



Our Light

www.umcmiddlebury.org

The MIDDLEBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Newsletter

**AUTUMN
2015**

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

COME ONE, COME ALL !!!

We would like to invite you to join us for a fun filled weekend, starting with a **POTLUCK DINNER AND FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**. We will share a meal together, in the MUMC Fellowship Hall from 5:30 – 6:00 pm, followed by the PG family friendly movie, *God Gave Me Wings*. (PG due to some language.) The movie description reads as follows: “Alex Taylor knows that his dream of running for his high school track team is not only unrealistic, but out of his reach. Blind since the age of two, Alex is determined to beat the odds and prays for a running partner to help him cross the finish line. However, help comes from an unlikely source, when a schoolmate with a troubled past offers to help him race. The boys begin working together in the hopes of making the team, and believe that with a little faith, anything is possible.”

On **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, JOIN US FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL HOMECOMING SUNDAY**. We will begin our morning at 10:45 am. in the Fellowship Hall, as has become our tradition, sharing announcements, prayer concerns and celebrations; then moving into the sanctuary for our worship service at 11:00 am. There will be time to chat with old friends or make new ones after the service, as well as refreshments to share.

We would also invite you to come back for the **MEN’S CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm**. There is a suggested donation.

We hope that you can join us for any or all of our Homecoming Weekend events. Whether you return for just a day or stay for a while, we would be delighted to see you again.

Peace and Blessings from Don Jochum (Lay Leader and Chair of the Coordinating Committee on behalf of the MUMC)

WHO DOES WHAT AT MIDDLEBURY UMC?

On May 21, 2013 the Middlebury Church Administrative Council recommended to the Middlebury Church a new committee structure (listed below). The Council also recommended that we hold an all-Church meeting on a quarterly basis to ensure wide participation in our ministries.

The recommended organizational structure is still in place today. Here it is:

1. There shall be a Coordinating Committee

Membership - Coordinating Pastor, 4 Area Coordinators from below, Lay Leader
Lay Leader serves as chair of this committee (Don Jochum)

This committee assumes the duties of SPRC, Administrative Council, and Nominations

2. There shall be four major areas of ministry, as defined below.

WORSHIP AREA

Coordinator: [Sue Leggett](#)

- _Coordinating Pastor: Jill
- _Sunday morning
- _Communion
- _Bulletins
- _Altar
- _Weddings
- _Funerals
- _Music ministries

OUTREACH AREA

Coordinator: [Tom Colley](#)

- _Coordinating Pastor: Jill
- _Neighborhood programs
- _Connectional ministries

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AREA

Coordinator: [Carmen Jochum](#)

- _Coordinating Pastor: Jill
- _Visitation, illness, emergency
- _Communication
- _Newsletter
- _Website
- _Fellowship events
- _Education
- _Spiritual formation
- _UMW / UMM

RESOURCES AREA

Coordinator: [Julie Coons](#)

- _Coordinating Pastor: Jill
- _Trustees, parsonage, buildings and grounds
- _Finance / Treasurer / Daily Operations

The five people who are listed as members of the Coordinating Committee originally made a two-year commitment to this important work. (Jill assumed membership after Gus and Laurie concluded their coordinating work in April.) They have each extended their commitment into the third year. The number on this committee is intentionally limited for the sake of efficiency and focus.

There are many others who have been serving in one of these ministry areas for the last two years, and many years before the last two. This portion of the committee structure is intentionally broad so that as many people who feel called to meaningfully contribute to the greater ministry of the congregation can do so.

If you would like to participate in one of these ministry areas and have not yet done so, please contact Jill C. Robinson, Gus Jordan, or Joyce Sargent—those who are helping with

nominations. If you have any feedback for the Coordinating Committee members regarding their extending their work for a third year, contact Jill, Gus, or Joyce as well.

We all give thanks to God for the important work that is being done by the Coordinating Committee and all those who serve Christ through the church..

PRAYER CONCERNS

Betty H with ongoing health issues

Pauline O who is recovering from hip surgery

Connie W with ongoing health issues, and Leonard who is taking care of her

Gerry & Shelby D who have been unable to get to church

Jim & Janet H who have been unable to get to church due to health issues

Bob W, a resident of Helen Porter

Clay W, our friend

Students at Middlebury College

Willie G's mother and the family who is helping to take of her

Pat L in a time of illness, and Richard who is helping to take care of her

Linn L's brother, Eric

Marg and John W

Bud C who has not been able to get to church

Gus J who is recovering from surgery

Tom C's father in a time of declining health

All who are living with and being treated for cancer

Joanie and Art H

Joann D with ongoing health issues

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 6

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
- Psalm 125/124
- James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17
- Mark 7:24-37

SEPTEMBER 13

- Proverbs 1:20-33
- Psalm 19
- James 3:1-12
- Mark 8:27-38

SEPTEMBER 20

- Proverbs 31:10-31
- Psalm 1
- James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
- Mark 9:30-37

SEPTEMBER 27

- Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
- Psalm 124
- James 5:13-20
- Mark 9:38-50

Middlebury United Methodist Church
QUARTERLY ALL CHURCH MEETING
July 12, 2015

Don Jochum called the meeting to order.

George Klohck shared his reflections on Annual Conference, as follows: We are not alone. We are part of something big, and in many ways diverse. For example, George spoke with a pastor from Russia and Estonia. About 600 people attend Conference, half clergy and half laity. Some congregations are very urban, some very rural; some are very ethnic in composition. We all face different challenges as we try to live out our faith. Twelve people were received as ministers; two more as ordained elders. One wonderful reminder from Conference is that the Methodist faith is based on the Bible, tradition, reason and experience.

Margaret Klohck shared the Bishop's letter re-appointing Jill as our pastor; our appreciation was expressed with applause. Covenant Hills camp cannot be maintained and is being closed after this season. General Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon for two weeks in May 2016. Some large issues will be up for discussion. Jurisdictional Conference is being held this month in Lancaster, PA. Margaret shared the highlights of Bishop Devadhar's letter (copy attached to minutes).

Julie Coons handed out a financial report with figures through July 5, 2015 (52% of the way through the year). Revenue is at 56% of budget, and expenses are at 50%, with a surplus of \$12,420 at this time.

Don Jochum reminded the group of our church-wide conversations from last fall. As a result of our discussions, our initial focus has been on pastoral coverage. We deferred the discussion about the parsonage until now. There was applause for the Coordinating Committee for its work over the past two years. Trustee Tom Colley presented some facts [included in these minutes] about parsonage expenses paid from the general budget. He will research Town records about the church and parsonage lots. Tom also shared what the District representative (Kirk Thomas) provided, including an example of another Vermont congregation that sold its parsonage. Don Rinker (Trustees' Treasurer) reported additional parsonage expenses from the Trustees' account as follows _____ Thanks was expressed to the Ponders, who have been doing various repairs while staying temporarily in the parsonage.

Jill offered to speak with Town officials about future planning and the best use of this property.

Length discussion ensued. The following were among the comments and questions shared.

- If parsonage is sold, I'd like to keep right-of-way at north end of church and extend driveway/ road around the church.
- This can be an emotional discussion.
- Two basic choices: fix up and use it in ministry, or sell it and use the proceeds toward ministry
- Do we know what dollar balance it would take to support this size of a congregation over time [such as an endowment; there is no clear or simple answer to this question.]
- During past capital campaign, 10% was allocated for Outreach/Missions; would like to keep this in mind for proceeds if parsonage is sold
- There is a District Committee on Church Building & Relocation which should be a resource for us. [This is who Tom has been in contact with.]
- It would be important to fix up the nursery in the church.
- Years ago a house next door [on Seminary Street] was falling down; the church tore it down and got in trouble. Consider tearing down the parsonage, sub-divide the lot and keep enough land

for a driveway around the entire church. We should act cautiously. The current parsonage was the home for some fledgling social service organizations in Addison County (Counseling Service, Mary Johnson Children's Center, e.g.).

- Was an appraisal of parsonage done any time recently?
- Yes. We are looking for a copy of the old appraisal.
- Tom C. stated that there are current human services organizations that have approached the church looking for office space. He described the Turning Point program, and reminded the group that AA groups meet here 3 days/week.
- If the church grew and we hired a full-time pastor, should we set aside some of the sale proceeds for a future pastor's housing?
- Route 7 is not a very desirable place to live
- One possibility is to tear the parsonage down. The church property could be much more valuable with additional parking space adjacent.
- We don't have the money it would take to fix up the parsonage. [unofficial guess-timate is at least \$50,000]
- Most United Methodist Churches do not own parsonages now; pastors receive a housing allowance in addition to salary.
- There are many more bi-vocational pastors (not full-time in one church).
- The District Superintendent supports us having this discussion. Any recommendation we have will need approval from the District.
- Would like to see Sunday School space added on, but not in the damp cellar.
- Don't forget that we could possibly build further east (into the current parking lot).
- Have confidence in the Coordinating Committee and allow them to investigate further.
- Amy Ryan, a local realtor, might be willing to come in and give us an appraisal for free.

MOTION: Coordinating Committee is directed to continue considering all options and come back with more information and a recommendation; Trustees will be asked to work with the Coord. Committee, knowing that something has to be done. Approved.

MOTION: That the congregation raise funds to help send George & Margaret Klohck to General Conference next year. Approved.

Appreciation was expressed to Jill for placing the Reconciling Ministries banner outside, just below the church sign.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Julie Coons Recorder

SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The first meeting of The Spirituality Group will be Tuesday September 22nd at 1:30 at Mimi's. We will set our schedule and discuss topics for our study. How about a trip to the Weston Priory? Maybe a Women's Day of Prayer? These are just suggestions .Please come with your ideas. It is time for new energy in our group. Thanks from Mimi

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Financial peace university is a nine-week program designed to teach you and your family how to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and build wealth, based on concepts from the Bible. You'll meet with your class weekly to watch a video lesson and participate in discussions that will change your whole attitude about money!

You'll actually have fun as you learn about saving, budgeting, investing, insurance and more! Join our group of ordinary people who are learning to understand the forces behind our financial distress and how to set things right—financially, emotionally and spiritually. This is the one program that can give you concrete advice, so that over time, you will be able to experience financial peace (two words that don't usually go together)!

Financial Peace classes will take place Mondays, September 21 through November 16, 2015 from 6:30 - 8 pm at the Co-operative Insurance office building at 292 Colonial Drive, Middlebury. Couples and singles are all welcome, along with teenagers whose parents are enrolled. Each family needs a kit, costing \$99; Julie Coons, the class coordinator, has a supply of kits available for purchase. Anyone is welcome to attend as a guest for one lesson. For additional information, please contact Julie at 388.2916 or jbcoons14@comcast.net.

UMW NEWS

It is September already! This summer has gone so fast. I hope that everyone had a relaxing and refreshing summer and is ready to dive into our busy church activities.

Our first UMW meeting will be Monday September 21st. We will meet at 2pm at Mimi's. We will continue to meet thereafter at 2pm every third Monday of the month - same place and same time.

Our FALL RUMMAGE SALE will be October 16th and 17th. You can bring donations to the church anytime from now until the sale. If you need to get into the church during the week please call Mimi (388-6010) to arrange entrance. If you need someone to help you get items to the church please call Joyce Sargent (388-7573). We will need helpers to set up the Monday-Thursday. We also will need workers for Friday and Saturday (Friday from 9-5 and Saturday Bag Day from 9-12). Bags are \$2.50.

There will be a food sale upstairs in the kitchen on Friday from 9-1:00. We will need donations for that.

If you have never helped with the sales, now is the time to start!! Our core of workers is getting small.

Let me know if you are able to help. If I don't hear from you --I will be calling.

Mimi Hardy reporting for UMW

BUD COVEY IN THE NEWS!

Dr. Bud Covey, a faithful member of the Middlebury United Methodist Church for many years, received well-deserved publicity in an article in the Burlington Free Press recently. The article which appeared in the edition for Friday, August 14, is still available to read by googling “medical history Milton Vt.” This article in *Our Light* is excerpted from the Free Press article.

Pioneering medicine was practiced by physicians in Milton, VT, over the last two centuries. Of particular interest is the story of Dr. Luman Holcombe who practiced in Milton from 1894 to 1948. He became world famous for his efforts to save premature babies. Dr. Holcombe held the record for the time of saving a baby 100 days premature, weighing 1 and a half pounds. The Milton Museum has on display one of his homemade incubators that was used May 26, 1899, by Winifred Gifford, who at birth only weighed 2 and a half pounds. Holcombe’s wedding ring could go past her hand and stop only at her shoulder.

Dr. Holcombe also practiced medicine in Milton during one of the worst pandemics in modern times. The influenza of 1918, often called the Spanish flu, killed millions around the world, including more than 600,000 in the U.S. In Vermont 50,000 caught the flu, which killed more than 2,000 people

Dr. Wilton “Bud” Covey assumed Dr. Holcombe’s practice, who had retired in 1948. Dr. Covey served Milton until 1963. In his time in Milton he estimated that he delivered 600 babies, including James Ballard who wrote the article for the Free Press. (Photo: Courtesy Milton Historical Society)

Dr. Wilton Covey (1919-) came to Milton 1948, stayed 15 years, then ended his practice in Milton and entered the field of psychiatry in Addison County. Covey estimated during his tenure in Milton he delivered more than 600 babies including Ballard who delivered two months early, weighing just over three pounds.

Children faced many diseases in the 1950s. Everyone feared especially contracting polio, a disease that could cause permanent paralysis. During the 1950s and 1960s there were several nurses who worked with Milton doctors Maurice Villemaire and Wilton Covey to provide health care.

On May 4, 1954, Dr. Covey, Dr. Villemaire, nurse Viola Russell and the Commissioner of Health Dr. Robert Aiken, met at the Town Clerk’s Office, then located in the Clark Memorial Building on Main Street. At about 9 a.m. 37 elementary students from seven Milton schools districts entered the temporary medical lab to become the first Vermont students to receive the new polio vaccine.

The medical team explained that one week from their first shot, the students would receive another shot, and then after four weeks they would receive their last dosage. As part of the study the students would also have blood tests, and answer questions on possible reaction to the vaccine. Even though the students appeared to be listening, realistically, they were anticipating the level of pain from the injections. Villemaire administered the first shot to David Tracy, 7, a second-grade student from the Milton Plains School. Sandra Smith seemed surprised by the ease of the process, as did second-grader Wayne Lafayette who proudly stated, “He was not scared one bit!”

Thus the tradition started in Milton in 1799 continued into the 20th century and still goes on, 216 years later.

George Klohck spoke with Bud Covey after reading this report. Bud remembers well the events that are reported, but he was surprised to find this in the newspaper now. When asked if he knew Dr. Holcolme whom he had succeeded in Milton, Bud said he had cared for Dr. Holcolme in his last days.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

BISHOP'S DEVADHAR'S VISITS VERMONT

Each year our bishop visits all nine districts in the New England Conference which he has been serving since September 2012. On Sunday, September 27 from 3-5 pm, Bishop Devadhar will talk with laity from around the district about the challenges and opportunities facing the church and will listen to the concerns and questions of those in attendance. This will be an opportunity to focus on what the church is about and who we are as Christians. Everyone will be welcome. Many of us will want to share transportation. Clergy are invited on Monday morning, September 28, from 9:00 – noon.

Both gatherings will be held at Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset Street, South Burlington.

COVENANT HILLS CAMP

We're hoping for a good-weather day and a good turnout for the Fun Day at Covenant Hills on Saturday, September 12!

Please RSVP to the District Office to let us know how many will be coming. Your reply by September 4 is appreciated! Vmtdistrict@neumc.org or 802-878-1245.

Bring a friend, bring a dish, and bring a smile!

CHOIR NEWS

Our Choir, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Parizo, has started a new season. Practices are held on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm.

We have new music and are excited to have four new members!! More voices are always welcome. Please speak with Kevin or any choir member for more information.

EVENTS IN THE AREA

- Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m. there will be an organ recital at the Shelburne United Methodist Church recognizing the 6th anniversary of that instrument. Three persons will share playing the program: Rev. Yi, pastor of Georgia United Methodist Church, who studied organ in Munich and in Paris; Joan Zeiter, retired organist from Florida and a graduate of Westminster Choir College; and Ann Rowell, current Director of Music/Organist at the Shelburne UMC. You are welcome to come and share in this afternoon of music. There is no charge for the recital.
- The Middlebury Congregational Church Fall into Winter Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, September 18 from 12:00 noon until 5:00 and Saturday (Bag Day) September 19, from 9:00 until noon. Clothing, bedding, linens, kitchen and household items, toys and much more will be on sale.
- On Saturday, October 3, from noon till 3:00, there will be a “Climate Revival” on the Green in Middlebury. Save the date; don’t miss it. This event is being arranged and sponsored by the Addison County Interfaith Climate Action Network which consists of representatives from many area churches. Several ACICAN members will speak briefly to explain the challenges and opportunities before us. Then, the keynote speaker, the Rev. James Antal, will inspire and challenge us to action. Dr. Antal is executive director of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. He speaks about the beauty of our world and what we need to do to care for this earth for ourselves and future generations. There will be food and fun, a good time for everyone.
- Middlebury Annual CROP WALK October 4
Gathering on the Town Green – Registration at 12 pm –Walk at 1 pm
Contact Patty Hallam 802-388-1561 or Ellen McCay at the Scott Center 802-443-5626

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The Church office, 388-2510 or by email, newsletter @umcmiddlebury.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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