

THE MEADOWLARK

The Official Newsletter of the
MIDDLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October, 2011

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

Church Office (732) 671-0707

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

The official web site of the Middletown United Methodist Church:

www.middletownumcnj.org

Worship Service

Praise Service	8:30am
Traditional Service	11:00am
Sunday School	9:45am



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

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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, and Attention: Meadowlark Subscription. To subscribe to the electronic version, please send your email address to webmaster@middletownumcnj.org.

The Pastor's Message

October, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

Life is full of little obstacles. That isn't exactly breaking news but it is what's on my mind as I write this article. I've done some driving around today and as usual there are road construction crews seemingly everywhere in the Middletown area. Of course, we understand that doing road repair, replacing sewer lines, and doing upkeep on traffic signals are all necessary things. So we accept the delays and detours as part of the deal and move on. It seems to me though, that the number of these projects right around where we live is unusual and the length of time some of them are taking is far too long.

So I have been getting regular lessons in having patience with taking the detours and sitting in lines of traffic where normally things flow easily. These are good lessons for life in general and also for life in the Church. We have adjusted the Sunday morning schedule so that the worship services and Sunday School don't overlap and so far there have been mixed results. We now have a larger number of adults in Sunday School but the number of children is still way too low. The later service attendance has been better but the early service numbers are far too low. I am trying to have patience with these things and give them time to adjust.

The church's leadership and I understand that there are some who chose to come to MUMC because they could go to worship while their children were in Sunday School but that schedule placed a lot of limits on what we have been able to do. It meant that children were growing up without attending worship. Teachers were unable to worship unless they stayed for the traditional service, thereby taking from them the ability to choose to worship in the style that is meaningful for them. We had difficulty in recruiting teachers for that very reason. Adults had to choose whether to go to worship or go to Sunday School. The pastor could not participate in Sunday School. We were watching as over the years, attendance in Sunday School was getting worse and worse and felt that we had to do something.

I want to urge you to give the new schedule a chance to succeed. There are some who say that they can't give two hours of their time on Sunday mornings. I have a hard time understanding that. There are 168 hours in a week. Why can't we give God two of them on Sunday morning? It's not so much a matter of exigency as it is expediency. We can choose the things that are important to us. Aren't the worship of God and the development of our spiritual disciplines in Christian Education important? What example do we want to set for our children? That the worship of God is crucial to life and our

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Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

(←Continued from Page 2)

development as the children of God or that it's just something we do when it's convenient? I hope that every member and constituent of MUMC will support the new schedule, even if it's not what you'd like it to be in a perfect world. Remember we promised, when we joined the United Methodist Church, to support it with our prayers our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Grace and Peace, Glenn Ferguson 

MUMC 2012 Pictorial Directory

This fall, we plan to launch a campaign to update the official MUMC Pictorial Directory. The **2012** edition is planned for distribution next Spring. This campaign will provide the following opportunities:

- Didn't like your photo last time? Submit your own NEW individual or family photograph or we'll take a new one for you; we can scan and use a photo print or you can send it in by email;
- Update your individual or family information, such as children's ages, new home address, new email address, new telephone or mobile number, etc.;
- List individual or family achievements & accomplishments, such as traveling ministries you've been on or will participate in, recent graduations, new employment opportunities, etc.

And something new!

We're now able to incorporate "Birthday" pages in the Directory. No, we don't want to know how old you are, just to share your birth month and day (NOT the year) with those who may have the same date! More importantly, you'll be able to make a happy wish on someone's special day.



Let's make the 2012 MUMC Pictorial Directory the best yet! **We need everyone to participate!** Watch for additional announcements in the Sunday bulletins, The Meadowlark, and on the Church web site and Facebook pages.

Bible Fellowship Study Calendar

October 2011	
Monday	Lessons/Lectures
3	Lesson 3 DLs: Bernie & Ricky SG - Pp 31-38
10	Lesson 4 & 5 DLs: Wally & Paul/Ron SG - Pp 39-54
17	Lecture: Chapters 1 thru 3 Pastor Glenn
24	Lesson 6 DLs: Bernie & Ricky SG - Pp 55-62; Pizza & Fellowship
31	Lesson 7 DLs: Wally & Paul/Ron SG - Pp 63-69

November 2011	
Monday	Lessons/Lectures
7	Lesson 8 DLs: Bernie & Ricky SG - Pp 71-77
14	Lesson 9 DLs: Wally & Paul/Ron SG - Pp 79-85
21	Lecture: Chapters 4 thru 7 Pastor Tom
28	Lesson 10 DLs: Bernie & Ricky SG - Pp 89-94; Pizza & Fellowship

Notes	
TBA	Handout: 2nd half Study Calendar for 2012
TBA	Participant Survey in 2012
TBA	Book of Study for Next Year [2012-2013]

OCTOBER, 2011

SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
NOVEMBER							SEPTEMBER 26	27	28	29	30	OCTOBER 1	
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										
WORLD COMMUNION 8:30: Praise Service 9:30: Fellowship Time 9:45: Sunday School 11:00: Traditional Service 7:00: Sr. UMYF							3	4	5	6	7	8	
							9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:00: Finance Meets	9:30: MDO Board 2:00: Ministerium 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:	9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	RESOURCE DAY 8:30: Embury UMC 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:	9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:		
8:30: Praise Service 9:30: Fellowship Time 9:45: Sunday School 11:00: Traditional Service 7:00: Sr. UMYF							9	10	11	12	13	14	15
							COLUMBUS DAY 9:30: MDO CLOSED 5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Admin Council	9:30: 5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	9:30: 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:	9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:	8:30: Men's Breakfast <i>Meadowlark Articles Due!</i>	
8:30: Praise Service 9:30: Fellowship Time 9:45: Sunday School 11:00: Traditional Service 1:30: CROP WALK 2011 7:00: Sr. UMYF							16	17	18	19	20	21	22
							9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30: Trustees Meet	9:30: 5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	9:30: 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:	9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:	Nar-Anon Workshop	
8:30: Praise Service 9:30: Fellowship Time 9:45: Sunday School 11:00: Traditional Service 7:00: Sr. UMYF							23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: 6:30: 7:00: Ministry Team	9:30: 5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:	9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: Jr. UMYF 6:30: Babcock Bells 7:00: 7:30: Chancel Choir	9:30: 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:	9:30: MDO In Session 5:30: 6:30: 7:00:	<i>Meadowlark Online</i>	
8:30: Praise Service 9:30: Fellowship Time 9:45: Sunday School 11:00: Traditional Service 7:00: Sr. UMYF							30	31	NOVEMBER 1	2	3	4	5
							HALLOWEEN 9:30: MDO in Session 5:30: 6:30: 7:00: 7:30:						

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

NOVEMBER, 2011

SUNDAY							MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
DECEMBER							OCTOBER 31	NOVEMBER 1	2	3	4	5	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
				1	2	3		9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF	5:30:	5:30:		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		6:30:	6:30: Bell Choir	6:30:	6:30:		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		7:30:	7:30: Chancel Choir	7:30:	7:30:		
COMMUNION SUNDAY													
8:30: Praise Service 9:45: Sunday School 11:00: Traditional Service													
7:00: Sr. UMYF 7:30:							7	8	9	10	11	12	
9:30: MDO In Session							9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	RESOURCE DAY 8:30: Lacey UMC	9:30: MDO In Session	8:30: Men's Breakfast	
5:30:							5:30:	5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF	5:30:	5:30:		
6:30:							6:30:	6:30:	6:30: Bell Choir	6:30:	6:30:	4:00: SPRC/Dist. Supt.	
7:00: Finance Meets							7:00: Finance Meets	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	5:00: Church Conference	
7:30:							7:30:	7:30:	7:30: Chancel Choir	7:30:	7:30:		
8:30: Praise Service													
9:45: Sunday School							13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11:00: Traditional Service							9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session		
7:00: Sr. UMYF							5:30:	5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF	5:30:	5:30:		
7:30:							6:30:	6:30:	6:30: Bell Choir	6:30:	6:30:		
7:30: Admin Council							7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:		
7:30: <i>Meadowlark Items Due!</i>							7:30: Admin Council	7:30:	7:30: Chancel Choir	7:30:	7:30:		
8:30: Praise Service													
9:45: Sunday School							20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11:00: Traditional Service							9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	THANKSGIVING	CHURCH OFFICE AND MDO CLOSED		
7:00: NO Sr. UMYF							5:30:	5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF	<i>Family Promise</i>	<i>Family Promise</i>		
7:30:							6:30:	6:30:	6:30: Bell Choir				
<i>Family Promise</i>							7:00: Trustees Meet	7:00:	7:00:	7:00:			
<i>Family Promise</i>							7:30: Trustees Meet	7:30: Trustees Meet	7:30: Chancel Choir				
<i>Family Promise</i>							<i>Family Promise</i>	<i>Family Promise</i>	<i>Family Promise</i>				
8:30: Praise Service													
9:45: Sunday School							27	28	29	30	1	2	3
11:00: Traditional Service							9:30: MDO In Session	9:30:	9:30: MDO In Session	DECEMBER			
7:00: Sr. UMYF							5:30:	5:30:	5:30: Jr. UMYF				
7:30:							6:30:	6:30:	6:30: Bell Choir				
7:30:							7:00:	7:00:	7:00:				
7:30:							7:30:	7:30:	7:30: Chancel Choir				

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 Community...

First Corinthians Adult Bible Study Starting September 12th

On Monday, September 12th, from 7:00-8:30pm, the Adult Bible Fellowship began studying Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. You've probably heard Paul's words on the gift of love (Chapter 13) read during weddings. His teachings on spiritual gifts and Christian unity (Chapters 12 and 14) should also be familiar. Paul's words on purity, humility and love are as relevant for us today as they were when written to the early church at Corinth 2,000 years ago.

You're invited to join Christian brothers, sisters and couples from MUMC and other area churches in an Adult Bible Fellowship on Monday evenings here. On October 17th, Pastor Glenn Ferguson will discuss the introductory chapters of this letter.

Besides the monthly presentations in the double classroom, we have weekly small group discussions, from 7:00-8:30pm, in classrooms of the Sunday School wing. These are based on questions in a study guide from the LifeChange Series and an optional commentary by J. Vernon McGee. Study books and commentaries are available for a modest price. A free-will offering is collected each week and used to compensate our church for the use of the classroom(s).

To sign up for this study or for answers to your questions, please contact Phil Welch, Jr., 732-747-5032 or p2twelch@verizon.net. 


We're STILL Looking For Facebook, Meadowlark, & Website Volunteers!

C'mon MUMC Jr. High, Sr. High Youth, and Adults! Are you (or someone you know) interested in:

- Learning how our monthly newsletter is produced, published and distributed?
- Our new Church Facebook page, how it works and becoming an event planner?
- Our Church website, web design, electronic media, and internet ministry?

We're still looking for a few apprentice volunteers to learn, help maintain, and improve our printed and electronic media, and internet presence. If you're pursuing a journalism or media career, this can be a prime opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge, insight and experience to build upon.

(Continued in next column)

We want YOUR ideas, input and help to improve our electronic and internet church presence while helping to provide you with career benefits. If you or someone you know has an interest, for more information, or to get involved, please call the Church Office at (732) 671-0707, email Pastor_Ferguson or speak with him personally. You can also email the Webmaster. 

Hello, Pastor & Congregation:

I will be giving my annual "***Christmas is Love/Benefit for Love Inc. Concert***" at the Count Basie Theatre, Red Bank, on Friday, December 16, 2011, at 7:30 PM. The concert is a Christian concert, focusing on the birth of Jesus. By doing the concert in a theater, we have been able to reach the un-churched, and share the true meaning of Christmas. We also help and assist LOVE, INC., who help the homeless in the Monmouth County area - www.loveincnj.org. In addition, we ask those who attend the concert, to bring a non-perishable food item for local food banks.

We are in need of singers: the Ecumenical Choir (Teens & Adults) and the Children's Choir (Pre-K through 6th Grade). These two choirs are organized each year, for this special event. Your church choirs are invited to join us.

Tickets can be purchased from Count Basie, 732-842-9000, or from Nancy Scharff, 732-915-0978. There is also a special sale taking place through Count Basie Theatre, on President's Day weekend. The tickets will sell for \$10.00. Even without the sale, the tickets are still very reasonable: \$15, \$20 & \$25. For more information, you can visit my web site, and The Count Basie Theatre web site:

www.nancyscharff.com/countbasiechristmasconcert.cfm

www.countbasietheatre.org/calendar/eventlistings.asp

Thank you for helping us with our mission to keep "***Christ in Christmas!***"

Yours in Christ,

Nancy Scharff

Nancy Scharff Ministries

PO Box 4052

Middletown, NJ 07748

732-671-3314

Cell: 732-915-0978

www.NancyScharff.com

NScharff@aol.com

***"Christmas Is Love/Benefit
For Love Inc. Concert"***

In Our Church Family...

Nancy Scharff

IN CONCERT AT COUNT BASIE THEATRE



Friday
Dec. 16, 2011
7:30 PM
99 Monmouth St
Red Bank, NJ

Portions
of ticket sales
will benefit
LOVE, INC.



With special guests:

- Ecumenical Choir
- Three Tenors
- Gospel Choir
- Children's Chorus
- Bell Choir
- Fourteen Piece Orchestra
- Praise Band

Christmas Is Love

Tickets: \$25, \$20, \$15

For information call the box office: 732-842-9000

Purchase tickets on the web: www.countbasietheatre.org

Those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for immediate assistance to the needy.

www.NancyScharff.com

Church Announcements...

PLEASE LIFT UP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS:

- * Elaine Bardell * Linda Bardell's Cousin Jason * Paul Desaro * The Elzer Family * Betsy Peyton *
* Elsie Meagher * Jayne Moore * John Moricz * Diane Nash's Son-In-Law Danny * Barbara Philpot *
* D. J. Shannon * The Phillip Sovinee Family * John Sullivan * Linda Terhune * Gary Kochman *
* Crop Walk Volunteers & Supporters * Our Brothers & Sisters serving in the Military *
-

Thank You!

We would like to thank our church family for the prayers and condolences after Bill's mom passed away in August. They have been a great comfort to us.

The Thompson Family 

Family Promise Update

To Volunteer coordinators, congregation leaders, trustees, and other Family Promise stakeholders from Monmouth County:

Family Promise continues to operate on a shoestring budget and greatly needs new sources of income; but our accomplishments far outstrip the dollars we bring in because so much of our work is performed by volunteers – and so many of the services we provide are donated by volunteers. Nobody pays our hosts to spend time with our guests. Nobody reimburses the congregations for what they spend on food.

Let me remind you too that Family Promise is the *only* agency in Monmouth County that provides food and shelter for homeless *families*; and that we are highly successful in ending homelessness for the families we serve. Eleven of our fourteen guest families last year moved into permanent housing when they left us.

And there's every reason to expect greater accomplishments in the new year. We're at capacity for guests (five families, fifteen adults and children) and more families are seeking admission. It looks like we'll stay at or close to capacity for many months. And, with luck, we will be moving into a new day center – a larger facility, better located and rent free – on the grounds of Ft. Monmouth sometime next summer. You'll hear more about that building and how we hope to use it to benefit our guests via our newsletter, *Family Matters*, as the year progresses.

Thank you for your support and dedication to this ministry.

Victa McKenzie, Board President
Shanna Goldstein, LSW, Executive Director

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

(Please see the Church Calendars for specific times.)

- Oct. 03, 2011 - Finance Committee Meeting
Oct. 03, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
Oct. 04, 2011 - **Ministerium**
Oct. 06, 2011 - **District Resource Day**
Oct. 10, 2011 - Administrative Council Meets
Oct. 10, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
Oct. 15, 2011 - **Men's Breakfast**
Oct. 16, 2011 - **Crop Walk 2011**
Oct. 17, 2011 - Board of Trustees Meeting
Oct. 17, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
Oct. 24, 2011 - Ministry Team Meeting
Oct. 24, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
Oct. 31, 2011 - Bible Fellowship Study
Sr. High UMYF meets each Sunday at 7:00pm.
Jr. High UMYF meets each Wednesday at 5:30pm.
MDO meets Mon., Wed., & Fri. at 9:30am.
Choirs rehearse on Weds. at 6:30 & 7:30pm.
Next Family Promise Host Week: November 20th.