

THE MEADOWLARK

The Official Newsletter of the
MIDDLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December, 2009

Rev. Dr. Glenn Ferguson, Pastor (732) 671-0489

mumc.pastor@comcast.net

Church Office (732) 671-0707

pastor@middletownumcnj.org

mumc.church@comcast.net

The official web site of the Middletown United Methodist Church:

www.middletownumcnj.org

Fall Worship

Praise Service	9:00am
Fellowship Time	10:00am
Traditional Service	10:30am
Fellowship, Discipleship & Ministry	10:00am
Adult & Youth Sunday School	9:30am



*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
Finance Report	Melvin E. Hooper, Page 3	webmaster@middletownumcnj.org
Church Calendars	Church Admin, Pages 4 & 5	mumc.admin@comcast.net
Women's Retreat 2010	Carolyn Hooper, Page 6	carhoop@comcast.net
Craft Fair News	Lori Crandall, Page 7	crandall475@verizon.net
Family Promise Update	Joyce Johnson, Page 7	jjwaral@verizon.net
Announcements / MRP	Gary Kochman, Page 8	g.kochman@comcast.net

The Meadowlark, published monthly, is the official newsletter of Middletown United Methodist Church. Materials published are voluntarily submitted and become the property of Middletown United Methodist Church. Articles are due no later than the 15th of the month prior. Materials may be submitted by email (webmaster@middletownumcnj.org), by fax (732 615-2357) or placed in The Meadowlark mailbox located outside the Church Office. Articles received beyond the due date for the current edition will be published the next month unless date expiration has occurred. To subscribe to The Meadowlark in print form, please send your request and physical mailing address to Middletown United Methodist Church, 924 Middletown-Lincroft Road, Middletown, NJ 07748, Attn: Meadowlark Subscription. To subscribe to the electronic version, please send your email address to webmaster@middletownumcnj.org.

The Pastor's Message

One of the problems clergy always have is the inability, most of the time, simply to worship without having to worry about the details of the service. Was the sermon too long? Were the hymns appropriate? Did I remember the announcements that were to be made? Those kinds of things are necessary to keep in mind but they make it difficult for clergy to worship properly. We rarely get the opportunity to just sit in someone else's church and worship God.

I raise this issue as a way of inviting you to think about the things that get in the way of your own worship of God. A former District Superintendent asked this question at recent Church Conference a few years ago: What prevents us from being truly present to God in worship? For some, it is that they don't feel well physically. That's completely understandable. When we don't feel well, it's hard to keep our minds focused elsewhere. Others are distracted by concerns for the day or worries from the previous week. Some are thinking about what they're doing after church or by their unfamiliarity with the second hymn. Of course, some of these are better reasons than others. One would hope that a hymn that isn't very familiar wouldn't actually get in the way of your worshipping God; after all, every hymn was new to you at sometime.

I think that the key to being able to worship "in Spirit and in truth" is to pray prior to the service; get your mind focused on God. As long as we are focused on what *we* want, what *we* like, what makes *us* irritated, and so on, we'll never be able to worship God authentically. The object of true worship is God; not whether or not every aspect of the service suits our sensibilities.

All of this is to bring me to this point: the same may be said about our observance of the Christmas season. Sure, there is much we love about our Christmas season traditions: decorations, carols, meals with family and friends, shopping, wrapping, giving and receiving, Santa Claus, Charlie Brown's Christmas Carol, etc. However wonderful those things may be to us, they are no substitute for the true worship of God that is at the heart of Christmas. When all of these other things get in the way of our adoration of the Christ-child, something is seriously out of balance. These distractions can wear several different disguises. It could be that all the running around doing shopping tires us out, so we then decide to skip church and sleep in. Or, it could be that all the running around doing shopping gets us cranky from long lines, obdurate sales people, and parking lots with no empty spaces. When we're in a bad mood from all of that, it's very difficult to come to God in an appropriate frame of mind. It could also be that we overstuff our schedules with things to do so that we leave no time for worship. There are many other examples of ways by which we do less than our best in the worship of God in what ought to be one of the two most sacred times in the Christian year.

The suggestion here is to slow down. Pray and think about what's really important to you this holiday season. Don't do things because you've always done them. Don't just add things to your calendar without having a true sense of your priorities.

If you do less, if you simplify, I think you'll find that you have a better, more meaningful Christmas. Of course, I would encourage you to put the worship of God right at the top of your priority list. I believe you'll find that when you have worshipped the one born in the manger of Bethlehem, the rest of your Christmas traditions take on a more joyful tone. Elsewhere in the newsletter, you'll find a list I downloaded from the website, *Alternatives For Simple Living*. I hope you find it helpful.

(Continued on Page 3→)

Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

(←Continued from Page 2)

I pray we all have a simpler, Christ focused, worshipful Christmas season.

*Grace and Peace,
Glenn Ferguson*

FINANCIAL REPORT



Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We regret to inform you we're unable to provide a Financial Report for this edition while we overhaul and update our financial programs and prepare our budget for 2010. Your financial leaders and team are working diligently place the most current and accurate information before you. We plan to provide you with the October, November, and December, 2009 financial positions as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience in the matter. Please direct any questions you may have to Rev. Glenn Ferguson, Sandy Whitten, Donna Cummins or I.

Pledging and tithing for 2010 are currently at 58% of anticipated commitments; at this time in 2008, we were at 74%. Please prayerfully consider our recent Stewardship Campaign while bearing in mind your commitments remains the primary source of church income to help maintain our facilities and programs. Your finance leaders cannot accurately define a viable budget without knowing the scope of its income. Your commitments, no matter the size, help achieve this goal. If you need a new commitment card, please let Pastor Glenn or me know.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melvin E. Hooper, Financial Secretary
On Behalf of the MUMC Finance Committee*

10 Tips for a Simpler More Meaningful Christmas

1. Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto-pilot the day after Thanksgiving, hold a family meeting to decide what the group really wants to do and who's going to do what.
2. If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Three Wise Ones), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce.
3. Avoid debt. Refuse to be pressured by advertising to overspend.
4. Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same way they've always been.
5. Draw names rather than everyone giving something to everyone else in your giving circle. Set a ceiling for each recipient. Give children ONE thing they really want, rather than so many gifts. If need be, pool funds.
6. Give appropriate gifts. Get to know the recipient. Give what they want to receive, not what you want to buy.
7. Give alternative gifts. Give 25% of what you spent last year to the needy... individuals or groups locally, nationally or internationally.
 - Buy crafts and clothing from developing countries at alternative gift markets, not from commercial importers, so that the artisans receive a fair price for their work.
 - Give of yourself, not just "stuff" - a coupon book for future services (such as baby-sitting or an "enchanted evening"); something baked, sewn, handmade, composed, etc.; or a family service project, such as working together at a soup kitchen.
8. Celebrate Advent for four weeks before Christmas.
9. Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them around the tree, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked.
10. Make changes slowly but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance will make you feel defeated and lonely. For more help and a free catalog of ideas, contact [Alternatives for Simple Living](#) at 800-821-6153.

STEWARDSHIP SPEECH: "The Quest for Contentment"

No words can make my husband cringe as much as, "Honey, let's re-do our bedroom...or the family room... or the living room." When I get it in my mind that I want to do some re-modeling, I become a woman possessed. I become consumed with the search for the "ultimate" comforter for the bed. My quest is to find *the Holy Grail of curtains*. For hours I will look over every

(Continued on Page 6→)

DECEMBER, 2009

SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY, 2010							NOVEMBER 30	1	2	3	4	5
S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
					1	2						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
31												
6							7	8	9	10	11	12
COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 4:00: Concordia Concert 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:							9:30: MDO 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: Admin Council 8:00:	9:30: 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 5:45: Jr. UMYF 6:00: 6:30: Babcock Bells 6:30: Sr. UMYF 7:30: Chancel Choir 8:00:	9:30: Prayer Fellowship 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Advent Bible Study 7:30: 8:00: Discipleship Meets	9:30: MDO 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	8:00: Men's Breakfast
13							14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00: Praise Service 9:30: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 5:30: SS Pageant/Potluck Dinner 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							9:30: MDO 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: Trustees Meet 7:30: Finance Meets	9:30: 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	"HOMELESS KIDS" 9:30: MDO 5:45: Jr. UMYF 6:00: 6:30: Babcock Bells 6:30: Sr. UMYF 7:30: Chancel Choir 8:00:	9:30: Prayer Fellowship 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Advent Bible Study 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 6:00: WF Xmas Dinner 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	<i>Meadowlark Items!</i>
20							21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00: Praise Service 9:15: Jesus Birthday Party 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							9:30: MDO Closed! 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Advent Bible 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO Closed! 5:45: 6:00: 6:30: Babcock Bells 6:30: 7:30: Chancel Choir 8:00:	9:30: Prayer Fellowship 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office Close MDO Closed!	
27							28	29	30	31	JANUARY 1	2
9:00: Praise Service 9:30: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							9:30: MDO 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 5:45: NO Jr. UMYF 6:00: 6:30: Babcock Bells 6:30: NO Sr. UMYF 7:30: Chancel Choir 8:00:	NEW YEAR'S EVE 9:30: Prayer Fellowship 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	JANUARY 1	2
FAMILY PROMISE							FAMILY PROMISE	FAMILY PROMISE	FAMILY PROMISE	FAMILY PROMISE		

JANUARY, 2010

SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
FEBRUARY, 2010											1	2	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27							
28													
COMMUNION SUNDAY							3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							9:30: MDO 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 5:45: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Babcock Bells 6:30: Sr. UMYF 7:30: Chancel Choir 8:00:	9:30: Prayer Fellowship 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	8:00: Men's Breakfast	
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							9:30: MDO 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 5:45: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Babcock Bells 6:30: Sr. UMYF 7:30: Chancel Choir 8:00:	9:30: Prayer Fellowship 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	<i>Meadowlark Items!</i>	
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							M.L.K. BIRTHDAY 9:30: MDO Closed 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 5:45: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Babcock Bells 6:30: Sr. UMYF 7:30: Chancel Choir 8:00:	9:30: Prayer Fellowship 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:		
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							9:30: MDO 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 5:45: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Babcock Bells 6:30: Sr. UMYF 7:30: Chancel Choir 8:00:	9:30: Prayer Fellowship 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:	9:30: MDO 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: 8:00:		
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00: Praise Worship 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Service 6:00: 6:30: 7:00:							FEBRUARY						

In Our Church Family & Community...

paint chart that has ever been printed in order to find just the perfect wall color. At least half dozen throw rugs will be brought back and forth between home and store before I finally have a keeper. I will make pilgrimages to the ends of the earth to visit home décor stores or craft shows for the ideal room accessories. Then at long last, the project is finally finished. Everything looks bright and new. The colors are perfectly coordinated.

But I have to admit, when all is said and done, I usually feel a little bit of a letdown. The project is never a life altering event. That is because the warmth in my life does not come from the pattern on a comforter but from the love of my friends and family. Taking the time to help a troubled loved one pays far greater dividends than hours at a craft show. Studying the bible or reading a book by a Christian educator lead to greater insights to life than will ever be found on a paint chart.



I may get some degree of enjoyment in the decorating projects, but they are not the source of any true contentment. I only find this in my relationship with God, being with friends and family, and in helping the Church fulfill its mission of service. This doesn't mean that craft shows and home décor stores don't have a place in my life, it just means making sure that I keep them in their proper place, and lifting God to the position of priority.

---Denise Goudsward



WOMENS FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS DINNER - December 18, 2009, 6:00pm

The second annual Women's Fellowship Christmas Dinner is planned for Friday, December 18th at 6:00. It will be a covered dish dinner and a signup sheet is now available on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board for you to sign up and let us know what luscious dish you will be bringing. In addition, if you so choose, a cookie exchange will be held that same evening. Linda Patterson has agreed to organize the evening but surely could use some help. Please contact Linda by phone if you can lend a hand. Come on out and join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship and ask a friend.



SPECIAL REQUEST: LETTERS TO IRAQ

Ginny Lines, a member of our church family, has made a special request. Her son, Chris, is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. She has asked for letters for Chris...he wants to hear about our lives, what we're doing...etc. The address below will get his mail to him directly.
Sgt. Lines, Christopher, B-CO 4-2 138 INF SBCT, Camp Liberty, APO AE 09344.

HOGAR INFANTIL SHOE DRIVE

Please help! The Hogar Infantil children's home (www.hogarinfantil.org) in the southern state of Chiapas, Mexico, cares for over 80 children, ages 5+. These children have been rescued from destitute or abusive home situations, and find at Hogar a better life and better opportunities than they could otherwise have known, including a safe haven, food, clothing, shelter, health care, education, and lots of love. With your help, we are again aiming to collect 80+ pairs of new tennis shoes by December 20 to take to these children. Please contact Gary Kochman (732-544-0967) or Betsy Peyton (732-804-2721) or stop by the table in the Narthex for more information, or to arrange to provide a pair of shoes for a child in need. Thank you!!



CROP WALK 2009 - SUCCESS!

This year's annual CROP Walk was once again successful. While not meeting the goal for funds, the walk still raised over \$100,000 from walkers' sponsors, business sponsors, and private families. About 3 tons of food was collected again this year. Our church raised over \$1,000. Great job and a special thank you to the Fontanas, the Johnsons, the Millers, and the Thompsons for collecting sponsors and walking! Next year's CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 17, 2010 and it is the 30th annual. Hope to see you there!

Patty Thompson



RISE 2010

Middletown UMC will again be sending 3 teams to RISE during the summer of 2010. We are tentatively signed up for the week of July 11-17th (this won't be confirmed until March, though). Registration forms will first be sent to those who attended last year then open to other Senior High involved in Sunday School or UMYF. Cost to attend is \$175 per person. Registration forms will be mailed shortly after January 1st. Please be on the lookout. Any questions, please call Jan or Ger Ferrara at 732-706-0819.



WOMENS RETREAT 2010

February 19-21, 2010

Our next Women's Retreat is planned for February 19th, 20th and 21st and will be held at Grove Hall in Ocean Grove, NJ. It's time to sign up...and while you're signing up a deposit of \$50.00 is due. Make your checks payable to MUMC and give them to Linda Bardell. A wonderful time is being planned and we hope you will join us. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Bardell or Denise Goudsward.

In Our Church Family & Community...

CRAFT SHOW

On November 14, MUMC held its first Craft Show. It ran from 10am to 3pm, offering many varied crafts, baked goods, lunch, and a silent auction. It was a great success earning over \$2,000 for Missions.

The following people were Chair Persons for the show:

Craft Show: Lori Crandall and Carolyn Hooper
Kitchen: Maria Welch and Joyce Thompson
Silent Auction: Laurel Cline and Esther Lynn Ciprich
Advertising: Doug Goudsward in the papers
Nanci Illingworth and Barbara Philpot
- Church sign

With the parishioners varied talents and willingness to help out where needed, the show ran smoothly. Many gave their time, ideas, crafts, baked goods, cooking skills and donations for the silent auction and craft table. Other areas where help was given include: emails and phone calls letting me, Janet and Carolyn know when we received mail at the church, advertising, setting up the day and night before, working the craft table, bake sale table, kitchen, silent auction, putting up signs in yards and on corners, bringing in friends and family to buy crafts and food to support our show. The many little things like running home and bring back items (balloons, tape, lights, electrical cords, signs, etc.) that were needed, to keep the show running smoothly.

The following donated to the Silent Auction:

Carolyn Hooper, Linda Rowse, Linda Patterson, Donna and Cecilia Cummins, Janet McNair, Joan Noble, Friend of Eleanor Collier and Friend of Laurel Cline.

The following Crafters also donated to the auction: Kim Somerville, Nicolette Camporeale, Rosemary Bertinelli, Barbara Russo, Pam Joel and Denise Smolucha.

There were varied, delicious baked goodies for the bake sale and varied crafts for the craft table brought in by alot of people, too many to name, but greatly appreciated. The bake sale table alone generated just under \$500! What great bakers and crafters our church has.

Everyone had a good time and fellowship during the planning, setting up and on the day of the craft show. The crafters were all pleased with the day and many have said that they will come back for the show next year. Carolyn and I thank you all so very much for being there and making this event a success!

Lori Crandall



THANK YOU!

The five families were blessed by the generosity of the MUMC family. The families received 4-5 reusable shopping bags of groceries. The extra groceries were donated to the Keyport Food Pantry. Thanks to everyone who contributed food, gifts, cards, monies, baked cookies and packed the Thanksgiving bags! A special thank you is extended to Stop-n-Shop, Shop-Rite, and Acme for onating gift cards and Dearborn Farms for the donation of produce.

(Continued in next column→)

"Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much, and when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will break out into Thanksgiving and praise God for your help." [2 Corinthians 9:22, NLV]

Eleanor Collier & Debbie Vincent



FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE:

Weekend Driver Needed!

Family Promise is looking for a part-time, weekends-only driver to drive families from the church they're staying at to the Day Center in Middletown on Saturday (8:30 a.m.) and Sunday (7:00 a.m.) mornings, and from the Day Center to the church on Saturday and Sunday evenings (5:00 p.m.). The driver must be at least 20 years old, have a valid NJ driver's license, and be comfortable driving a large passenger van. If you can spare 6 hours or so each weekend, and would like to earn a little extra money while helping families in need in our community, please contact Shawna (732-865-0549) at Family Promise for more information.

----- *Hello Everyone!*

Good News! Chuck, Kelli and Travis have moved into their own place. We wish them the best of luck in their new living situation. They have expressed their gratefulness to all of the volunteers who have been extremely supportive to them during their stay at Family Promise. The volunteers have made such a huge impact on their lives, that once they are settled in they want to come back and volunteer! Thank you for all the hard work you do. Please pass this on to your volunteers!

Thank you! Shanna



!!! Special Note !!!

We are still missing a few of our Craft Fair signs. If you haven't picked yours up yet, please do so quickly and return them to church.

Thank you!



HEALING MINISTRY UPDATE

Healing ministers met on November 8th to discuss Chapter 1 - "Forgiveness and Freedom" in Charles Stanley's book The Gift of Forgiveness. We reviewed the three essential elements of forgiveness, and why the person with an unforgiving spirit truly loses in the long run.

The healing ministry also offered healing altar calls at both services on Sunday, November 15th.

The next healing ministry meeting is planned for

(Continued on Page 8→)

Church Announcements...

HEALING MINISTRY UPDATE

(←Continued from Page 7)

Sunday, December 13th, 6:30pm in the church library. We will be discussing the second chapter in The Gift of Forgiveness entitled "The Big Picture." In this chapter Stanley talks about basic concepts, such as:

- What our just God requires when we sin, and the second chances our merciful God provides to reestablish fellowship with God.
- How our forgiving God provided for "atonement" of sin through the Old Testament's sacrificial system.
- What our loving God wants more than retribution for our sin.
- What we too often allow to get in the way of accepting God's forgiveness.

We welcome interested members to join us in discussing these basic concepts related to forgiveness. Members of the congregation may contact Pastor Glenn or Phil Welch, Jr., to arrange for the pastor and/or healing ministers to visit and pray with them and loved ones in hospitals, nursing homes, their homes or over the phone.

"Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

[Luke 10:8-9, NRSV]



NANCY SCHARFF In Concert Count Basie Theatre Friday, December 18, 2009

Nancy Scharff and her hosts of special guests, including the Ecumenical Choir of Monmouth County, will be performing "Christmas Joy!" at the Count Basie Theatre on Friday December 18, 2009 at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$25, \$20, and \$15 (discounts for seniors). Group rates are available.

A portion of the ticket sales will benefit The Timothy Pautis Foundation and LOVE, Inc. The theatre is located at 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Order tickets and obtain more information by calling the box office at (732) 842-9000 or order online at www.countbasietheatre.org.

Those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for immediate assistance to the needy. Please plan to come out for a wonderful concert to ring in this glorious season!

OUR DAILY PRAYER CONCERNS:

Bruce & Robert Babcock, brothers of Carolyn Hooper

* Ed Errickson * Maggie Gaal * Tamra Tompkins *

* Mary Frances Hooper, mother of Mel Hooper *

* Irene Leonard, mother of Debbie Rougeau *

* Richard & Maryanne Smus & Family *

* Joyce & Warren Johnson & Family *

* Ginger Cornwall * Peggy Daniels *

* Rev. Norman & Winnie Schanck *

* George Livigne & Family *

* Peace in the Middle & Far East *

* Our Church's Financial Situation *

* Families Who are Struggling Financially *

* Churches Which are Struggling Financially *

* Our Brothers & Sisters serving in the Military *

* The Families of those serving in the Military *



Sunday School Events!

December 13th: Christmas Pageant & Covered Dish Dinner – sign up in The Narthex

December 20th: Birthday Party For Jesus in Fellowship Hall – all are welcome!

For questions and details, please call Donna Cummins at (732) 671-8326.

For all events mentioned in this newsletter, please visit our website for full information and details. If you haven't yet done so, please register at our site for news and information not available to the general internet public. Go to:

www.middletonumcnj.org

Informative and useful links at the site:

What's New!

Special Announcements!

The Meadowlark

Church Calendar

Prayer Requests

Men & Women's Fellowships