

Our Light

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*Your word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105*

The United Methodist Parish Newsletter
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury

August 2011

Whether you are a member of the Middlebury, East Middlebury, or Ripton congregation, a local resident, or a visitor to our area, you are invited and welcome to attend and participate in all activities and events mentioned in this newsletter.

From the Pastor

It has been a busy first month here in Middlebury, but I am beginning to get settled into the parsonage and into my work. I love the house and especially the porch; my dogs are getting used to their new yard, and are really glad I finally got their tie-out wires up so that they can explore more of it. The only boxes not unpacked are tucked away in places where I don't have to look at them. And I am learning my way around town and the surrounding area with not too many mistakes.

I am really enjoying opportunities to get to know you better. I am so grateful to those of you who invited me over or took me out to supper when I first arrived, and since then. It was a great help to not have to worry about meals. I have been to visit in some of your homes and at some events. I will continue to schedule times to come to see you, but let me also remind those of you with children and youth, I love to come to their sports and other activities. So far I have been to a horse show, which I enjoyed very much, and I would love to come watch your little ones – and big ones! – do what they enjoy doing.

As we begin to gear up for the fall, I want to let you know about a few things coming up that I am excited about.

I would like to invite all the youth from both churches in grades 6 through 12 to the parsonage for a cookout on **Wednesday, August 24 at 6:00 PM**. This is just a time for us to get to know each other and to talk about the things you are excited about, interested in, participating in, or want to get involved with. I would love to help you find ways to get involved in missions projects, local and otherwise. And I would love to know what kinds of things concern you, what issues you are facing, and what I can do to support you.

Beginning on **Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 PM** I will be offering a contemporary worship service at the Middlebury church. We will use music videos with contemporary worship and praise music, have time for prayer, and a brief sermon. Most of the time will be participatory. I am excited about this opportunity for folks from both churches who may prefer this type of worship, as well as for people who are not attending a church anywhere and may be willing to try something like this. We will be doing some more publicity as the day gets nearer.

On **Sunday, September 25** we will be having a covered dish lunch following worship at the Middlebury church. While we are gathered together for fellowship, we will also have a time to do some brainstorming about the future of the church, to talk about our dreams and our wishes, and to discuss a plan for strategic planning. I hope all of the Middlebury folks will attend this lunch. So that's about it for now. I am so glad to be here with you and look forward to all that the future has in store for us.

- Pastor Elisabeth

Our New Pictorial Directory Needs YOU!

Middlebury and East Middlebury United Methodist Churches are in the process of putting together a new pictorial directory of members and friends of our churches. This will be the first new directory in eight years.

It doesn't take much effort and if you have your picture taken, you will receive a copy of the new directory and an 8"x10" picture of your choice FREE. Now that's a good deal. And...if you prefer to have more than one picture, you will receive a 25% discount on the pictures ordered. When was the last time you had a picture of yourself or your family taken?

Two days have been set aside for picture taking: **MONDAY and TUESDAY, AUGUST 15 and 16** from 2:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m at the Middlebury church (for both churches). If those dates don't work, a backup date is available on September 15.

Why have a directory? Do you know the name of every person in your church, new members or those who have been around for a while? This helps us to be more friendly and open to each other. It certainly is a major help to a new pastor who is trying to learn everyone's name and match the faces seen on Sunday mornings or at meetings. It allows new members to get to recognize the folks they see regularly on a Sunday morning or at other church events.

SO.....sign up on Sunday morning at either church or call Betty Davis (388-7139) for East Middlebury or Ann Rowell (388-8410) for Middlebury. Why not make that call right now!! Norma Duclos has volunteered to call folks and remind them to sign up and threatens to do this during your dinner hour! To avoid that, call one of the above persons before you forget.

WE NEED YOU TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN!!!!

THANKS For Your Financial Support

Many thanks to all our church family and friends who responded to our letter requesting financial help. We are well on our way to a new half parsonage roof, and meeting some other important financial needs. We couldn't do it without your prayerful concern and love. When we reach out in faith, our folks respond in kind.

We still have financial challenges as we go into our fall season and 2012. With Pastor Elisabeth's help, we have some new ideas to consider, and are feeling "cautiously optimistic." We also know that anything we do is a process, and can take several years to plan and implement. We pray and ask for your support as we look forward.

We truly would love it, if there are good ideas to share that you would step forward to anyone on the Finance Committee, or anyone on the Administrative Board. This is certainly a church-wide effort !

I hope you are enjoying your summer and look forward to our working together through the rest of 2011, and on into our future in God's service.

- Margaret Klohck

New Fall Outreach Efforts

Armchair Adventure Night. On Friday nights, **beginning September 16 at 7 pm**, you're invited to be delighted and inspired by the slides and stories of our many parishioners (and those from other local churches) who have travelled the globe as Christ's hands and feet. We will offer comfortable seating, childcare, and refreshments for this fun family evening.

Coffee Hour Corner Chats. Also coming this fall will be another new Fellowship/Outreach opportunity, to take place right after church during Coffee Hour. In Corner Chats, we will come together with intention, curiosity, and the desire to examine, discuss, and pray over whatever is going on in the world around us, specifically with an eye and heart to matters of social justice. If you've longed for a forum in which to discuss world, national, and local events with folks from your faith community, then we hope you will join in. This will be an informal event, whose focus and duration will shift each week, depending on happenings and the interests of participants.

Weekly Aerobic Walk-Fit in Fellowship Hall. Starting Wednesday, September 14!

Come one, come all! Beginners and seasoned exercisers alike! Join us to honor and grow in stewardship of our amazing God-given human bodies, as we strive to get fit or fitter! Invite your friends! This is an Outreach and Fellowship effort all wrapped up in one! Walking and gentle aerobic walk steps to music inside the fellowship hall. Free and open to all. You can do it! Come check it out – a no-pressure situation!

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 5 pm: Gentle 1-mile walk for beginners.

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 5:30 pm: Slightly more strenuous (but still gentle) 2-mile walk.

- * Wear good sneakers and bring two 1-lb vegetable cans for upper body weight work (again, gentle).
- * Bring extra cans of food for the Food Shelf Box, if you can!

Sunday School Teachers Needed

We would like to get our children's Sunday School up and running in September. The pastor has ordered material designed for multiple ages in one room. It would be great if several people could volunteer and rotate Sundays, so that no one would always miss church. The material will be available for viewing soon, so that you can see what you would be using to teach. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Elisabeth.

***“Our Light”* Publisher Needed**

Interested in desktop publishing? Like graphic designing? Ready to take on a new role in your church? We are looking for someone to volunteer to take on the responsibility of publishing the monthly “Our Light” newsletter. No writing of articles necessary! Articles are sent via email and then put together in a newsletter format. Currently, the newsletter is created in Microsoft Publisher, but could be done using virtually any computer program that you are familiar with. Current time commitment is 4-5 hours once per month. If interested, please contact Linda Connor (388-0838 or Lconnor@gmavt.net)



We include the following in our prayers:



The Adkins' cousin, Tim
Betty Austin
Mona Austin
Jay Banta
Marian Barnett
Nathan Bilodeau
Madeline Cone
Julie Coons' mother, Joan
Terry DeYoung
Cora Dragon
Sue Flanagan

Betty Hampel
Jim Holden
Bea Jochum
Burt Kimbell
Pam Ladeau
Cara Marshall
Murray family
Myers family
Caroline Perine
Cliff Piper
Mary Jo Richards

Eileen Rinker
Len Rowell's sister, Andrea
Chal Schley
Doris Senacal
Brantley Smith
Paul Steel
Doug Tolles
Pat Tougas' uncle, Paul
Bob Warner
Marg Wesley's sister, Frances
Barbara Wheelock

Worship in August

August 7

Communion / "Get Out of the Boat"
Psalm 98; Matthew 14:22-23; Romans 10:5-15

August 14

"In All Things God Works for Good"
Psalm 133; Genesis 45:1-15; Romans 8:28-30

August 21

"Transformed"
Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:13-20

August 28

"Portrait of a Church"
Psalm 100; Romans 12:3-21; Matthew 16:21-28

** WEDDING BELLS **

Congratulations to.....

Jeffrey Coons and Rebecca Gutwin, who were married Thursday, August 4 in Chittenden, VT. They live in Colchester, VT, where Jeff is an adjuster for Progressive Insurance, and Becca is the Business Manager for the RehabGym.

Cassandra Leggett and Marc McDonough, who were married July 23 at the Middlebury UMC. Rev. Jill performed the ceremony with Elisabeth's help. The happy couple live in Burlington and both of them work at the People's United Bank.



August Calendar

Sundays..	East Middlebury Adult Choir Rehearsal .. 8:30 a.m.	E.Middlebury UMC
	Family Worship .. 9:00 a.m.	E.Middlebury UMC
	Family Worship .. 10:45 a.m.	Middlebury UMC



Tues 9	..... Middlebury Trustees	6:30 p.m. Middlebury UMC
Wed ... 10	..... East Middlebury Administrative Council ..	1:00 p.m. E.Middlebury UMC
Thurs.. 11	..... Middlebury Communications Team	6:30 p.m. Middlebury UMC
Mon ... 15	..... Olan Mills Photo Day (E.Midd & Midd)	2 pm - 9 pm Middlebury UMC
Tues ... 16	..... Olan Mills Photo Day (E.Midd & Midd)	2 pm - 9 pm Middlebury UMC
Tues ... 23	..... Serving Community Lunch	10:30 a.m. Charter House
	..... Middlebury Finance Committee	6:00 p.m. Middlebury UMC
	..... Middlebury Administrative Council	7:00 p.m. Middlebury UMC
Wed ... 24	..... Serving Community Lunch	10:30 a.m. Charter House
	..... Cookout for Youth	6:00 p.m. Church Parsonage

September 11 Memorial Service

Our worship service on **Sunday, September 11** will be a memorial service for those lost on September 11, 2001 and in the war on terror since then. We plan to invite members of the police department, fire department, and emergency services personnel to join us for this service.

Upcoming Events - Watch for Further Details

- * Sunday School resumes in East Middlebury on **Sunday, September 11**. Please join Sandy and Irene in their newly refurbished space upstairs.
- * **Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m.:** Contemporary Worship Service at the Middlebury UMC. (see Pastor Elisabeth's article on page 1.)
- * Contemporary Worship Service with Communion—**September date to be determined**
Plans are underway to hold a contemporary worship service with communion, followed by a cook out and fellowship. This contemporary service will be held in the Green Mountain National Forest at Texas Falls Recreation Area, in Hancock, Vermont. A free will offering will be taken to help offset the cost of hamburgers and hotdogs—any excess will be donated to the Charter House. Please bring a dish to share along with your own plates and utensils. For more information, please contact Don Jochum (759-2471) or djochum@madriver.net. (This service will be held on a Saturday and will not conflict with regular Sunday morning worship services.)
- * Potluck luncheon after church at Middlebury UMC for both churches to welcome Pastor Smith. **September date to be determined**—watch for more details.
- * **October 9:** Program of song featuring Elisabeth von Trapp at 4:00 p.m. at the Middlebury UMC.

The United Methodist Church
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Light,

the parish newsletter of the
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Middlebury and East Middlebury

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