

THE MEADOWLARK

The Official Newsletter of the
MIDDLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March, 2011

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

mumc.pastor@comcast.net
pastor@middletownumcnj.org
mumc.church@comcast.net

Church Office (732) 671-0707

The official web site of the Middletown United Methodist Church:

www.middletownumcnj.org

Regular Services

Praise Worship	9:00am
Traditional Worship	10:30am
Sunday School	9:15am



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

The Inside Highlights...

The Pastor's Message	Rev. Glenn Ferguson, Page 2	mumc.pastor@comcast.net
Rummage Sale 2011	Carolyn Hooper, Page 3	carhoop@comcast.net
Church Calendars	Church Admin, Pages 4 & 5	mumc.admin@comcast.net
Ash Wednesday Service	Rev. Glenn Ferguson, Page 6	mumc.pastor@comcast.net
Greenleaf Newsletter	Robin Smith, Page 7	rpsmith54@comcast.net
Upcoming MUMC Events	Church Admin, Page 8	mumc.admin@comcast.net
Church Announcements	Church Admin, Page 8	mumc.admin@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 will be published the next month unless date expiration has occurred. To subscribe to The Meadowlark in print form, please send your 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 March, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

A few days ago my wife and I spent some time here in the office rearranging the furniture. This is something I like to do from time to time; partly because I get bored with rooms that never change and partly because the new arrangement gives me a fresh perspective on things. It's easy to fall into a routine, especially when it comes to our work and I think that seeing it from a new point of view is helpful. It gives me a renewed sense of purpose and an energy boost after a long and dreary winter.

It can be that way for any one of us with respect to our spiritual lives. One of the signs that there is something amiss in our relationship with God is if the practice of our faith has become boring and stale. If your prayers have become rote, if your attendance at church has become an act of routine instead of an exercise of devotion, something needs fixing. My suggestion is that you make some adjustments to how you live your faith from day to day. If your prayers are losing their strength of focus, change how you do them. If you normally pray in the morning, try doing it at night. If you always say your prayers in the same place or in the same posture, try moving to another room; try sitting instead of kneeling. The most important thing is to keep praying. You could try various forms of prayer; if you're used to a formulaic way of praying, try letting it be freer flowing.

In the same way, if your worship of God seems like its lacking in vitality, don't make the mistake of just ceasing to worship. If you normally come to the early service, you could try the latter, or vice versa. If you usually sit in one place, try sitting in another. Sometimes just changing your physical location and worshipping next to some different people can make a difference. You might want to think about volunteering to be a lay reader or usher or sing in the choir. Participation in the service in these ways might help re-invigorate your experience.

There are all kinds of ways that we can bring life back to our faith experience. The critical mistake some people make is that they just abandon to whole thing when it isn't feeling quite right instead of taking steps to make it better. Just changing the routine, our lives' furniture, can make a big difference most of the time. How are you living as a Christian in the world? Has it become dull or lifeless? When some people come to the realization that their Christianity is lacking, they conclude that there must be something wrong with their church instead of looking within themselves for the probable cause. It is almost

Continued on Page 3→

Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

(←Continued from Page 2)

always the case that if we would only seek out some new way of living within the church we already have both we and the church would be better off.

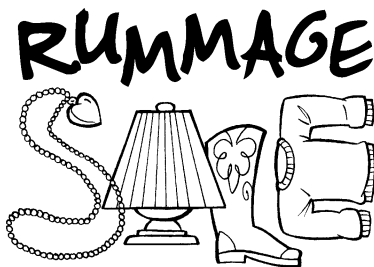
If you're looking for new ways to live your life of faith, I invite you to speak with me about it. Together we can find a fresh perspective and new ways to serve Christ. Happy Spring!


Glenn Ferguson 

RUMMAGE SALE - 2011

The Annual MUMC Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011. Our set up date is Friday, March 18th. Now is the time to start gathering all that "good stuff" that you need to get rid of... we take it all.

However, we ask for a few favors... we take all clothing but ask that you bag it according to men's, women's, children, and mark the bags accordingly.




We also take books (no encyclopedias), dishes, sheets, towels, baskets, shoes, furniture (no exercise equipment), toys, etc. Please remember that nothing may be brought to the church before Sunday, March 13, 2011 and ask that you place the items at the back of Fellowship Hall. Books may be placed outside the Sanctuary in the extra seating area. The sign-up sheet is available and just waiting for you to decide what time you can volunteer. We need many hands, people help to set up on Friday, help working the sale on Saturday and most importantly, lots of hands to help clean up. Remember - all proceeds go to missions. If you have any questions or need more information, please speak with or email [Debbie Vincent](mailto:DebbieVincent) or [Carolyn Hooper](mailto:CarolynHooper). 


RUMMAGE SALE BONUS

Just when you thought that your only fun on Friday, March 18th would be sorting through the mountains of donations for the rummage sale, we have a bonus for you. Suzette Halligan has

(Continued in next column →)

generously donated her time and talents. For anyone interested, Suzette will be cutting hair at the church from 12:00 until 7:00 on that Friday. All she is asking is that you make a donation to missions...that's all! So you come and work for a while...get your hair cut by a professional...and then work some more. Just think how great you'll feel...giving of your time to missions in two ways. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so Suzette will have an idea of how many. We thank Suzette in advance for this most generous donation. 

Women's Retreat 2011

Our Annual Women's Retreat is set and we are looking for you to sign up to join us. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board. We always have such a great time...spending time with one another in fellowship and worship. We will be spending our time at Grove Hall in Ocean Grove as always. If you decide to join us a \$50.00 deposit is due...checks should be made out to MUMC and given to Carolyn Hooper. For more information and answers to your questions, please contact or speak with Linda Bardell (732 758-8106, email fdjjmom@verizon.net). Hope to see you there. 



SHARING OUR FAITH

The pastor will be leading a three week workshop on how to share your faith with the people around us on Mondays, March 21 & 28 and April 4 at 6:30 p.m. If you feel uncomfortable talking

(Continued on Page 6, 1st column →)

MARCH, 2011


SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
APRIL, 2011							FEBRUARY 28	MARCH 1	2	3	4	5	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		8:30: 9:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session	8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		6:00: 6:30: Sr. High UMYF 7:00: UM Youth Meets 7:30: Ministry Team	6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:		
												<i>3/11 Meadowlark Online</i>	
COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 7:00: Confirmation Class 7:30: <i>March, 2011 Meadowlark</i>							6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS 9:00: Praise Worship Led By Youth 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 4:00: Confirmation Class 7:00: 7:30: WOMEN'S RETREAT							13	14	15	16	17	18	19
COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 7:00: Confirmation Class 7:30: <i>March, 2011 Meadowlark</i>								8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:00: Finance Meets	8:30: 9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: 7:30:	ASH WEDNESDAY 8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Service - Lincroft	8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	WOMEN'S RETREAT 8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	WOMEN'S RETREAT 8:30: Men's Breakfast
DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS 9:00: Praise Worship Led By Youth 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 4:00: Confirmation Class 7:00: 7:30: WOMEN'S RETREAT								8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: Admin Council	8:30: 9:30: MDO Board 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: Healing Ministry 7:30: <i>Meadowlark Due!</i>	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	RUMMAGE SETUP 8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Halligan Haircuts	District Resource Day St. Andrews UMC 9:00: RUMMAGE SALE
9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 7:00: Confirmation Class 7:30: FAMILY PROMISE							20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 4:00: Confirmation Class 7:00: 7:30: FAMILY PROMISE								8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: Sharing Our Faith 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30: Trustees Meet	8:30: 9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: FAMILY PROMISE	FAMILY PROMISE
9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 4:00: Confirmation Class 7:00: 7:30: FAMILY PROMISE							27	28	29	30	31	APRIL 1	2
9:00: Praise Worship 9:15: Sunday School 10:00: Fellowship Time 10:30: Traditional Worship 4:00: Confirmation Class 7:00: 7:30: FAMILY PROMISE								8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: Adult Bible Study 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: 6:00: 6:30: Sr. High Youth 7:00: 7:30:	8:30: 9:30: MDO in Session 6:00: Jr. High Youth 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	8:30: 10:00: Prayer Group 6:00: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	FAMILY PROMISE	FAMILY PROMISE

Note: Calendar is based on the official MUMC Church Calendar and subject to change as per entries provided by the groups and committees represented.

In Our Church Family...


SHARING OUR FAITH

(← Continued from Page 3.)

about your faith with friends, family, or strangers; this could be for you. If you just don't know what you should say; this could be for you too! We'll go over faith sharing opportunities, the content of faith sharing, and how to feel at ease in talking about what should be the most important thing in your life. 

INTERNATIONAL COVERED DISH SUPPER



Join us on Sunday, April 3 at 6:00p.m. for a time of food, fellowship, and fun. Bring your favorite dish that represents your family's national origins and be ready to tell us something about the food you've prepared. Kielbasa from Poland? Weiner Schnitzel from Germany? Ham and Cabbage from England? Lasagna from Italy? Tacos from Mexico? Fish from Japan? Jollof Rice and Chicken Stew from Nigeria? Who knows what will turn up! We'll also hear about some of our world missions projects and sing songs from other lands. Plan to be with us. 

Aslan Youth Ministries is Looking for a Few Good People!



Aslan Youth Ministries has a variety of needs for volunteers and employees. Volunteer needs include:

- Four Bible class teachers for two classes in Red Bank and two classes in Asbury Park. If you can help, please contact Queenie Ferguson at 732-741-7824.
- A driver with a certified CDL driver's license to drive their bus on Thursday afternoons for the Asbury Park Bible Class program. A small stipend is available. Please contact Lynn Ann

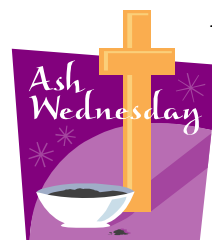
(Continued in next column →)


- Bogard by telephone at (732) 741-7824 or email lynnann@aslanyouth.org.
- ASLAN also needs runners, sponsors and volunteers for their NJ Marathon Team. More information on this can be found at <http://aslanyouth.org/calendar/njmarathon.html>.
- For a little easier run, a portion of proceeds from Tower Hill Presbyterian Church's 5K Race for Haiti's Children on Sat. April 5th will also help fund ASLAN's Haiti programs.

ASLAN is also in need of a part time Field Director to manage and develop their Long Branch youth programs. Responsibilities include but are not limited to planning, coordinating and supervising all year-round activities, managing and overseeing all volunteers and developing a culturally relevant, Bible-based curriculum. The ideal candidate will have youth ministry training with a bachelor's degree or at least 2 years program delivery experience. Candidate must be a self-starter who naturally takes initiative with a proven ability to multitask while seeing projects through to completion. Interested candidates should email a cover letter and resume to careers@aslanyouth.org.


Robin Smith 

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



This year's Ash Wednesday service will take place on Wednesday, March 9 at the Lincroft Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. Join us as we and the clergy and members of several Middletown churches come together to mark the beginning of Lent. Pastor Glenn will be the preacher for this year. A combined choir will be taking part in the service as well. 

PRAYER VIGIL

The Prayer Healing Team is organizing a vigil for **Beverly Wrede** who's having a kidney removed on March 17th. A Sign-Up sheet is available for those who would like to intercede for her, her family, doctors, nurses and all involved. 

In Our Church Family...



February 14, 2011

LEADING JERSEY TO JESUS

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

Taylor and Melanie Greenleaf 195 Rachel Court, Franklin Park, NJ 08823 (732) 960-4000

GOD IS GOOD! LOOK AT HOW HE HAS BEEN WORKING...

PLEASE PRAY...

• Hearts

That our students would value their relationship with God above all else, that they would not lose sight of His love and grace, and that their lives would reflect the power of His Spirit that is at work inside of them.

• Protection:

Praise God for how He protected Melanie from injury! Please continue to pray for us and other staff and students as we travel around the state to do the work God is calling us to.

• Spring Break:

Staff and students will be traveling to Panama City Beach in mid-March to share Christ's love with the college students there. Please pray for us as we plan and prepare for that trip.

New Jersey Fun Fact

There are only 6 area codes in the whole state of NJ!

God has been moving across the state in so many ways this past month! Here are a few highlights...

Close to 1000 students attended Radiate, our annual winter conference in Baltimore, and 80 were from Jersey! The students heard from speakers, worshiped with musicians, and responded to a challenge to surrender all aspects of their life to Christ. We also packed 600,000 seed packets and Gospel booklets to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of Gambians after their major flooding.



Jersey students packing seeds at Radiate to send to Gambia after the major flood



Nearly 100 Jersey students gathered at Camp Tecumseh for a weekend of ministry training and planned how to best reach their campus with the love and good news of Jesus!



Lauren, a Ramapo student who Melanie discipled, was baptized! We were blessed to be able to visit her church and celebrate with her as she proclaimed her faith in Jesus!



Thank you for your much needed prayers! They are being answered!

Taylor & Melanie Greenleaf

As Melanie was driving to Ramapo one day for ministry, a huge sheet of ice flew from the top of a semi into her car shattering her windshield. Slivers of glass covered her passenger-side, but she did not even get one scratch! Praise God for His protection! Not only that, the man who fixed our car was in desperate need of encouragement and prayer for his fading marriage. Taylor was able to counsel and pray for him as tears rolled down his cheek. How amazing God is in the ways He orchestrates all things for His good and perfect plan! What a blessing it is to be used by Him alongside all of you!

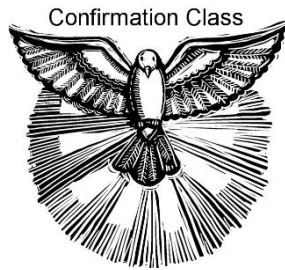
Church Announcements...


OUR DAILY PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS:

- * Joe Anderson * Andrew Apicello * Elaine Bardell * Eleanor Collier's Niece Winnie, Neighbor Peter *
 - * Kerri Kinsella * Jane Moore * Bob & Linda Patterson * Barbara Philpot * Carol Tanchak *
 - * Douglas Collier * Cleo Duncan * Don & Helen Duthie * Matilde Kalbian * Lynn Smith *
 - * Mary Ann Connolly's Father * Tom & Judy Walker * Phil Welch, Sr. * Beverly Wrede *
 - * Peace on Earth * Peace in the Middle East * Traveling Mercies for our Women On Retreat *
 - * The Families of those serving in the Military * Our Brothers & Sisters serving in the Military *
-

CONFIRMATION CLASS MENTORS

Members of the 2011 confirmation class are looking for adult mentors who will share the experience of the process with them. Mentors are expected to attend the confirmation classes and participate in related activities.



Mentors are encouraged to meet with their confirmand separately and act as advisors/big brothers/big sisters. The adult mentors will also function as sponsors at the service on June 12, 2011 when the class will be received into membership. It's not too late! If you are willing to be a mentor, please let the pastor know by phone at (732) 671-0707 or by email mumc.pastor@comcast.net. 

THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME!

A very dear friend was visiting me recently and suggested that I write something short for the Meadowlark relating to my health issues. Many of you know that I depend on oxygen for life support. This is for those who smoke. I was one that said or thought when hearing about the health hazards - "That's not going to happen to me". Well I was wrong and now not only myself but Helen, our children and grandchildren are paying for it. So if you smoke now is the time to quit. I thank God every day for the life I've lived but wished I had never begun to smoke. Let us pray that if this short piece helps to either get just one person to stop smoking or not even start then it has been certainly worth the effort.

*Yours in Christ,
Don Duthie* 

Upcoming MUMC Events:

- March 9, 2011 - Ash Wednesday Service
 - March 11-13, 2011 - Women's Retreat
 - March 12, 2011 - Men's Breakfast
 - March 18, 2011 - Halligan Haircuts
 - March 19, 2011 - 2011 Rummage Sale
 - March 20, 2011 - Family Promise Weeks (2)
 - April 16, 2011 - Spring Work Day
 - April 21, 2011 - Communion Service
 - April 22, 2011 - Good Friday Service
-

MEN'S BREAKFAST

March 12th (New location!)

Our Men's Breakfast for this month will be held this coming Saturday, March 12th at 8:30am. Come and join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing; a great way to begin your Saturday!

In a change of venue, we will be meeting at the Marriott Courtyard, located on Half Mile Road in Lincroft. They are promising a hot and healthy breakfast buffet for about \$10 per person. Please contact Russ Cline at telephone (732) 530-8453 or email rcline@optonline.net and let him know if you are coming so that we can plan ahead for seating. All MUMC Men and their guests are invited and welcome to attend. 