 19 with Interim Pastor, John King, serving as moderator.

Some of the items Session took action on include:

- Accepting the resignation of Sonia Ramos as nursery assistant so she can be with her family; Chriss is pursuing hiring a replacement.
- Setting October 25 as the start of the stewardship campaign.
- Approving Sunday school curriculum.
- Approving Upward program registration October 17 and 18.
- Resuming two Sunday Services Sept. 21.

Other reports included:

- Building project is moving forward with Middletown Planning Commission's vote on August 12 to recommend council approve the final land development plan.
- The contract with T-Mobile for the cell tower in the steeple is moving forward.
- Need volunteers to complete the schedule for Enrichment, ushers, van drivers and greeters.
- Reminder of the Church Work Day scheduled for Sept 6.

The Session warmly welcomes John King and C&C will be planning a "Meet and Greet" for the congregation to also have the opportunity to get to know John.

Deacons Doings

The Deacons wish to thank the congregation for the many donations of non-perishable foods and hygiene supplies that are collected in the Narthex for City Team Ministries and Chester Eastside Ministries. Area food banks are reporting that their inventories are in critical short supply this summer. Meat items such as canned tuna, chili and meat sauces are especially needed. So, please continue to bring your items to the Narthex and

the Deacons will make sure that they are delivered.

Additionally, because of the generosity of the congregation, the Deacons have made a donation to City Team Ministries in the amount of \$250 to support their backpack and school supplies ministry.

The Deacons thank you for your generous support!



Youth Service Sept 14

Make plans now to be at worship on Sunday, September 14 (11:00 AM service) when the youth will be sharing our summer events.

Pancake Breakfast Sept 14

REMEMBER the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 14. We will have set up on Saturday evening, at 6 PM and then serving and clean up on Sunday morning. This is a great way to earn money for trips (and for 8th graders—Youth rally and Montreat). So be there!!

Thanks

Montreat was an awesome experience this year. In addition to chaperones Bruce Rappaport, Chriss and Dave Benson, special thanks go to our extra drivers Ken Schreffler, Rusty Abrams, Linda Lomas and Ray Fox who made it possible for the trip to occur.

Wednesdays

Adventure Wednesdays/Middle School Youth Group will begin on September 24 with a cook out for EVERYONE!! Make plans now to join us for all kinds of fun times!!

Teens Bible Study for the month of September will be on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM studying the Gospel of John.

Sundays

9:45 AM Sunday School Classes

6:00 PM Youth Group

- 9/21 Special Planning meeting for parents and Youth

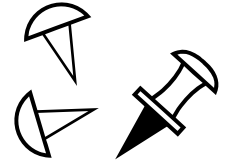
Parents

Maintaining a great youth program requires many people doing a part. We need people willing to help with coordinating meals, Yankee candles and preparing pancake breakfasts. We invite any and all parents of middle and senior high school students to join us. Next Youth Team meeting will be Thursday 9/11 at 7 PM.

YANKEE CANDLES ARE COMING!!

This is a MAJOR MONEY MAKER. You will get your packets on September 7 and you will have all September to sell the candles. They will be delivered by Thanksgiving.

Bulletin Board



Parents with children in college

As soon as you know your child's address (residence and email) at

school, please send an update so that we can keep them informed about life here at Middletown. You can call the church office (610-565-4080) and talk to Tana or you can email them to tana@middletownpres.org

Change of Information

If anyone has changed address, telephone number (cell, home, work) or email addresses and have not notified the Office, please do so as soon as possible so our records can be updated.

Schedule Meeting Dates

Committees, Small Groups and Circles....please contact Tana by phone or email as to when your circles and small groups will start to meet again. Please provide: day, date, time and the meeting schedule, for example:

2nd Tuesday of the month

Every ____ of the month or

Every other _____ Saturday (or whatever) and who is the contact person or leader for that group or circle.

Rally Day

On Sunday, September 14, at 9:15 AM there will be a **Rally Day pancake breakfast** followed by a time to learn about opportunities for adults and for children to meet their Sunday School teachers, and get familiar with their new classrooms. The children will join their parents in the sanctuary for the 11:00 AM worship service. **There will be only one service on this Sunday.**



September 24 we will start our Wednesday night program with a family picnic. All are welcomed to come. Hot dogs on the grill and chili bake-off followed by desert and games. Please bring your favorite chili dish or dessert.

Work Day

B & P work day on Saturday, September 6 from 8AM -12 Noon. Youth and adults are encouraged to help clean and repair the youth room. Wear old clothes and bring scrapers and other tools.

Teacher Training

All Sunday School teachers and Adventure Club Guides are invited to attend Teacher training on September 9 at 7:30 PM in Martin Chapel. Come to receive your new curriculum, find out about the new theme and learn some new ways to be a more effective teacher. And as always, refreshments will be served!

Candles Make Great Gifts

Start marking those Christmas list to remember, friends, teachers or neighbors who would enjoy a gift of fragrant candles. Yes, it is time to preview the scents and colors of Yankee Candles. Our Youth will be selling candles and accessories to raise money for their special trips to the Ocean City Youth Rally, Massanetta and Montreat. A housewarmer jar candle may last for 50 hours but the God encounters our youth experience at these events last a lifetime.

Yarn

Olive Bishop would appreciate any kind or color of yarn. If anyone has extra, please drop it off at the office.



LEGACY COFFEE HOUSE

Saturday, September 6 – 7:00 - 10:00 PM

There is an open mic from 7 - 7:30 PM.

This month's featured performer is **Breletto TWO HEARTS...ONE VOICE**. Raised in Bucks County, PA, Brenda Greene and Jennifer Leto have been performing from an early age. Their deep-rooted faith along with Brenda's singing and songwriting and Jennifer's unique harmonies have attracted fans from throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey who are drawn not only to their music but to their personal testimony of faith. For more information, talk to John Bell or see www.legacycoffeehouse.com.

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet September 20 at 8:30 AM in the Church library to discuss The Alchemist by Brazilian Paulo Coelho. Come join the good fellowship and light refreshments. Bring ideas for discussions throughout the year.



Exercise and Worship:

Starting **September 3** each Tuesday and Wednesday we are having a Worship and Exercise session of low impact stretching and worship which meets from 8:45 AM until 10:00 AM on Tuesday and 8:00 AM until 9:00 AM on Wednesday. We incorporate exercising, prayer and worship for one hour. The Chiropractic Association approves the stretching skills.

Bible Study:

Our Wednesday Bible study resumes **September 3** at 9:00 AM study The Sermon on the Mount. We will use a discussion book by John Stott that explores what it means to seek first the kingdom in our relationships, values, ambitions, finances and commitment to God. Any questions contact Chriss at (610) 565-8317.

On each third Wednesday of the month, we will visit Fair Acres Geriatric Center to entertain the residents with our singing. We have a short program sharing a message about some of the songs we sing. We leave for Fair Acres at 1:30 and arrive back at the Church about 3:00 PM. The residents look forward to our visits. We are looking for additional people to join us to sing.

PrimeTime Plus

From programs on "How to Avoid Identity Theft" to "How to Talk with Your Adult Children" PrimeTime Plus had a successful first year. The entertainment programs included "Singing WWII songs," "Hymn Sings," and "Harp Orchestra." More great programs are in the works for the coming year. Chef Andy Nelson always has a great lunch and Margaret Essaf provides decorations, desserts and fudge. We are grateful for Ken Schreffler's guidance in obtaining programs.

We meet the third Monday of the month. Next meeting is September 15 at noon in Martin Chapel. PrimeTime Plus is the "IN" thing in adult fellowship so be there!

Mark your calendars:

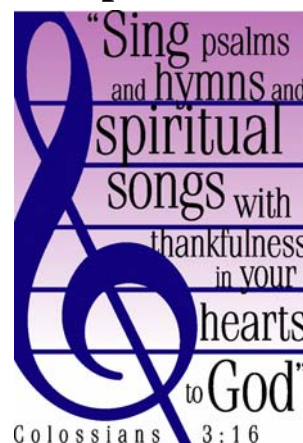
September 15: Dottie Melon presents "living options" in retirement communities and Jennifer Miller the options available for in-home care.

October 20: Linda Anderson an Elder Law attorney discusses estate planning and Medicare.

November 17: Brandywine Harp Orchestra

December 15: Christmas Party and singing

Choir practice will resume on Thursday,



September 18 at 8:00 PM in Martin Chapel. *We'd love to have some new faces and voices*

Handbells will resume rehearsals on Thursdays in October at 7:00 PM

We could use a few more good hands

Joys and Concerns



Our former Interim Pastor **Don Huston** as he struggles with an illness after having exhausted all available treatments.

Tom who had aortic valve replacement and also struggles with lung and kidney disease.

Kent Thompson's mother scheduled for

carotid bypass surgery on September 8.

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

Serving in Iraq and Kuwait: the **two Andys**, nephews of Rev. Jeanne Radak and **Ben Simons**, cousin of Bill Reeser.

Prayer Chain

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

Interested in a Phone Prayer Chain?

If you would like to participate in a phone prayer chain please call Margaret Essaf 610-499-9269 or email her at messaf@yahoo.com.

Milestones

- **Emma Marie Mullins**, born to Jay and Melissia (Rowley) Mullins on July 23, 2008. Proud grandparents are Walt and Marianne Rowley and Great-grandmom is Jane P. Rowley.
- **Meghan Alice McGinnis**, daughter of Rachael (Hixson) and Kevin McGinnis, was baptized at Middletown with Rev. Doug McPheeters officiating. Grandparents are Renee and Steve Hixson and Great-grandfather is Wilson Hixson.

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).

In Jesus' day, if a Roman soldier saw a Jewish man or boy, he could command the man or boy to carry his backpack or burden for a mile. The Jewish boy or man was required by law to carry this soldier's burden for a mile. However, most Jews would not carry this burden one inch or one foot further than the law required. When Jesus said, "Go the second mile" Jesus was saying that his disciples need to do more than the legalists who do no more than what is required of them.

The following people were seen doing more than is required or expected of them.

- Check out the newly decorated bathrooms in the Administration Wing and Sunday School building. **Linda Fox transformed the rooms with wallpaper and new curtains.**
- Ever wonder how the flowers planted around the church got there? Or how they were watered and maintained? **Glenn Bechtold buys and plants the flowers and then drops by periodically to maintain them.**
- Throughout the year **Dave Jones uses his skills to repair** the many maintenance projects around the church buildings.

Missionary Update

- Mark and Cathy Wimble serving in Thailand are preparing to return to the States in January for 9 months. They report that the adoption of their Thai son, David, is almost complete and ask for continued prayer for its finalization and an American visa, for an interim pastor to serve while they are in the States and for co-workers to join them when they return in September 2009.
- Ann and John Powers have returned to Hungary after their summer here. Pray for good adjustment to school for Stephen and Daniel and continued ministry opportunities.

Opportunities to Serve

Pantries Need Food

Remember the first Sunday of the month



is the time to bring food for Chester Eastside Ministries Food pantry and on the **third Sundays**, we help to support Boy Scout troop #85 with their collection for Media Food Bank. But you

can bring in non-perishable items any time and they will get distributed locally to help our neighbors here in our community.

College Students

Contacts



The Adult Ministries Team is looking for volunteers willing to be a friend to our college students by keeping in

contact with them while they are away, and offer them support and care from the church family. If you are interested, please talk to Kent Thompson or indicate your interest on the participation sheet in the Sunday bulletin.

Aid for Friends

Aid for Friends will meet October 12 at 2:00 PM. Anyone can donate cash (We'll shop.), applesauce, frozen vegetables, snacks storage bags, cookies, teabags or make a meal (casserole to feed 10-12 people.)

In addition to contributions to the meals given to the distribution center, in recent months we have supplied 6 people with food in our local community.

Your past generosity is greatly appreciated. Plan to join us on October 12 to help prepare the meals and see what we are all about.

Questions may be directed to Carol Curtis (610-566-7274).

Cookie Walk News

It doesn't seem possible that we will begin baking in a few short months for the December Cookie Walk. We need people to make 10 dozen cookies that we sell on December 13. The proceeds go to help fund the Children's programs. This is a reminder to start looking for recipes. Here are two recipes contributed by Judy Ashby.

Pecan Squares

4 eggs
1 lb. box Brown Sugar
1 ½ cups Flour
½ teaspoon Baking Powder
1 ½ cups Pecans
1 teaspoon Vanilla

Blend all the ingredients together. Pour into 9"x 13" glass baking dish and bake at 350 for 22-25 minutes.

Saltine Cookies

2 stacks of Saltines
2 sticks of butter
½ cup Sugar
8 oz bag of Chocolate Mint Chips

Lay the saltines in a jelly roll pan. Melt the butter and sugar and pour over the saltines. Bake until golden brown. Spread Chocolate Mint Chips over the hot cookies. Refrigerate. Cut.

Christmas in September?

Operation Christmas Child, a mission of Samaritan's Purse, is one in which everyone can participate by bringing shoeboxes filled with items to the Church Narthex. These items can include (small cars, dolls, balls, stuffed animals, yo-yos, small Etch-a-Sketch, slinky's and any toy that lights up with extra batteries, school supplies (pens, pencils, crayons, or markers, coloring books, stickers, solar calculators, etc. Hygiene items (Toothbrush, soap, comb, brush, washcloths, etc.)

We have decorated shoeboxes ready for you to fill. You may add your name and address to the box and you might get a response from a very happy child. Our boxes ship out on November 15 to a needy child in a troubled country. Don't miss out on this opportunity to share in the joy and hope these boxes bring! Any questions call Chriss Benson at 610-565-8317.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

Adventure Club

Adventurous Wednesdays is for all ages— children, middle school, youth and adults. Adventure Club is a midweek program from 5:45 PM until 7:30 PM with a \$15 registration fee. Scholarship available.

On September 24 we will start with a family picnic. All are welcomed to come. Hot dogs on the grill and chili bake-off followed by desert and games. Please bring your favorite chili dish and recipes.

Dinner cost is \$3.00 per night or \$25.00 for a ten-week trimester. Adults \$5. Dinner starts promptly at 6:00 PM until 6:30 PM followed by music, skits, discovery centers and a whole lot of fun! Our children build lasting and meaningful relationships.

Our curriculum Goals

To help churched and unchurched children...

1. Enter into a personal relationship with Jesus and understand the Bible
2. Form strong, healthy Christian relationships
3. Grow in all aspects of life—physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual

If you would like to help with this program, please let Chriss know, so we can count on your help.

Middle School has their youth fellowship at 6:30 PM in the youth room. Teens have their bible study at 7:30 PM in the youth room.



Upward is a unique Christian sports program that promotes character and self esteem in every child. We will

offer Basketball and Cheerleading in this, the third season sponsored by Middletown Presbyterian. The program provides equal playing time for all players and every child is a winner with Upward. There is one-hour of practice and one game per week. Registration brochures will be available in September. Sign-up evaluations and orientations are in October (17th—6 to 8:30 PM & 18th—9 AM to 2 PM) and November 8 (9 AM to 2 PM), with practices starting mid-December. Games will be on Saturdays from January through mid-March.

Yes, the players will be boys and girls in kindergarten through eighth grade, but the outreach opportunity is for every one of us in the Middletown

Church Family. The program is for families of the community, not just our church kids, and it is not just about the sport!

It takes many volunteers to run this community outreach. Please let us know if you would like to join the excitement. Volunteers are welcome in jobs big or small for basketball, cheerleading or the snack bar. Contact Chriss Benson or the Heilalas for information.



At Rally Day you will meet your teachers and visit your classroom. Regular classes will begin on September 21 at 9:45 AM. The theme for Sunday School this year is “**We Share, Give, Grow, Love and Praise.**” Those who attended Vacation Bible School will recognize the theme and already know Shari, Cleo, Esme, Tad and Bill who live in the Rainforest.

September 14 – Rally Day. Come for breakfast at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall. At 10:00 children will meet their teachers and go to their classrooms. Parents will learn about opportunities for adults. The children will join their parents in the sanctuary for the 11:00 AM worship service. **There will be only one service on this Sunday.**

September 21 – Sunday School begins at 9:45 AM in the Christian Education building.

Release Time Program

The children from Indian Lane School come over to the Martin Chapel to hear Bible stories, sing songs, learn a Bible verse, play games and learn how to apply God’s Word to their everyday lives. The program starts on Friday, October 10 at 2:00 pm and ends at 3:00 pm. If you happen to know a child who attends Indian Lane, please encourage him or her to register. Registration forms are located in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Chriss at (610) 565-8317.

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30 AM Summer Sunday worship 10:30 AM Punch on the Lawn	1 Labor Day-Office Closed	2 8:45 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilters	3 8:00 AM Wednesday Exercise 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	4 7:30 PM Worship Service-last Thursday service for the season	5	6 8:00 AM Church Work Day 6:30 PM Legacy Coffee House
7 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:30 AM Worship Service-1 service only 6:00 PM Youth Group	8 7:30 PM Deacons	9 8:45 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilters 6:30 PM Children's Ministry Team 7:30 PM Teacher Training	10 8:00 AM Wednesday Exercise 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	11 1:00 PM I & S Team 7:00 PM Youth Team	12 Women of Faith Conference	13 Women of Faith Conference 6:00 PM Youth-set up for Pancake Breakfast
14 Deacon's Collection Rally Day Teacher Commissioning 9:15 AM Pancake Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship Service-1 service only 6:00 PM Youth Group	15 12:00 PM Prime Time Plus is Back!	16 8:45 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Session 7:30 PM Session Meeting	17 8:00 AM Wednesday Exercise 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	18 11:30 AM CEF Luncheon 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	19	20 8:30 AM Book Discussion
21 We are back to 2 worship services on Sunday's- 8:30 am & 11:00 am 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 6:00 PM Youth Group-Dinner & Planning for the year	22	23 8:45 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilters 7:30 PM Upward Meeting	24 8:00 AM Wednesday Exercise 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Newsletter Collating 6:00 PM Adventure Club-Picnic Fall Gathering 7:30 PM Teens Bible Study	25 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	26	27
28 Healing Services 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 6:00 PM Youth Group	29	30 8:45 AM Tuesday Exercise 9:30 AM Quilters	1	2	3	4

Middletown Presbyterian Church
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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
Youth Director	Bruce Rappaport	610-675-4009 cell phone
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	

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

Sundays at Middletown

8:30 AM Contemporary Worship
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship
6:00 PM Youth Group