

# Our Light

www.middleburyumc.org

June 2011

*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 ♦ Ripton

*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.*

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## **‘Goodbye’ and ‘God Be With You’**

As I write this my final newsletter article to all of you, I realize that a month from today, my family and I will be moving our things from the Middlebury parsonage to the Lebanon parsonage. A month from now, I will no longer be your pastor. You will have a new pastor and I will have a new congregation to serve. In this month of great change, sadness, anticipation, joy, hope, and good-bye, let us turn to God for strength.

Since learning of my departure, I have been praying the following *Prayer for Times of Change* written by Rev. Linda C. Smith-Cradle in a book entitled *Women’s Uncommon Prayers* (Morehouse Publishing: 2000. 372.). I have shared this prayer with the Lebanon congregation as well.

*Assist us, Lord, in living hopefully into the future. In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fears aside and to recognize our potential for creative response. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by “the new” and to guard against our own defensiveness. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in our time. All this we ask in the name of your Child, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

In this coming month, I look forward to taking time with you to remember, celebrate, and give thanks for the many blessings God has granted us in the last eight years. Many of you have made reference to wanting to get together with me one-on-one or with family before I leave. Please contact me at your earliest convenience so that we can put these important gatherings on our June calendars. I will do my best to see as many of you as I am able. This is my top priority.

I want to thank those of you who have approached me about coming back after I leave to perform weddings and funerals, etc. It is always a privilege to be asked—it is a testimony to the depth of trust that has grown between us. However, except for one wedding that Elisabeth and I will share in July due

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to the length of time I have already spent with the couple, I will not be coming back to officiate at weddings, to preside at funerals, or to perform any other work as your pastor unless it is deemed essential by Elisabeth or the bishop. I will have a new congregation to pastor in the name of Christ. Elisabeth will be ready to pastor you in the name of Christ. Neither of us can stand in two worlds and be effective in both or either.

Many of you know that my parents live in New Haven and are members of the Middlebury congregation. They will continue to live in New Haven, and I and my family will visit them whenever we can after we move. This will mean that you may see us or bump into us around town. I will look forward to hearing about you and your families on such chance meetings. However, since I have been your pastor for so many years, there will be a temptation to fall into our roles of pastor and parishioner and to speak to me about the church. Thank you for speaking to me as a friend instead.

On behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank so many of you who have already in one or many ways shown me your gratitude for my ministry through gifts, moving boxes, offers to help pack, prayers, cards, meals for my family, and gracious forgiveness when I seem distracted or busy, etc. We don't always find out how much what we have done or what we have said has affected others, and I am honored to hear from you and receive these gifts. Your giving Elisabeth the same warm welcome I received when I first came here is an extraordinary gift as well. Thank you for taking time in the coming month to prepare for ways you can welcome her to the area and to the church.

I say to each and every one of you: "Goodbye." And I also say: "God be with you." It has been a wonderful eight years. We are blessed. Let us live hopefully into the future.

- Reverend Jill

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### **Jeremias França to Preach in our Churches on June 12th!**



Jeremias França\*, Director of Chicupe Rural Hospital and the Center of Hope in Mozambique, will be here in Middlebury to speak at our churches on **Sunday June 12, 2011!** Arrangements are being made for him to be here before and after the New England Annual Conference in Wenham, MA on June 8-11 where he will speak to the conference and meet with all who wish to hear him in their Learning Center. Please, mark your calendars now for his long awaited visit in June.

He will be visiting many of the churches in the United States such as ours which have the privilege of helping to support him as a commissioned missionary of the United Methodist Church through a Covenant Relationship. He actually is flying into Burlington from Germany where he has been visiting supporting churches there.

Our church is in a Covenant Relationship to help support him as a missionary of the United Methodist Church so the free will offering that will be taken when he is here will go toward that. The General Board of Global ministries covers his travel expenses.

There will be a pot-luck dinner sponsored by Outreach Ministries at the Middlebury UMC after worship on the 12th for all in East Middlebury/Ripton and Middlebury who wish to meet and hear more from Jeremias about this amazing ministry of Mozambique United Methodists. It provides a 200 bed hospital and the Center of Hope for community health, working with HIV Aids prevention and treatment and eliminating malaria.

\*For more information, visit: [www.middleburyumc.org/JeremiasFranca.htm](http://www.middleburyumc.org/JeremiasFranca.htm)

## Celebration of Jill's Ministry

On **Sunday, June 5**, there will be a celebration of Jill's eight years in ministry with our churches. The celebration will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Middlebury United Methodist Church, from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m.

The celebration will be in the form of an open house - come and go whenever you please. At 3 p.m. there will be special music by our own Kevin Parizo and special presentations. And there will be food, plentiful food! Both of our women's groups are working hard to prepare that food we are all so famous for.

Anyone who is a member or a friend of the Middlebury, East Middlebury, and Ripton churches is welcome to join in our celebration and to visit with Jill, John-Eric, Chelsea, and Isaiah. We hope you will join us, not to say goodbye, but to celebrate and to wish Jill and her family well in her new call to ministry in Lebanon. NH.



**2003 – 2011**

These are the eight years that we have been blessed to have Jill Colley Robinson as our pastor. It did not take long for us to become aware of the gifts she brought: a warm smile, a wonderful voice, and a caring spirit.

We were startled when she asked questions of the congregation, fully expecting us to respond. She brought excitement and energy in leading worship and preaching, various meetings, spiritual groups, education and confirmation.

Along the way she and John Eric were blessed with Chelsea and Isaiah and we enjoyed watching them grow.

She shared her commitment to mission by being a part of community endeavors and encouraging us to do the same. We cheered her as "Mother Superior" and Chelsea in "The King and I". We were proud of her leadership in conference activities and in writing liturgies.

We were glad that John Eric felt free to follow on his own spiritual path and that he enabled Jill to serve us by accepting his role in their family, providing love and nurture for the children.

We adjusted to the digital age in worship and appreciated prayers and announcements coming to us on the internet. We were pleased to watch her grow in leadership skills and her willingness to avail herself of training opportunities.

We send them on their way with our love and express our deep appreciation for the impact her ministry has had in our lives.

Thank you and God's blessings to you, John Eric, Chelsea, and Isaiah.



## 2011 Peace with Justice Sunday - June 19, 2011

*"We cannot keep quiet if there is something wrong." — Dr. Leonard Kabwita*



In a world where 250,000 children are forced to be fighters or sex slaves, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the largest persistent violator, according to the United Nations Security Council. Because of the war, young boys are forced to enlist in the rebel army. Sexual assault of women and young girls has become the norm.

Compounding the problem is "conflict mineral," the selling of copper, tungsten, tin and other minerals to support war efforts. Unfortunately, minerals sold to global supply chains and corporations may be used as components for electronics that are part of our

everyday lives: mobile phones, MP3 players and computers.

United Methodists are trying to do something about it.

Armed with a grant from the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the Jerusalem Justice and Peace Ministry (JJPM) is assisting communities in the DRC. While physical and emotional healing is vital, the ministry also challenges unjust systems.

"We cannot keep quiet if there is something wrong," said JJPM executive Dr. Leonard Kabwita. JJPM workshops educate and empower Congolese people about justice issues in their communities and seek local solutions to close the gap between rich and poor.

When you give to Peace with Justice Sunday, you support ministries in the DRC, the United States and worldwide to remove unjust systems and equip the victimized to live more fulfilled lives.

To send donations by check, mail to: GCFA, P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203

### **Your Generous Gifts support:**

- \* *Peace with Justice ministries in your local annual conference*
- \* *Peace with Justice ministries in the U.S and Globally. These funds are distributed by the General Board of Church and Society.*

## **Community Lunch Program Summer Pattern**

Not sure how everyone's summer schedule looks but just wanted to extend the invitation to help out with community lunches. I am hoping that summer time will bring in some different faces so the "regular helpers" can take a break. Our summer schedule looks a lot like it did during the year, Tuesdays and Wednesdays every 3rd week. The summer dates are as follows:

**5/31 & 6/1; 6/21 & 6/22; 7/12 & 7/13; 8/2 & 8/3; 8/23 & 8/24**

Please check your calendars and let me know if any of those dates work for you to help or if you are willing to bring salad, fruit or desserts. The lunch program will provide bread, protein (sandwich filling) and drinks and there will be a college intern (Melissa) who will help oversee the program during summer. I will post a sign-up sheet at church for salad, fruit and dessert and providing at least 1 volunteer for each day we are "in charge" so look for it and feel free to sign up as much as you would like or are able.

Thank you everyone for all your help in the past and I hope we can see you all around soon.  
- May P.

## Endowment for Middlebury Church

Most people think endowment money is for tomorrow - Not So!!

Each year our Frontier Fund builds interest usually 4-7% and of that we have asked for 3.5% to be returned to our church. This year the 2010 fund is paying currently \$1008 toward the budget and \$300 to the Jeremias mission fund for work in Mozambique.

### An Important "Church Family" Discussion

Our Church Family is facing some difficult times, and needs your participation to deal with some important issues.

The issue that needs our attention first is the need to replace the parsonage roof and pay the moving expenses of our new, incoming pastor. This problem solving process is starting with a COMBINED meeting of the Middlebury Trustees and the Finance Committee on **Monday, June 6, 2011**, to discuss large, necessary expenditures. This situation must be dealt with in a timely manner. We currently do not have any money in the budget to deal with these expenses. This cost will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$10,000 to \$11,000, for these EXTRA non-budgeted items.

Part 2 of our serious concern is that last fall we voted for a budget for \$65,000, in faith, to run our church for 2011, and received pledges that total approximately \$58,000. So right off the bat, we started out with a shortfall of \$7,000. Though folks are faithfully paying their pledges, this is just not working. We are currently looking at a year-end deficit of about \$8,000.

At a recent meeting of finance leadership, we went over our 2011 budget, line by painful line, and became aware that we are down to bare bones. The further frustrating part is that we cannot meet our monthly bills, and are having to choose who gets paid first, while deferring our other obligations until the next month. These are our "local" bills (fuel, power, etc), with our neighborhood businesses. In addition, NOTHING has been paid for our 2011 obligations to the New England Conference for our "mission shares" (formerly called "apportionments"). All our prayers and good ideas are needed as our church family addresses these serious concerns together.

Many good folks have come forth and helped with a series of pancake suppers, and the soup and salad supper, and other fundraising ideas and efforts. These are VERY much appreciated. Fund raising ideas are important and we have great fellowship when we do these creative projects, but the bigger picture tells us that we need to restructure our budget, so as to meet our expenses. These extra activity fundraisers should be going for special needs and missions, not to try and pay our fuel and power bills, etc. That is what the budget is supposed to cover, and that is not happening now. This is a total church family process, not just the work of a committee or two. We, as a church family, have to come together to work on the broader picture, for this year, and more importantly, our church's future.

Our expenses are more than our income. This is defiantly not working, nor is it sustainable. In order to meet our obligations, in the past, including the year ending 2010, we have had to use some of the PRINCIPAL money from the Arnold Fund and other resources. Consequently, the base principal of this fund is eroding. The lower the principal goes, the less interest we have for our budget, which has been an important part of our annual budget.

Please talk to any of the Finance Committee members, or Administrative Council members with your ideas, input and mutual support, as we gather as a church family to help deal with these serious concerns.

Prayerfully,  
Margaret Klohck, Finance Chairperson

*It's opening night at a new 1950's style restaurant – Mike's 50's Cafe. As the night progresses, secrets will be revealed. However, some people are desperate to keep things hidden. And when one person decides that murder is the only solution, you'll be called on to help solve the crime. Who did it? How did he or she do it? And why?*

Presenting...

## **Middlebury United Methodist Church's Mystery Theater Dinner**

*An evening of fine dining and captivating entertainment (with a faith-based message)*

**Friday, June 17** —the Friday of Fathers' Day Weekend

What a wonderful way to celebrate that special man in your life.

*Guests are encouraged to arrive dressed in fifties attire ready to celebrate!*

The evening will start with appetizers at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person.

Reservations are required.

Call 388-2510 and leave a message as directed.

Seating is limited, so call today.

*All proceeds from this event will go toward the mission share given by the local congregation to the national and global United Methodist Church.*



Volunteers are needed to help set-up, clean-up, and cook.

If you can help out, please contact Eileen Rinker: [rinkers@accessvt.com](mailto:rinkers@accessvt.com), or 545-2353



## **Party Time for Friends from all Our Church Families**

There is going to be a Potluck Pool Party at the Klohck's house on **Sunday, July 17th**, after church (or 1pm, whichever comes first). George's 75th birthday is July 15 and we want everyone in all our church families to come and help celebrate. No gifts allowed, but if you want to come up with a humorous card, that would be great fun.

Bring a potluck, chair and if you're interested, your bathing suit and towel. We will provide beverages, plates, utensils, etc. This is not a surprise, so please ask Margaret any questions you may have.

Please save this date - we want EVERYONE to come!

Also, please pray for good weather !



## We include the following in our prayers:



Betty Austin  
 Marian Barnett  
 Betty Hampel  
 Madeline Cone  
 Doris Senecal  
 Cora Dragon  
 Mona Austin  
 Chal Schley

Mary Jo Richards  
 Sue Flanagan  
 Cliff Piper  
 Cary Marshall  
 Jim Holden  
 Bob Warner  
 Burt Kimball  
 Glen family

Barbara Wheelock  
 Phyllis Richardson  
 Carolyn Perine  
 Jay Banta  
 Pam Ladeau  
 Mary Jackman  
 Jamie Barnum  
 Julie Coons' mother, Joan

Len Rowell's sister, Andrea  
 Marg Wesley's sister, Frances  
 Bonnie T. Adkins'  
     granddaughter, Erika  
 Adkins' cousin, Tim  
 Pat Tougas' uncle, Paul  
 Holden's friend, Donna  
 All who are serving overseas



June 5	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
June 12	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39
June 19	Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1-2:4a; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
June 26	Psalm 13; Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

## Emergency Relief Update

More communities in Vermont suffered extreme damage in storms in May and more storms are predicted. Additional help is needed in the relief response. Assistance Request from [Rev. Bill Elwell](#), VT Emergency Response Coordinator

### Administrative Disaster Response Tasks

- \* People are needed who can help with filing and data processing. A personal laptop would be required.
- \* Also needed are people who would make calls back to affected residents. There is a script for this. People need to be able to communicate in a caring way and record information.
- \* Training will be provided. The work will be done at a command center located on the first floor of Christ Memorial Church located at 1033 Essex Road, Williston, VT
- \* A person who could help manage a list of volunteers and a rotation schedule would be helpful, too.

### Case Management

We will also need to have people who can help with case management of clients affected by the floods. A two and a half day training for this will be provided by UMCOR. I have been asked by Conference Disaster Response Coordinator Doug Spanks to gather some interested names if we can while he is getting dates.

Bill Elwell, VT Emergency Relief Coordinator  
[Rescueme97@yahoo.com](mailto:Rescueme97@yahoo.com)

<p><b><u>UMCOR Advance Specials</u></b>  <b>US Spring Storms 2011, Advance #3021326</b>  <b>Relief in Japan, Advance #3021317</b></p>
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## Greetings!

I am very excited about being appointed as your new pastor beginning July 1. I am looking forward to worshipping with you on Sunday, July 3. Since that will be the first time I meet most of you, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself.

I am currently serving as pastor of the United Methodist Church in Hamilton, MA, and prior to that, I served the Pepperell-Townsend charge, also in Massachusetts from 2002 to 2006. Before that time I spent 15 years serving United Methodist churches in the South Carolina Annual Conference.

I was educated at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. (I grew up and was first ordained in the Southern Baptist Church.)

My father lives in my hometown, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and I have one brother, who lives with his wife and three of his six girls in southern California. I don't get to see them as often as I wish, but we are a close family. I also have three dogs: Bud, a 17-year-old beagle; Holly, a 12-year-old lab mix; and Chip, an 11-year-old lab mix.

I love my work as a pastor, getting to know people and hearing their stories, spending time with children and youth and adults, planning worship and preaching, leading Bible study groups, presiding at weddings, working with committees, helping with fundraisers, participating in missions projects and visiting people in their homes.

I know that my first priority when I get there will be getting to know you and letting you get to know me. I will be scheduling times to visit, and looking forward to committee meetings when I can get to know you in small group settings. Also, if you have children or young people in your house, I would love to attend their special events, such as ball games, recitals, concerts, performances, etc. Just let me know where and when, and I'll be there. I find it challenging to cook for one, so I am always glad to be invited over for a meal!

I hope that this gives you a little idea about who I am. I am eager to learn more about who you are! I'll see you on July 3rd and we'll begin this process together. God bless you!

Rev. Elisabeth Smith

## Summer Outreach News

In addition to the many ongoing mission projects our church family continue to be involved in (from providing Community Lunches to food-insecure neighbors to helping to staff and fund the MidSummer Camp for local children, there are some new Outreach ventures on the horizon.

Armchair Adventure Night. This fall Outreach will be starting an Armchair Adventurer night. On Friday nights, you will be invited to church 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. Stay tuned for more details in late summer. We will be striving to offer comfortable seating, childcare, and refreshments for this new fellowship opportunity.

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 will shift each week, depending on happenings and the interests of participants.

Weekly Aerobic Walking Group. Would you like to get together this fall for fellowship, fitness, and worship in the form of gentle, aerobic walking? We are working on scheduling once-a-week walk-fit sessions in the fellowship hall, with the possibility of 1-mile, 2-mile walks, and kickboxing workouts. This would be free and open to all in the late afternoon hours. More details to come as this idea comes together. In the meantime, let Josie Masterson-Glen know if you're interested.

Special Luncheon with Jeremias Franca: June 12, 2011! Mark your calendars and be sure to join in a reception for Jeremias, administrator of the United Methodist hospital in Chicuque, Mozambique. We have helped sponsor Jeremias's work for some years; now we have the chance to meet him in person! We will serve African Stew, fruit plates, salad and bread. Please contact Josie Masterson-Glen if you would like to contribute to the luncheon (388-7197; jmglen@myfairpoint.net).

## June Calendar

Sundays..... **East Middlebury Adult Choir Rehearsal** ... 8:30 a.m. .... E.Middlebury UMC  
**Family Worship** ..... 9:00 a.m. .... E.Middlebury UMC  
**Adult Christian Education** ..... 10:00 a.m. .... Middlebury UMC  
**Family Worship & Sunday School**..... 10:45 a.m. .... Middlebury UMC



Sun..... 5 ..... **Ministry Celebration** ..... 2:00-5:00 p.m. .... Middlebury UMC  
Mon ..... 6 ..... **Middlebury Trustees and Finance** ..... 7:00 p.m. .... Middlebury UMC  
Tues..... 7 ..... **Women’s Spirituality Breakfast** ..... 9:00 a.m. .... Rosie’s Restaurant  
**East Middlebury Women’s Group** ..... 3:30 p.m. .... Jean Peck’s Home  
Wed-Sat, 8-11 ... **Annual Conference** ..... Wenham, MA  
Sun..... 12 ..... **Pentecost**  
**Missionary Jeremias Franca preaching** .... 9/10:45 a.m. .... E.Midd/Middlebury UMC  
**Luncheon to celebrate Jeremias** ..... 12:00 p.m. .... Middlebury UMC  
Tues ... 14 ..... **Middlebury Ministry Teams**..... Middlebury UMC  
- **Middlebury Mission Team** ..... 4:30 p.m.  
- **Light Supper** ..... 5:30 p.m.  
- **Middlebury Finance**..... 6:00 p.m.  
- **Middlebury Trustees**..... 6:30 p.m.  
- **Middlebury Administrative Council**.. 7:30 p.m.  
Fri ..... 17 ..... **Mystery Theater Dinner** ..... 6:00 p.m. .... Middlebury UMC  
Sat..... 18 ..... **Men’s Breakfast** ..... 8:00 a.m. .... Steve’s Diner  
Sun..... 19 ..... **Peace with Justice Sunday**  
**Happy Father’s Day**  
**Jill’s Last Sunday**  
Sun..... 26 ..... **Rev. Len Rowell Preaching**..... 9:00/10:45 a.m. .... E.Midd/Middlebury UMC  
Mon ... 30 ..... **Memorial Day**  
Tues ... 21 ..... **Serving Community Lunch** ..... 10:30 a.m. .... Charter House  
Wed ... 22 ..... **Serving Community Lunch** ..... 10:30 a.m. .... Charter House  
*(Also July 12 & 13; August 2 & 3; and August 23 & 24)*

- \* The Middlebury United Methodist Women will not meet again until the fall—Happy Summer!
- \* The spirituality Group will have its last meeting for the year on June 7, at 9:00 a.m. at Rosie’s.

### \*\* CONGRATULATIONS \*\*

**Congratulations** to the following graduates:

- \* Nina Edson from Middlebury Union High School
- \* Charlie Cluss from Middlebury Union High School
- \* James Cobb from Middlebury Union High School
- \* Lauren Peters-Collaer from Hamilton College

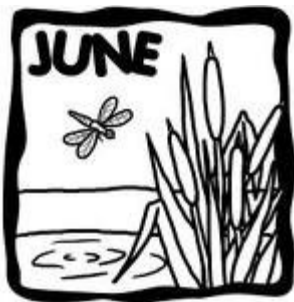


*Please send other graduate names and schools to the newsletter for future editions as we continue to celebrate throughout the summer months and the year.*

**Congratulations** on the birth of Luke Pierson Alford, a healthy baby boy –7 lbs 14 oz. Mom, Paige-Dad, Matt and sister Lily all doing well also.

The United Methodist Church  
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47 North Pleasant Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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the parish newsletter of the  
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