

Our Light

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path---

Psalm 119:105

JANUARY 2012

The United Methodist Parish Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Whether you are a member of the Middlebury or East Middlebury 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 OUR PASTOR

As the New Year approaches, we all expect to experience change. Some change is by choice. For example, the change that comes about because of our New Year's resolutions. Losing weight. Exercising more. Spending less time in front of the TV and more time with our kids or our spouse or our friends. Reading one of those books we always wanted to read. Other change is by circumstance beyond our control. For example, the state of our economy or an illness or injury.

During 2011, I experienced a lot of change (as did you). I left my appointment in Hamilton, Massachusetts to move to Middlebury. I began my work among you, began to make new connections with my colleagues, and learned my way around a new town and state. And soon after the new year begins, I will experience another major transition. My father is going to move from South Carolina to live with me. His recent health crisis convinced him that he did not want to live alone any more, and he decided that his best choice was to come and be with family. He will leave behind the church where he has been a member since 1966, friends, and familiar surroundings. But he will find with me the time we will both enjoy being together, and making new friends, and keeping his granddogs company.

I want to thank you all for your prayers and support as I traveled to South Carolina when my dad was in the hospital and after he was discharged. We were able to make most of the arrangements for his move, I met the home health professionals who were going to come in to assist him, and arranged for someone to come in and do some housekeeping for him. I was able to return to Vermont feeling fairly secure about his situation for the next month or so. He is planning to arrive in Middlebury somewhere around February 16.

I am looking forward to this new stage in our lives, even as I know it will bring its own kinds of challenges and changes. And I hope that the New Year brings to all of you the best kinds of changes and transitions, full of opportunities for joy and blessing.

Peace,

Pastor Elisabeth

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE !

Blessings to so many folks in both the Middlebury and East Middlebury church families for their support of the Addison County Christmas Shop, held at HOPE.

Peg Kimball and I want to thank everyone who helped in so many ways.

You helped us provide clothing, toys, books, mittens, hats, scarves and many other things for 264 children and their families. The gift of used winter coats, money donations to buy clothing, beautiful hats, mittens and scarves, PLUS your time commitment to work with the families to help them pick out the Christmas gifts for their children.

Sometimes listening and responding to folks in need was a gift all its' own, to these folks.

"There but for the Grace of God go I" was a pretty common thought after some folks left the shop.

Thank you so much for answering this call to help.

Blessings and Merry Christmas,
Peg Kimball and Margaret Klohck

ANOTHER CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our Churches will be responsible for serving lunches at the Community House on the following dates in the new year – January 17 & 18, February 8 & 14, March 20 & 21, April 10 & 11, May 1&2. If you can help or if you would like to learn more please contact May Poduschnick mayandrik@yahoo.com

WOMEN'S GROUPS

The Women's Spirituality Group will resume meeting on Tuesday January 3 at 1 p.m. at Mimi's house

The Middlebury UMW will have its January meeting on Monday January 16 at 2 p.m. at Mimi's house

AMERICA'S SUNDAY DINNER – JANUARY 15

America's Sunday Supper (or in our case dinner) is a national program designed to take place on the Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr. Day to encourage people to reflect on social justice issues. We are planning a potluck lunch at Middlebury (members of both congregations are invited to attend) at 12:00 noon.

There will be a program (still being put together) and discussion. Look for more information to come.

MIDDLEBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE

As we come to the end of 2011, I want to thank our church family for your on-going generous support for the important Ministries we share through our church, and beyond. I feel the love and commitment among our folks, as they manage to keep up the financial pledges they made for 2011, and continue to make for 2012, for our work in Christ. This loving commitment shows through in many ways as we work together as Jesus hands, feet and voice in our community, state, nation and the world. The ministries of which you are a part, through your time, talents and gifts, are significant. The things that are accomplished are amazing and DO make a difference.

We do still have some financial challenges, but I believe we are going to end 2011 in somewhat better shape than in previous years. This is due to your faithfulness to the ministries of your church.

For the upcoming year of 2012, I see great hope to maintain, and even increase our resources, as we go forward. As of Sunday, December 19th, we have received 29 pledges totaling \$58,020. This is ahead of the pledges received at this time last year. We know that some other pledges are still to come in, and we see reaching our \$65,000 goal as a serious possibility.

If you have not made a pledge yet, please consider being a part of this important part of our ministry. A \$5 or \$10 weekly commitment would be a wonderful act of faith toward the future of our work together. If there was ever a time to be part of this important work, it is now. Our work is a light of hope to folks to carry on, even through what can be challenging times. While the economy is reportedly recovering, it is far from a reality for a lot of our church folks and our neighbors. It is our charge, as people of God, to serve in all the ways we can.

Blessings to all for our New Year together

Margaret Klohck
Finance Chairperson



HAPPY NEW YEAR

WORSHIP IN JANUARY 2012

Sun, January 1	Rev. George Klohck / Communion			
Wed, January 4	"Just a Little Faith"		Mathew 13:31-33	
Sun, January 8	"Remember Your Baptism"	Acts 19:1-7	Psalms 29	Mark 1:4-11
Wed, January 11	"Worth the Price"		Matthew 13:44-46	
Sun, January 15	"Called By God"	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Psalms 139	John 1:43-51
Wed, January 18	"Forgiven"		Matthew 18:22-33	
Sun, January 22	"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"			
		Jonah 3:1-5,10	Psalms 62	Mark 1:14-20
Wed, January 25	"Good Neighbors"		Luke 10:25-37	
Sun, January 29	"The Buck Stops Here"		Mark 1:21-28	
		Psalms 111		Deuteronomy 18:15-20

JANUARY 2012 CALENDAR

Wed, January 4	7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
Thurs, Jan 5	7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
Mon, Jan 9	5:00 PM Middlebury Finance Committee
	6:00 PM Middlebury Administrative Council
Tues, Jan 10	6:30 PM Middlebury Trustees
Wed, Jan 11	1:00 PM East Middlebury Administrative Council
	7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
Thurs, Jan 12	7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
Sun, Jan 15	12:00 PM America's Sunday Dinner at Middlebury
Wed, Jan 18	7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
Thurs, Jan 19	7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
Wed, Jan 25	7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
Thurs, Jan 26	7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Middlebury – East Middlebury

47 North Pleasant Street

Middlebury VT 05753

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR LIGHT

The parish newsletter of the
United Methodist Churches in
Middlebury and East Middlebury

47 North Pleasant Street

Middlebury, VT 05753

802-388-2510

Email: pastorelisabeth@yahoo.com

www.middleburyumc.org

www.neumc.org

Pastor.....Elisabeth E. Smith pastorelisabeth@yahoo.com ; cell phone 978-758-4514

Our Missionary in MozambiqueJeremias Franca

Minister of Music.....Dr. Kevin Parizo

Parish Administrator..... Vacant

Publisher.....Emmy Alford (newsletter@middleburyumc.org)

Production.....Betty Davis, Norma Duclos, Eileen Rinker, Joyce Sargent, Margaret Wesley, Barbara Wheelock, Mary Wimett, Shirley Wisell