

THE MEADOWLARK

The Official Newsletter of the
MIDDLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July-August, 2010

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The official web site of the Middletown United Methodist Church:

www.middletownumcnj.org

Summer Worship 10:00am
(Alternating Praise & Traditional Service)

Summer Sunday School 10:15am

Vacation Bible School (7/19-23)



Middletown United Methodist Church
924 Middletown-Lincroft Road
Middletown, New Jersey 07748

In This Issue...

The Pastor's Message	Rev. Glenn Ferguson, Page 2	mumc.pastor@comcast.net
Vacation Bible School	Laurie Fontana, Page 3	lfontz31@aol.com
Church Calendars	Church Admin, Pages 4 & 5	mumc.admin@comcast.net
Troy Furlow, Honored Eagle Scout	William Smith, Page 6	wgsmithusa@comcast.net
Change For Haiti	Gary Kochman, Page 6	www.aslanyouth.org
VBS Registration	Laurie Fontana, Page 7	lfontz31@aol.com
Church Announcements	Announcements, Page 8	mumc.admin@comcast.net

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The Pastor's Message *July-August, 2010*

Dear Members and friends,

I have told you, now and again, about some of the highlights of journeying in the Holy Lands. I have mentioned primarily the big things, the beautiful things, or the highly symbolic things. One of the small things; one of the details that you might notice as you travel around the central hill country and throughout the Judean Wilderness is that there are no fences to mark off ownership of property; at least, not many. That has partly to do with laws and customs concerning ownership of the land but it is also about the nomadic heritage of the people. Many of those who live in the countryside have a Bedouin background or are themselves still Bedouins. These are the people of the land who live in tents and who move around the region with their herds and flocks, following the grazing grass. In such a society, things like boundary lines and fences become irrelevant. At most, you'll see, from time to time, small piles of rocks that mark the edge of one person's acreage and the beginnings of another's. Even those are largely informal nods to convention and have little or no meaning for day to day living.

Fences are primarily the instruments of those who have a fair amount of material things they want to protect or who have a modern and western sensibility about the ownership of property. Somehow, this world that God has entrusted to us has become an asset that is "ours." We do what we think we have to do in order to keep what belongs to us. Don't worry; this isn't a treatise on the evils of private ownership coming from someone who owns no property. In fact, we, as United Methodists, acknowledge the right of individuals to own property. Article 15 of the United Methodist Doctrinal Standards in the 2008 Discipline reads: "We believe God is the owner of all things and that the individual holding of property is lawful and is a sacred trust under God. Private property is to be used for the manifestation of Christian love and liberality, and to support the Church's mission in the world. All forms of property, whether private, corporate, or public, are to be held in solemn trust and used responsibly for human good under the sovereignty of God." (§1103)

So owning things, owning property is just fine. The problems arise out of our skewed understanding about the relative value of the things we own. We create fences and safes and burglar alarms in order to keep what we have. Granted, in our society, measures of protection often seem prudent, but what I want to say about fences and indeed about all of the barriers that we erect between ourselves and others is that they help create and largely define a fractured society. That's not how God would like it to be. Dorothea of Gaza, an early Christian mystic, wrote: "If God is at the center, you cannot get closer to God without getting closer to your neighbor. We are born, we live, and we die with each other." This is an acknowledgement of the intention of God at Creation. To paraphrase a poem I wrote for the cover of last December's United Methodist Relay, there were "no fences in

(Continued on Page 3→)

Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

(←Continued from Page 2)

Eden."It was the sin of Adam and Eve that first brought separation and barriers into the world.

It is the reconciling presence of God in Christ that tears down the barriers, the fences, the walls, and all of the defenses that human beings erect. In Christ we are made one body; one family of faith, and in Christ, there is a union of spirit to spirit and soul to soul. Catherine of Siena wrote: "We have our own vineyards, but there are no fences...there is a contiguity of existence." What she means, in part, is that though we have our differences of background, faith, and journey, we are essentially one. It is this unity that will see the Church through any difficult times that come. We may struggle, but we don't do so in isolation. We have each other. We have Christ.

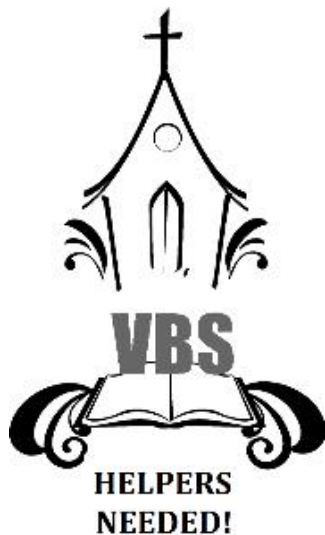
*Grace and Peace,
Glenn Ferguson*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 19-23, 2010

Summer is just around the corner and a mainstay of the summer schedule is Vacation Bible School. This year the dates are July 19-23, 2010. The mornings are filled with fun and learning for your children. Plan to have your family be a part of it.

Put VBS on your calendar and if you can help with teaching, as an aide, with craft, games, or singing, please contact Lori Fontana at (732) 946-3321.



KEYPORT MINISTERIUM FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry's New Building Project has been moving along in a positive direction this year. The land has been secured via a lease from the Community Church of Keyport. This means that the church has given the Pantry permission to erect an extension to their Fellowship Hall. An application to the County Board of Development for a Grant has been submitted. If the Grant is approved a zoning application will be submitted in July. Then design and permits will follow.

Many of our members have made donations towards the Building Project Fund over the past five years. At one time MUMC's Missions Team was in a position to make a substantial pledge in support of the New Building. More recently that has not been possible due to the financial position we find our Church experiencing.

So now the Board of Trustees of the Pantry will be awaiting the August decision of the County. The Grant approval could mean Ground Breaking this fall.

Thank you to all who have been dropping off food items in the Narthex. Let us hope and pray that you will read in our August or September Meadowlark that the County Grand had been approved.

**God Bless you all for
caring and sharing!**

Don & Helen Duthie

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Celia Cummins is leading Summer Sunday School using a curriculum called [The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss](#) by Rev. James W. Kemp. Celia writes:

Come one, Come all,

We're going to have a ball!

**Reading the stories of Dr. Seuss to please us,
And learning the lessons of Our Savior Jesus.**

We'll read, talk, laugh, and have fun,

Being with our friends and following The Son!

It will all happen in the Double Classroom in the education wing. Everyone welcome K-6th grade.

JULY, 2010

SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST, 2010							JUNE 28	29	30	1	2	3
S	M	T	W	T	F	S				9:30:	9:30:	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14				6:00:	6:00:	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21				6:30:	6:30:	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28				7:00:	7:00:	
29	30	31								7:30:	7:30:	
										8:00:	8:00:	
4							5	6	7	8	9	10
INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:00: Summer Worship Service 10:15: Summer Sunday School							9:30:	9:30:	9:30:	9:30:	9:30:	
6:00:							6:00:	6:00:	6:00:	6:00:	6:00:	
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11							12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00: Summer Worship Service 10:15: Summer Sunday School							9:30:	9:30:	9:30:	<i>Meadowlark Items Due!</i> 9:30:	9:30:	
6:00:							6:00:	6:00:	6:00:	6:00:	6:00:	
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18							19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00: Summer Worship Service 10:15: Summer Sunday School							9:30: Vacation Bible	9:30: Vacation Bible	9:30: Vacation Bible	9:30: Vacation Bible	9:30: Vacation Bible	
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25							26	27	28	29	30	31
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8:00:							8:00:	8:00:	8:00:	8:00:	8:00:	August Meadowlark

In Our Church Family...

TROY FURLOW HONORED IN EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

Boy Scout Troop 32 honored Troy Furlow at an Eagle-Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at Middletown United Methodist. Troy is the son of Warren and Kandis Furlow. River Plaza School PTA, Middletown, NJ, sponsors Troop 32.

Troy joins a prestigious group that has earned Eagle Scout including former President Gerald R. Ford, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and James A. Lovell Jr. Only two percent of Scouts attain the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America. Eagle Scouts must complete at least 21 merit badges. They must also organize and manage a service project that benefits a religious institution, community institution, or school. For his project, Troy managed a crew that installed the new MUMC sign at the front of the church.



Troy joined Cub Scout Pack 205 as a Wolf Scout and later earned their highest award, the Arrow of Light. In 2003, Troy crossed over to Troop 32. As a Boy Scout, Troy held many leadership positions in Troop 32, including Senior Patrol Leader.

Troy will be a freshman at Rutgers University this fall where he plans to major in microbiology with a minor in music. Troy will also be a member of ROTC. Congratulations to Troy and his Family.

Submitted by William Smith

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST WITH SPEAK SAL CORTALE

Saturday, July 10, 2010, 8:30am

Sal Cortale, long-time member of Christ Episcopal Church in Middletown, will lead a discussion of strategies for successful men's fellowship and ministry. He will describe the weekly men's fellowship at Christ Church – how it began and evolved, the topics covered, how long it took to create a bond of trust, and the ministries and missions that came out of this group. We hope that Sal's presentation will help stimulate discussion and discernment of God's will for the men's fellowship here. Please contact Russ Cline (530-8453, rcline@optonline.net), Bill Smith (530-4002, wgsmithusa@comcast.net) or Phil Welch (747-5032, p2twelch@verizon.net), if you are planning on joining us, or if you have any questions.

CHANGE FOR HAITI

Have you noticed the new **Change for Haiti** jar in the narthex, and perhaps wondered what it's all about? In the wake of our church's recent mission trip to Haiti with Aslan Youth Ministries, and the returning team members' report on their activities and observations there, the MUMC Ministries Team has created a special fund for donations to Aslan's mission efforts in Haiti. In particular, Aslan will soon begin building a medical clinic on their property in Haiti to provide medical care to indigent children and families who otherwise have no access to such vital services.

If the Lord has touched your heart this year concerning the ongoing plight of the Haitian people, and you would like to make a lasting and God-glorifying difference in the lives of the poorest of our Haitian brothers and sisters, we invite and urge you to get in the habit of simply dropping your pocket change in the jar whenever you pass by. Your donations will be added to MUMC's Aslan-Haiti fund, and will go directly and fully towards development of Aslan's medical clinic and mission work in Haiti. Your pocket change here will truly help Aslan bring life-saving changes to children and families in Haiti. May God bless you for your caring heart and generosity. (For more/current information on Aslan's mission work in Haiti, visit Aslan's website at www.aslanyouth.org.)

Submitted by Gary Kochman

In Our Church Community...



All Hands On Deck!

Vacation Bible School

Middletown United Methodist Church

VBS will be setting sail July 19-23

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

924 Middletown-Lincroft Rd. Middletown, N.J. 07748

**Join the crew for five fun filled days of
learning, crafts, and activities**

**Registration: \$30 per child or \$50 for a family
Pre-K through 6th grade (Must be potty-trained)**

Child's name _____ DOB _____ Age _____
School and Grade Completed _____ Home Church _____
Home Address _____ Town/Zip _____
Home telephone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Other _____
Emergency Contact _____ Telephone _____
Allergies or other medical conditions _____
Name of a special friend(s) your child might like to be with: _____
Volunteer Help age 13 and up- contact Laurie Fontana 732-946-3321 or lfonz31@aol.com

Church Announcements...

OUR DAILY PRAYER CONCERNS:

- * John Sarkissian, father of Jeff & Joanne Haffeman * Donna Waters-Fantasia & Family * Thomas Kane *
 - * Glenn Cummins & Family * Pastor Ferguson & Family * Kathy Shuck & Family * Phil Welch, Sr. *
 - * Bill Whitten & Family * Eleanor Collier & Family * Carolyn Hooper's brother, Bruce Babcock *
 - * Judy & Larry Lipke & Family * Diane Nash's nephew Rooty Keller * Lyn Gallagher *
 - * The people of Haiti, Chile, The Gulf of Mexico, and Rescue Volunteers in the areas *
 - * The Families of those serving in the Military * Our Brothers & Sisters serving in the Military *
-

CONGRATULATIONS TO MUMC'S 2010 GRADUATES:

NAME	GRADUATED FROM:	FUTURE PLANS/DEGREE:
Frankie Bardell	Middletown South H.S.	Enlistment in U.S. Army
Christopher Cline	Colts Neck High School	Brookdale Community College
Jessica DeBose	Middletown South H.S.	University of Minnesota
Kaitlyn Farrell	Jackson Memorial	Ocean County Community College
Troy Furlow	Academy of Allied Health & Sciences	Rutgers ROTC
Nicholas Grippo	Christian Brothers Academy	Merchant Marine Academy, NY
Jordan Illingworth	Middletown South H.S.	Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY
Bobby Jacobs	Middletown South H.S.	Clemson University, Clemson, SC
Erik Nilsen	Middletown South H.S.	Pratt MWP, Utica, NY
Eric Smus	Christian Brothers Academy	Hood College, Frederick, MD
Beth Judd	Kean University	Bachelor of Arts - Mathematics

VIRTUAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR PASTOR GLENN FERGUSON Monday, July 26, 2010

On July 26th the healing ministry team is organizing a virtual prayer vigil to offer prayers of protection, healing and comfort for Pastor Glenn, Barbara and their family, along with the doctors and nurses who will be administering to him. We're asking everyone to offer prayers, at any time during this day and wherever you find yourself at the time of your prayers, to help see our Pastor through.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who know ahead of time when they will be praying. Please join us in calling on God's healing love for our pastor and his family.

Middletown United Methodist Church expresses its condolences to:

Bill, Sandy Whitten & Family on the passing of Bill's mother in Indiana.

Eleanor Collier & Family on the passing of Eleanor's niece Gloria Newman.

Upcoming Summer Service Schedule:

July 4, 2010	- Traditional Service
July 11, 2010	- Praise Service
July 18, 2010	- Praise Service
July 25, 2010	- Traditional Service
August 1, 2010	- Praise Service
August 8, 2010	- Traditional Service
August 15, 2010	- Praise Service