

Our Light

*Your word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my path.*

Psalm 119:105

www.middleburyumc.org

The United Methodist Parish Newsletter
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury ♦ Ripton

May 2010

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.

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

*--Jean Janzen, based on the writings of Juliana of Norwich, 15th c.
from *The Faith We Sing**

May is a month of holidays—May Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day. May is also a month of holy days—Ascension of the Lord, May Friendship Day, Festival of the Christian Home, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, and Aldersgate Day, to name a few United Methodist observances.

In the most profound and seminal ways, Pentecost is a celebration of God giving birth to the church. The image of giving birth is inherently a maternal one, expanding our list of celebrated May mothers—Mother Nature, Mother Earth, our mothers, etc.—to include Mother God. As the above text illustrates, the image of God-Christ-Spirit as mother has been in the Christian tradition for as many generations as there have been adherents to the faith.

Father has been the predominant gendered image for God because of the relationship between Jesus and God described in translation in the four gospels. However, for some people of faith, the image of father is tainted by painful personal experiences and strongly held convictions concerning gender equality and self-identification. Like any metaphor, the words Father, Mother, or Parent will fall short in describing the divine and sacred. In the best possible situation, each metaphor for God further illuminates our experience and knowledge of the Spirit of God in Jesus the Christ.

It is my prayer that in this month of May-ing, the Mothering God-Christ-Spirit will not be held back by words or experiences, but “like a wildfire, . . . spread through [our] ranks” (Acts 2, The Message) as it did for John Wesley on Aldersgate Street so long ago.

**Second Sundays Continue:
A Special Ministry for Busy Parents, Youth, and Children
and a Special Guest Preacher**

On May 9, Mother's Day, Jill will step out of the pulpit in both East Middlebury and Middlebury and work with others to continue implementing a newer model of ministry for the family. The following schedule of education and worship at Middlebury UMC will be added to the existing worship services at 9 a.m. in East Middlebury and 10:45 a.m. in Middlebury. In one morning, your whole family will have the opportunity to study, talk, snack, and worship.

8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

K-2nd and 3rd-6th grade Sunday school, led by Linda Connor and Erika Garner
7th-12th grade youth breakfast, led by Julie Coons and volunteer
Breakfast for mothers, led by Jill C. Robinson

9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Contemporary worship for the family, led by Jill C. Robinson and volunteers

10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

K-2nd and 3rd-6th grade Sunday school, led by Linda Connor and Erika Garner
7th-12th grade youth group, led by Jill C. Robinson and Julie Coons
A time to celebrate mothers, led by those adults in attendance

11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Nursery and child care, led by Linda Connor and Laurie Jordan

If you plan on attending the breakfast for mothers, please RSVP to Jill at 388-2510 as soon as possible.

If you need childcare for part or all of the morning for children younger than five years of age, contact Jill at 388-2510 as soon as possible. Younger children are welcome to and encouraged to attend the contemporary worship service.



For those of you who will be attending the regular worship services on the Second Sunday, ***our guest preacher will be Evie Doyon.*** Evie is currently the Faith Development Coordinator for Troy Conference. She is also the Green Mountain District Lay Leader and president of the United Methodist Women. Trained as a spiritual director, Evie has led spiritual formation groups and retreats, and she occasionally writes songs for worship. Prior to devoting her life's work to the church, she worked many years in higher education and most recently worked for the state of Vermont. She and her husband, Robert, live in Northfield and are members of the Northfield United Methodist Parish. They have one son who will graduate from college in mid-May.

Mother's Day and WomenSafe

Per tradition, the money that is placed in the celebrations basket in East Middlebury and the celebration jar in Middlebury on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9, will be given to WomenSafe. To learn more about this important Addison County agency, go to www.womensafe.net or call 388-9180. Please keep this special giving in mind on May 9 when you celebrate the evidence of God's grace in your life.

Spring Block Party on May 23

For the fourth time in as many years, the Middlebury congregation will step outside our doors and host a block party for the neighborhood and greater community. The event will take place on Sunday, May 23 immediately following the worship service on Seminary Street. In the past, this exciting event has taken place in the fall. This year, the men of the congregation have been elected to breathe new life into this event as a special celebration of Pentecost. Bill Edson will be contacting all able-bodied, Spirit-filled men to help put on this meal and event. Even now, Bill and Administrative Council members are making plans for a special focus on bicycle safety in addition to the games we have had in the past--face painting, sidewalk chalk, crafts, etc. Mark your calendars now and plan on staying after church, rain or shine, to break bread with your friends and meet our church's neighbors.

An Outreach Ministry to our Young People (that can be done from home)

Every year, the church family joins individual families in sending our graduating high school seniors to work, school, and the military. In many cases, we have known these young people for many years or even since their birth. In an effort to stay connected to them, to support them, and to therefore minister to them, we will now be listing at least one person out on their own for the first time, one undergraduate student, or one person in the military in *Our Light* each month during the school calendar. The list each month will be determined, when possible, by those who are having a birthday that month. You are invited to send them cards, care packages, etc. at the addresses that are listed. If you are not able to send anything by mail, please consider holding this person(s) in your daily prayers.

This month, we will write to the one who celebrates a May birthday, a birthday celebration which she shares with her younger brother.

Leann Sheets Birthday: May 9
Hartwick College #35
P.O. Box 4021
Oneonta, NY 13820

COMMITTEE

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Each month, *Our Light* will feature the work of one of the many committees/teams in the three congregations. This month, we hear from the **East Middlebury Methodist Women.**

For the year 2009, the following donations were made by East Middlebury Methodist Women:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Family Emergency Shelter: | \$200 |
| Ann Rowell - gift for Joyce Sargent: | 50 |
| Gwen Atkinson – In memory of Becky Piper’s sister: | 25 |
| Trinity Methodist Church – donation to gift for Bob Lowenthal’s retirement: | 100 |
| Community Lunch Program: | 200 |
| MiddSummer Lunch Program: | 100 |
| Addison County Animal Shelter – donation in memory of Charles Graham: | 25 |
| Christmas Gifts for Jill, Joyce, Terry, Rene: | <u>375</u> |
| Sub total: | \$1,075.00 |

Other purchases made by the Women’s Group

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Cokesbury – 2 new signs for church yard: | \$241.49 |
| Sarah Wakefield – reimburse for flowers: | 15.33 |
| Battell Hose – fire extinguisher: | 49.95 |
| Irene Piper – reimburse for supplies, groceries for flea market, dry cleaning: | 110.62 |
| Irene Piper – reimburse for vacuum: | 50.00 |
| Hannaford’s – food for picnic | 35.12 |
| Betty Davis – reimburse for hats for doors: | 15.16 |
| Betty Davis – supplies: | 5.78 |
| Paris Farmers – 2 Christmas wreaths: | <u>20.38</u> |
| Sub total: | \$543.83 |

Total paid out: \$1,618.80

Community Lunch Update

Here is a typical Thursday late morning when I enter the Charter House kitchen. I arrive, throw down my belongings, roll up my sleeves and look in the refrigerator to see what has been left for us to serve that day, what needs to be heated, what needs to be eaten and in which order, if there is bread already thawed out for us, and what I expect to be coming. Lois, who attends the UU and volunteers at the Charter House every Thursday comes downstairs and starts helping me make the sandwiches. Mike and Glenn from Memorial Baptist church come in and I put them to work at making fruit salad or heating soup or some other task. Two young gentlemen from the Latter Day Saints Church stop by to help whenever they can, take their suit jackets off, put on an apron and start making the sandwiches for the to-go packs that are sent to HOPE. Sue, Eileen, Bonnie, Lee, and Amanda have been faithful volunteers from our church this year and show up to help (don't worry, not all at the same time). Mavis and George, who don't attend any church in particular, have been coming consistently and know the ropes almost better than I, take over the set-up, make coffee, and make sure enough beverages are available. And of course overall coordinator Ginny from the Congo Church also comes to make sure we have everything we need and things are running smoothly. If it sounds like a lot of people in that tiny kitchen, it is. Are we always so abundantly blessed with so much help? Not always but grateful when we do. Why do I still ask for volunteers? We always want fresh faces and welcome new people to experience this facet of our community service.

What I like best is the fellowship we have in the kitchen with members from all faiths and walks of life. We work together for a few minutes to a few hours, and have a special time bonding over cutting boards, knives, mayonnaise, or hot soup, and we haven't even started serving the food yet! Not everyone stays for the entire meal but the fact that we have such a wide and varying group makes me always appreciate these gatherings not only for the service it provides to our community but the opportunity for many of us to work together.

That being said, there is always a need for new volunteers to step up to help: provide food (sandwich fixings, soup, fruit, dessert), set-up the eating area, make sandwiches, serve, clean-up. In particular we will need help this summer due to a new format that will be taking on. Each faith community will now be responsible for an entire week at a time for a total of 4-5 weeks scattered throughout the summer. We will plan the menu and provide the food for the entire week and be responsible for set-up, clean-up and all the other plans and preparations that go with it. At the moment the weeks that we are responsible for are:

June 7 – 10

July 5 – 8

July 26 – 29

August 24 – 27

We are fortunate to have the partnership with Memorial Baptist Church. A precise schedule and plan for division of labor is to be determined but we look forward to working together with them, as well as the many other helpers that have stopped by to help, from all faiths and walks in life. Is your family interested in signing up for a day (we probably only need about 2 volunteers on a given day)? Youth group project? If you are interested in helping out next month (Thursday, May 13th) or any of the weeks listed above, contact me, 388.6541/mayandrik@yahoo.com. I look forward to working with everyone in the future.

May Poduschnick

Our Work in Haiti Continues

Several members of our congregation have either asked what more you can be doing to help the people of Haiti recover from the January earthquake and resulting devastation, or when you can go on a volunteers-in-mission trip to Haiti to offer help in person. For an update on what the general church is doing to organize and administer aid, please visit <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3>. (You may also call the church office at 388-2510 to request a hard copy.)

If you are hoping to contribute something other than funding, UMCOR is now in need of birthing and layette kits. See Rev. Jill for details on how to assemble either of these kits. If you are interested in a future mission trip, Rev. Jill will put you in contact with the northeast jurisdictional coordinator for UM volunteers-in-mission trips, Greg Forrester. Some of you will recognize his name from the recent Mission Fair in Rutland at which he was the featured speaker. Please continue to hold the people of Haiti in your daily prayers.

News from East Middlebury

The results from the sale of the flower bulbs is in: \$111. We plan to sell bulbs again in the fall, so if you'll be in the market then, please consider purchasing from us! Also, the final tally on the soup and bake sale was \$795. Thanks to all who furnished goodies and came to buy. The women's group funded partial tuition for three campers and also made a donation to the Middlebury Summer Lunch & Receptions Program. Thursday, April 22, the Women's Group served 40 lunches at the Charter house and we will resume participation in Sept.

The children will celebrate their graduation on May 9th. It will take place during children's time: the children will be marching as Terry plays "Jesus Loves the Little Children." They will also recite the Lord's Prayer. Sandy and Irene will be talking about what they have accomplished this year and the children will have a minute (or so) to say what they have learned—we know that some children will take a bit longer with this than others... Parents and grandparents are encouraged to sit close to the front and to take pictures as the children march in and receive their diplomas. After church the children will be giving flowers to all mothers and grandmothers in the church.

We're thinking about beginning to take some group walks this summer. People interested in meeting at the EMUMC to walk during the summer are encouraged to talk to Nicole Chance about time/day preferences.

East Middlebury UMC will host another afternoon of board games on Sunday, May 23, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Please bring a snack or beverage to share and come ready to play. Hope to see you there!

Lifting High the Flags of Hope!

The following letter was received from Jeremias Franca thanking those who are in a "Covenant Relationship" with him to support him as a United Methodist Missionary. He serves as Chief Executive Manager of both the Chicupe Rural Hospital and the new Center of Hope which specializes in prevention medicine, especially HIV Aids, anti-malaria programs, clinical psychology, etc. The letter was featured in The Mozambique UMC Health Services Newsletter and came on April 9th – just in time for the new Vermont District Mission Fair in Rutland on April 10th. Anyone interested in helping in this support may contact Lee or Bonnie Totten Adkins.

*I would like to take this moment and thank all our friends for a great partnership we have had, particularly last year. Because of your prayer support, material, and all sorts of gifts I was blessed with, I was able to stay focused in my mission and continue to look for better ways to coordinate the work at the Hospital and to find innovative approaches in reaching out to the communities for health education. I have enjoyed receiving birthday cards and I thank all those who individually and collectively sent them to me. **OBRIGADO** or thank you!*

My missionary work gave me some opportunities for advancement in some areas of life and work. For my personal spiritual growth, I continued to receive blessings at work with our local church and serving in a variety of ways whenever possible.

My ministry with the local youth is more spiritually enriching to me than I thought it would be to them. I have enjoyed being their counselor and to take an active role in their development. The development of our health choir was one of the greatest moments we had as we brought together Christians of different denominations to sing together. In the history of our Annual Conference, it was the first time that a health choir led the worship services on the last day of the Conference Session. We look forward to doing it again, God willing.

The international financial crisis affected the flow of dollar support to our mission on both the government and church channels, making it very depressing to run the Healthcare Services under those circumstances. Nevertheless, I do feel that I have been given a very high opportunity and responsibility to stand for the health mission of the church in Mozambique. In the capacity of Chief Executive Manager, I have continued to pave the road for good working relationships between the Government, the Church, and all partners. We continue to bring up projects and services that respond to the AIDS epidemic, malaria, general health education and the development of new staff for our services.

*As we struggle to bring hope in our communities through educational programs, better interaction between communities and health facilities, I do recognize that our communication with partners has been feeble. It is our commitment to improve, and improve very highly our communication at all levels of partnerships, and assure that all our partners are receiving our newsletters and reports. **That is a high priority for us and we will do it.** We do request to all our advance special and project supporters to send us the email contact so we can speed up the sending of reports. But, regardless of all the difficulties and gaps here and there, our services are making the difference, and we owe our gratitude to you.*

I thank all the partners with whom I have covenant relationships, the advance special supporters for both the Center of Hope and Chicupe Rural Hospital, individual friends and all. With all of us together in mission, we can continue to lift, very high, the flags of hope for the people you help me to serve.

*May God Bless.
Jeremias Franca*

Middlebury UMW Rummage and Bake Sale – May 14-15

Friday, May 14: 9:00 -5:00; Bake Sale 9:00-1:00

Saturday, May 15: Bag Day 9:00-Noon

- * We need helpers to set up tables after church on May 9th. Items may be left at the church in the mornings, call Joyce to open the downstairs door. Also, Mimi has a key and can let you in most anytime; call her at 388-6016.
- * Bakers can leave items at the church Thursday, May 14, during choir practice or before 9:00 am on the 14th.
- * Call Mimi or she will call you about helping during the set up week or on the sale days.

Supper Groups

If you are interested in starting, hosting, and/or joining a supper group made up of people from the congregation, contact Marilyn Delaney at 462-2436. The sign up sheet in Middlebury is filling up. Suppers have already begun, including a supper group specifically for families with children. Watch for weekly updates in the bulletins and email announcements.

Endowment Fund Helps 2010 Expenses

The Church Endowment Fund is composed of two Funds: one general church (\$33,000) and the other Mozambique Mission (\$10,000). For the year 2009 the church endowment paid 3% to assist our local budget and our commitment to support Jeremias Franca, hospital administrator in Chicuque, Mozambique for his salary support. The dividend, which does not affect the basic principle of the funds sent \$886.42 toward our budget expenses for 2010 and \$292.48 for missionary support.

Contributions to these two funds can be given at any time from any person interested in the church and its mission. Designate a gift in the normal Sunday offering or phone Lee Adkins (352-4526). Persons may to donate stock which gives the church both the original purchase and all appreciated income.

Wanted: Adult Volunteers ... space explorers to join a cosmic adventure praising God! Vacation Bible School: August 2- 8, 2010!

Would you like to spend a whole week on the starship Galactic Praise traveling through the wonders of space and exploring God's incredible creation? This cosmic mission comes complete with out-of-this-world adventures, exciting challenges, great music, and hours of FUN!

Sign up for a Vacation Bible School leadership role and join the galactic praise team for Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!

We are still looking for the following roles to be filled:

- ◆ Mission Commander ... enjoys "acting" and has a sense of humor ... you will be a part of the opening and closing assembly with Galileo the Gorilla
- ◆ Discovery Time Leader ... enjoys science and discovery activities and explaining concepts to children
- ◆ Mission Pilots ... enjoys spending time with children as they participate in a variety of activities and enjoys motivating kids to do their best. (We will need 2-3 Mission Pilots.)
- ◆ Drama Characters ... enjoys "acting", performing and storytelling; shows enthusiasm and a love for bringing the Bible alive (We need 4 people to help with the bible story telling through drama.)

We also need people willing to help furnish a light supper each night. Please get in touch with Carmen Jochum at 759-2471 or cjochum@madriver.net if you are interested and willing to help in any of these areas. We cannot make Vacation Bible School happen for our children without you! Thank you!

Peace with Justice Sunday - May 30, 2010

Established by the 1988 General Conference, Peace with Justice Sunday supports programs that advocate peace and justice at home and around the world. Since half of the offerings collected by your annual conference is retained to fund local Peace with Justice programs, you can see a difference made locally. In addition, half of the offering is remitted to the General Board of Church and Society to help fund U.S. and global work in social action, public-policy education and advocacy. Here is but one story.....

Ever since attending camp at the Peace Center of United University Church in Los Angeles, Jessica has been better at handling tough situations. Instead of breaking down when someone hurts her feelings, the shy 12-year-old now knows how to stand up for herself and others. Jessica is a graduate of Peace Kids, a unique program funded in part by the Peace with Justice Sunday offering.

"Camp has been very important to me because now I know how to help other people and act like Jesus," Jessica shared. "I tell my friends to be kind to each other, to teachers and to the Earth because we all should be peacemakers."

Peace Camp director Susan Stouffer requested a Peace with Justice grant so no child who wants to attend the inner-city camp will be turned away.

"Peace is possible, even though often our society says peace is just pie in the sky," she said.

In today's economy, your contributions are needed more than ever so The United Methodist Church can help Jessica and others like her to learn conflict resolution, communication skills and mediation. They are the next generation to advocate for peace with justice.

To get involved, you can contact the Peace with Justice Coordinator in your annual conference, as mandated by the 2004 Book of Discipline. Additionally, you can give online to Peace with Justice Sunday at any time. Together, we can work together for a faithful and loving world for all and bring hope for our future.

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

Another Primetimer Blessing!

For our readers who did not hear the story, we are including below an email message to our Primetimers team which had just been on the Texas/Mexican border. The message is from Willie Berman, a Mexican pastor and United Methodist missionary residing in Reynosa, Mexico, who was one of our leaders. It tells what happened when we were not able to keep our commitment to serve dinner in Reynosa because of a shooting there that morning.

The cooking team from La Trinidad Methodist Church prepared the food for the immigrants center "Senda de Vida" (Path of life) ministry. They felt overwhelmed by the experience of serving the meal for about 100 people who were very patient and thankful to receive it. Now they want to continue this experience by going on their own once a month to serve dinner at this place. They are excited about and are thinking how they are going to get the money for this. They are thinking about inviting the congregation to skip a nice meal on a Sunday (family Sunday tradition) and offer the money for this purpose.... great!

The funds that were given for this project were used to buy chicken, rice and beans for the 100 people served. Even though we were unable to get to this ministry to serve, we can see what came out of the project funds provided. The ministry will now grow, and continue! The church that was to partner with us had never been to see that ministry. They now have been touched because of the service that was provided. Thank you, Primetimers and THANK YOU, GOD!

Thank you again, all who contributed!

Lee and Bonnie Totten Adkins Bonnie, members of "Justice on the Border Primetimers" in February



We include the following in our prayers:

Betty Austin
 Marion Barnett
 Betty Hampel
 Madeline Cone
 Doris Senecal
 Cora Dragon
 Della Fenn
 Larry Lawson
 Walt Peck
 Mona Austin

Paul Steele
 Anne Cluss
 Eileen Bodette
 Barbara Wheelock
 Mary Jo Richards
 Marge Covey
 Ann Rowell
 Marg Wesley
 Kevin Parizo

Sue and Tom Colley's friend, Al
 Carmen Jochum's mother, Pam
 Sherry Klinck's mother, Marjorie
 Gus and Laurie Jordan's friend, Crystal
 Terry DeYoung's sister-in-law, Susan
 Sandy Hayes' daughter, Kim
 Mildred Stockwell
 Willie Glen's sister, Betty
 All who are stationed overseas



Bible Readings *for the Month*

May 2 Psalm 148; Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
 May 9 Psalm 67; Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29
 May 16 Psalm 97; Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
 May 23 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, (25-27)
 May 30 Psalm 8; Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

CELEBRATIONS !!

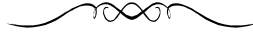
- ◆ Congratulations to Beverly and Louis Megyesi who celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 23!
- ◆ We rejoice in the birth of Evan John Gillett. Evan was born April 15, weighing in at 9 lbs. 4.5 oz. Congratulations to the Gillett and Brown (Margot and Jack) families on the arrival of this bundle of joy.
- ◆ Thank you to all who contributed food or money to the local food shelves during March and early April. Our combined efforts totaled over 800 pounds of food or money toward food. This is an extraordinarily important ministry. On behalf of those who depend upon the food shelves to feed themselves and their families, thank you.
- ◆ Middlebury Trustees voted to replace all the heavy wooden tables with new light-weight tables. Thanks go to Kris Anderson for driving to NH for best pricing, Jim Coons and the use of his truck, and Don and Eileen Rinker for moving out all the heavy tables.

THANKS for One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

A big vote of THANKS to all who gave generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) recently. This offering provides not only all the funds to manage UMCOR but also enables it to respond immediately to disasters in the USA and all around the world such as the earthquake in China and the tornadoes in Mississippi. Your offering of \$643, over 50% more than last year, met our challenge!

May Calendar

Sundays **East Middlebury Adult Choir Rehearsal**, 8:30 a.m., E. Middlebury UMC
Family Worship, 9:00 a.m., E. Middlebury UMC
PreK and Elementary Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., E. Middlebury UMC (*through May 9*)
Adult Christian Education, 10:00 a.m., Middlebury UMC
Family Worship, 10:45 a.m., Middlebury UMC
K-6th Grade Sunday School, 11:15 a.m., Middlebury UMC

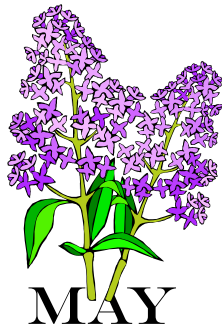


Sun. 2 **Family Worship and Communion**, 9:00 a.m., E. Middlebury UMC
Family Worship and Communion, 10:45 a.m., Middlebury UMC
Wed. 5 **East Middlebury Women's Group**, 7:00 p.m., Jean Peck's Home
Fri. 7 **May Friendship Day**
Sat. 8 **Vermont District Meeting**, 9:00 a.m., Northfield, VT
Sun. 9 **Second Sunday ministry** (see article on page 2)
Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home
East Middlebury Sunday School Graduation
Tues. 11 **Helen Porter Ministry**, 11:00 a.m., Activities Room
Project Independence Ministry, 1:00 p.m., Elderly Services
Middlebury Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Middlebury UMC
Thurs. 13 **Ascension of the Lord**
Fri. 14 **Middlebury Rummage and Bake Sale**, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Middlebury UMC
Grief Group, 11:30 a.m., Sue Flanagan's Home
Sat. 15 **Middlebury Rummage Sale - Bag Day**, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Middlebury UMC
Mon. 17 **Middlebury United Methodist Women**, 2:00 p.m., Middlebury UMC
Fri-Sat 21-22 **Final Troy Annual Conference**, New York
Sun. 23 **Pentecost/Heritage Sunday**
Middlebury Block Party, 12:00 p.m., Middlebury UMC
Hilda Billings' 90th Birthday Party, 12:00-3:00 p.m., Ripton Church
East Middlebury Game Day, 3:00p.m.—5:00 p.m., E. Middlebury UMC
Mon. 24 **Aldersgate Day**
Tues. 25 **Middlebury Finance Team**, 5:45 p.m., Middlebury UMC
Middlebury Administrative Council, 7:00 p.m., Middlebury UMC
Wed. 26 **Newsletter Deadline** for June newsletter; no newsletters in July or August
Thurs. 27 **Middlebury Mission/Outreach**, 7:00 p.m., Middlebury UMC
Fri. 28 **Grief Group**, 11:30 a.m., Sue Flanagan's Home
Sun. 30 **Peace with Justice Sunday/Trinity Sunday**
All-You-Can-Eat FREE Pancake Supper, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Middlebury UMC
No pancake suppers in June, July, or August
Mon. 31 **Memorial Day**

Announcement for and Invitation to Hilda Billings 90th Birthday Party

Hilda Barnard Billings was born May 23rd, 1920 in the Chipman Inn in Ripton. When she was about 6 or 7 her family moved to Middlebury across from the old red school house on Route 7 that she attended. She married another Ripton native, Malcolm W. Billings, in 1938. Several years later they made Ripton their permanent home and raised a family of four in the former Perry Campbell, Sr. house, where Hilda served the community for many years as postmaster. Hilda rightfully claims the privilege of having lived in Ripton longer than any other resident. Hilda's longevity and youthful spirit will be celebrated on May 23rd, 2010 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at the Ripton Community House. Her church friends and Ripton neighbors are invited to attend this festivity. Some of the food will be provided, but some potluck items would be appreciated. Elizabeth Walker (388-1634) is coordinating the food. The party may spill over into the church if more elbow room is required.

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



Our Light,

the parish newsletter of the
Middlebury, East Middlebury, Ripton
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