

# Our Light

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

[www.middleburyumc.org](http://www.middleburyumc.org)

**The United Methodist Parish Newsletter**  
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury

November 2011

*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.*

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## From the Pastor

I think that Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays. I love that it is so much more relaxed than Christmas, which seems to be so hectic and busy. I love that families get together and share traditional dishes around the table together. I love the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the Rockettes dancing, and the gigantic balloons, and Santa arriving in his sleigh. And I love all the football games on TV.

Mostly what I love about Thanksgiving is that it makes us stop for at least a few minutes and think about the things that we have to be thankful for. I'm not so sure that once a year is often enough for this practice, but it does call our attention to giving thanks in a powerful way.

I have a lot I am thankful for this year: for being appointed to Middlebury to serve as your pastor in these two wonderful congregations; for the ways in which you have made me feel welcome; for the beautiful mountains all around, especially now with the fall colors making them so impressive; for the sounds of the children on Sunday morning, reminding us that our hope is in the next generations; for the taste of cider and hot chocolate and pumpkin spice donuts; for the smell of the falling leaves on the ground; for music that uplifts my heart and soul on Sunday morning; for our youth group that has done such good things and has such a heart for helping others; for willing volunteers that make fundraisers successful; for prayers prayed and answered; for a wonderful visit with my father last month; for friends who love me, no matter what; for dogs who love me, no matter what; and for a God who loves me, no matter what.

What makes you grateful this year? What can you thank God for? Think about it when you are gathered around the table, and remember to say it out loud.

Peace,  
Pastor Elisabeth

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## **Spirituality Group - November 1st and 15th**

The Spirituality Group will meet at the church or the parsonage on Tuesday November 1st and Tuesday November 15th. We will continue to have a discussion of Elisabeth's Bible passages and sermon from the Sunday before each meeting. During December we will have only one meeting. It will be held on December 6th with a Holiday lunch / brunch at Beverly Megyesi's .

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### **All Saints' Sunday – November 6**

All Saints, which is celebrated on November 1 or the first Sunday in November, is a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place. We celebrate the communion of saints as we remember the dead, both of the Church universal and of our local congregations. For this reason, the names of church members who have died during the past year will be read during Communion, and members will be invited to name those outside the congregation if they wish. As has been done in the past, you are invited to bring flowers on stems to honor your loved ones. These will be placed in vases on the altar to create a bouquet.

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### **Bible Sunday – November 13**

This is the Sunday for celebrating the Bible as the Word of God. You are invited to bring a Bible that is special to you – the one you use the most, a family Bible, a parent's Bible – and place it on the altar. We will have a blessing of the Bibles during worship. This is a special year for celebrating, as it is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible.

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### **Thanksgiving Sunday – November 20**

The Worship Committee is sponsoring a special food drive for Thanksgiving. We would like donations of food that is typical of Thanksgiving dinner (potatoes, squash, stuffing mix, peas, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling, etc). We would like to arrange the food on the altar area, so if you could please have it to the church by Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> we would appreciate it. We will be making arrangements to deliver the food to HOPE. We are going to check with them to see if there are any specific needs, and will pass them along if so. You may also donate money to go to HOPE.

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### **Community Thanksgiving Service – Tuesday, November 22**

The Middlebury Area Clergy Association is sponsoring a community Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM. It will be held at the Middlebury United Methodist Church. This will be an interfaith service of gratitude and we hope it will involve many in our area.



## Middlebury UMW

October was a very busy month for UMW. Our rummage and bake sale on October 21st and 22nd was a huge success. The bake sale cleared \$186.00, and the rummage sale close to \$2500. There was so much donated this year that, after a quick emergency meeting of the UMW, it was decided to carry on the Rummage Sale the next weekend of October 28th and 29th. The times are 9-5 Friday and 9-noon Saturday.

We were the receivers of many top notch items from the estate of Phyllis Richardson. These items added a great deal to the total sale. In memory of Phyllis and to honor her gifts, we are going to make a generous gift to the church heating costs. Phyllis was most unhappy when we had to meet in the fellowship hall to cut down heating costs.

We also made a donation to the CVOEO food pantry in Marion Barnett's memory in the amount of \$101.00 - the age she would have been this October 31st. She told her family that CVOEO was where she wanted donations to be made in her memory.

We will have our November meeting at the church on November 14th - a week early as not to be too close to Thanksgiving. At that meeting Marg Wesley will conduct a service for the United Thank Offering. Remember to bring your contributions to the meeting.

There will only be one meeting in December. We will meet on Thursday December 15th to pack tins of cookies and fruit for our church shut-ins. So, when you are baking cookies for the holidays it would be nice to make extras for this mission of cheer.

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## Methodist Men's Club

At the October meeting the men decided that there were too many men to meet at Steve's Diner and that the church should be the best place for future meetings. It will be on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at the church and Pastor Elisabeth will be the speaker. Tom Colley and Scott Needham will be preparing the breakfast.

The Men further decided that on Sunday evening, November 20<sup>th</sup> they would sponsor a pancake supper at the church beginning at 5:30 for the church and members of the community. The proceeds would benefit the yearly church budget. They further are volunteering to help the Outreach Committee by assisting in staffing the annual Christmas tree sale. They decided to join the national United Methodist Men.

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## ***"Our Light" Publisher STILL Needed***

Interested in desktop publishing? Do you like graphic designing? Are you 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 any computer program that you are familiar with. Current time commitment is less than 4 hours once per month. If interested, please contact Pastor Elisabeth.

## **Community Discussion of Health Care in Vermont—November 5**

A Community Discussion of Health Care for Vermonters will be held at 4:00 PM on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the Ripton Community Church. Vermont's new Health Care Reform Law (Act 48), which Governor Shumlin signed on May 26, 2011, creates a blueprint for the nation's first single-payer system. A diversified group of panelists, all with firsthand knowledge of the current health care system, will describe how these laws will reform and improve health care for Vermonters.

The panel will also discuss the challenges that remain before universal health care becomes a reality. Panel members include Dr. Deborah Richter, past president of Physicians for a National Health Program and co-chairwoman of Vermont Health Care for All, Mike Fisher, incoming chair of the Health Care Committee in the Vermont House, Claire Ayer, chairwoman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, Steve Kimball, Commissioner of Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration, and Bram Kleppner, CEO of Danforth Pewters. Ripton resident, Vermont Representative and House Assistant Majority Leader Willem Jewett will make some introductory and concluding remarks. This forum is sponsored by Ripton Community Church's Concert and Lecture Series and by Vermont Health Care for All. For more information, please contact Charles Billings at 388-1634.

## **Gary Margolis Slide Presentation—November 12**

On Saturday, November 12 at 4PM, the Ripton Community Church Arts and Lecture Series will host a slide presentation and talk by Gary Margolis titled:

### ***“Seeing the Songs: A Poet’s Journey to the Shamans in Ecuador’s High Andes and Rainforest”.***

Gary Margolis Ph.D, a Middlebury graduate, is Emeritus Executive Director of College Mental Health Services and Associate Professor of English and American Literatures (part-time) at Middlebury College. He was a Robert Frost and Arthur Vining Davis Fellow and has taught at the University of Tennessee, Vermont and Bread Loaf Writers' Conferences. His third book, "Fire in the Orchard" was nominated for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. His poem, "The Interview" was featured on National Public Radio's "The Story" and Boston's ABC Channel 5 interviewed him on the Middlebury campus reading his poem, "Winning the Lunar Eclipse", after the 2004 World Series.

Gary was awarded the first Sam Dietzel Award for Mental Health Practice in Vermont by the Clinical Psychology Department of Saint Michaels' College. His clinical articles have appeared in the Journal of American College Health Association, Adolescence, the Ladies Home Journal, Runner's World Magazine and he has been interviewed on his work with college students by Time Magazine, ABC and CBS News.

His new book of poems, "Below the Falls" is a book that responds to the loss of Middlebury student Nicholas Garza, our country's wars, and the search for things that sustain us. "Seeing the Songs": A Poet's Journey to the Shamans in Ecuador" is forthcoming from Green Frigate Press.

Please join us for this fascinating and informative presentation. Refreshments following. All are welcome.

## Worship in November

Wed. Nov 2	“It’s About Forgiveness” John 8:1-11
Sun. Nov 6	All Saints’ Sunday/Communion; “I Can Only Imagine” Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10,22; 1 John 3:1-3
Wed. Nov 9	“The Power of Prayer” Mark 9:14-29
Sun. Nov 13	Bible Sunday; “The Word of God” 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Psalm 119:97-105; Matthew 5:17-20
Wed. Nov 16	“When Life Weighs You Down” Luke 13:10-17
Sun. Nov 20	Thanksgiving Sunday; “Where Are the Other Nine?” Luke 17:11-19; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Tue. Nov 22	Community Thanksgiving Service at Middlebury UMC
Sun. Nov 27	First Sunday of Advent; “The Song of Mary” Luke 1:39-55; Psalm 80; Isaiah 64:1-9

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## Saints Alive! Giving Generously

- ◆ Who taught you about being generous?
- ◆ What have you taught others about being generous?
- ◆ When have you received a generous gift from another?
- ◆ Where have you seen God’s abundance in your home, in your congregation, and in your community?

This year’s stewardship commitment theme is based on 1 Corinthians 16:1-4: “Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take with your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.”

You will soon be receiving a letter with a pledge card enclosed. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the church for 2012. We would like to be able to do more for the members of our congregation and community, but it all depends on our ability to be generous givers. In this difficult financial time, people are anxious and do not necessarily have the same ability to share as they have in the past. But this also means that the needs around us are greater.

We will hear from members of the congregation in both churches about what stewardship and giving generously mean to them. And on November 20, Thanksgiving Sunday, we ask that you return your pledge cards to be placed on the altar during worship. God will bless our gifts and multiply them for God’s purpose.

## News from the Finance Committee

I never thought that I'd say this out loud, to say nothing of "in print", but I am feeling revitalized and optimistic about our church life and service in the year to come - 2012. It is the season of Thanksgiving for all our blessings. I consider my "church life" within an active, caring community of faithful folks, to be one of the biggest blessings of all.

There are so many special things going on in our church. We share with others in need. We work within AND outside our church walls, being the hands and voice of Jesus. When I asked in an early summer newsletter for your faithful stewardship to help keep up with our expenses, especially during the summer months, you responded generously. Thank you so much!

We were able to catch up, in part, by being able to pay \$3,000 toward our Mission Shares to New England Conference. I feel that was stewardship of the highest order - from your hearts. I have a sense of joy, as I feel everyone's interest in our church moving on to fulfill God's mission - in our church, community, and far beyond - maybe as far as heaven! Pastor Elisabeth is working hard with the youth group and they had a very successful spaghetti supper and silent auction, raising a significant amount of money for the Vermont Flood Recovery Program. Many thanks to all youth and adults who cooked, and/or donated services and goods to the auction. ( I, personally, am really looking forward to a homemade pumpkin pie that I "purchased" in November.) This event brought out many of our church families and it was A LOT of FUN. (Just ask Norma Duclos and Donna Doty!)

With the season of Thanksgiving comes the season of Stewardship. I feel that season started last summer with your response to my "summer help" reminder, our new programs (Contemporary Worship / Wednesday evenings), and events (the above mentioned youth group supper and auction), and many new things that are fulfilling some important things on our spiritual wish lists. The annual stewardship campaign is soon to arrive, with the actual day of dedication set for Thanksgiving Sunday.

It is NOT all about the money, as important as that is to support our ministry in this place. It's about relationships, working together and our lives together to serve in God's world and among God's people. What an opportunity and blessing to be able to do that with our ministry of time, talents, gifts and OUR DREAMS!

Please DREAM about how you might participate fully in all the areas of our church. The stewardship campaign theme for this year is "SAINTS ALIVE! LIVING GENEROUSLY!" and I truly feel that is who we are as a church family!

Blessings,  
Margaret Klohek  
Finance Chairperson



## November Calendar

Wed, Nov 2	5:00 PM Walk Fit 7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
Thurs, Nov 3	7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
Mon, Nov 7	6:00 PM Middlebury Finance Committee 7:00 PM Middlebury Administrative Council
Tues, Nov 8	11:00 AM Service at Helen Porter Rehab 1:00 PM Service at Project Independence 6:30 PM Middlebury Trustees
Wed, Nov 9	5:00 PM Walk Fit 7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
Thurs, Nov 10	7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Nov 11	Veterans Day
Mon, Nov 14	2:00 PM Middlebury UMW at the Parsonage 6:30 PM PPRC
Tues, Nov 15	10:30 AM Community Lunch
Wed, Nov 16	10:30 AM Community Lunch 5:00 PM Walk Fit 7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
Thurs, Nov 17	7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
Sun, Nov 20	Pledge Sunday 1:00 PM Coat Collection at East Middlebury
Tues, Nov 22	7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service at Middlebury UMC
Thurs, Nov 24	Thanksgiving Day
Wed, Nov 30	5:00 PM Walk Fit 7:00 PM Contemporary Worship

The United Methodist Church  
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## NOVEMBER

*Please remember that November 6th marks the conclusion of Daylight Saving Time  
so you will need fall back one hour and reset your clocks.*



### ***Our Light,***

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