

# CHURCH LIFE

FEBRUARY 2012



Middlebury Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
The Green  
1242 Whittemore Rd.  
Middlebury CT 06762  
203-758-2671  
[www.middleburyucc.org](http://www.middleburyucc.org)

### **Joshua 1:9**

*Have I not commanded you?*

*Be strong and courageous.*

*Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,*

*for the LORD your God*

*will be with you wherever you go.”*

This is the beginning of our transitional year. As we say farewell to Pastor Ken we begin to look toward the future and what the future holds for our church. I am pleased to report that all of our committees and boards are almost filled and should be completely filled by the end of the month. There is a new and building energy and enthusiasm for what is possible for the future. This is going to take a great deal of energy and determination from all of our boards, committees and members.

The church leadership which is made up of the Church Council, Deacons, and Trustees has been meeting to begin the slow process of reviewing all elements within the church. Simply put, this means that we will no longer “kick the can down the street” but must address issues and problems that have been identified over the last several years and we must solve them together.

For over 206 years the Middlebury Congregational Church has existed. During that time there have been literally thousands of devoted members who have given their time, energy, love and support to not only the church but also to each other. Now it falls upon us to continue that unbroken dedication to our faith and to our fellow members. We bear witness to the past and look forward to the future with hope and faith.

In our steeple hangs the bell of our original church. It was destroyed twice and was recast with the original bell’s metal. It has rung every Sunday for over 200 years calling the faithful to church service. Let the “bell” ring out and guide us into the future with courage and hope and faith.

*Ron Clark, Chairman  
Church Council  
203-758-9858*

## **The Sunday School Scoop**

During January, our children studied about the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in Sunday School. They spent time learning about the great imagery in this Psalm, as well as how we are shepherds today. Thank you to our teachers for these lessons: ShawnaLee Kwashnak, Sara Parker-McKernan, Norma Solberg, and Kristine Zold.

In February, we will be learning the story of Jesus’ Baptism. In addition to studying the events of his baptism, our students will learn about its significance to Christianity as a whole. They will also discover how our own baptisms call us to be children of God.

If you are interested in teaching any of our lessons this spring, please let me know. We are always looking for more volunteers! If you would like to observe a lesson taught by a veteran teacher to see if you are interested, we’d love to have you join us on a Sunday.

Program brochures for Silver Lake Conference Center’s summer 2012 camps are now available in the social hall. There are many diverse camps available for children ages 8-18. For more information, please also visit: <http://silverlake.ctucc.org>.

Valerie Beard

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We expect to be very busy during the month of February. “Mr. Ted” the photographer will be here making us smile and laugh. Valentine’s Day will be celebrated mid-month, which will help us talk about community helpers such as the mail person. At the end of the month “Dr. Mimi” will visit to talk about dental health. She brings everyone a new toothbrush!

February 14<sup>th</sup> will be our Open House for any families that will have 3 or 4 year olds that would like to see our school

# Sunday School Grade Schedule February 2012



	<b>Feb. 5</b> Jesus' Baptism Week 1	<b>Feb. 12</b> Jesus' Baptism Week 2	<b>Feb. 19</b> Jesus' Baptism Week 3	<b>Feb. 26</b> Jesus' Baptism Week 4
<b>Noah's Ark</b> 		4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>	K/1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Storytelling Tent</b> 	K/1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Bibleland Theatre</b> 	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>	K/1 <sup>st</sup>		4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Mary &amp; Martha's Kitchen</b> 	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup>	K/1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Youth Room</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> (on Retreat)		6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	

# Youth News!

The Youth group has been up to a lot lately. During Christmas break the kids went up to the soup kitchen in Waterbury (GWIM) and served lunch to the less fortunate. Then we got a tour of their food bank and how it operates. The kids want to go back and help again the next vacation day.

We put on an exquisite Pasta Supper on January 14th, serving approximately 100 people with a profit of \$1098.00. Thank you to Ellen and all the parents of the youth, who supported, cooked and baked for our big event. A wonderful time was had by all!

We are preparing for our yearly spiritual retreat the first weekend in February. Silver Lake was not available for us this year, so we are taking an adventure up to Camp Washington for retreat. More reports to follow!

We will be planning a fund raising event in the near future to benefit Simply Smiles and their causes. Stay tuned for more information as we make our plans!

The youth group meets every Friday night from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the youth room of our church. All are welcome.

Mary Brown  
Youth Group Coordinator



# The Deacons' Bench

Happy new year! Yes, it does seem a little late for that greeting; after all, January is over now, and the church is already halfway through our program year.

February, however, marks the changeover on church leadership after the annual meeting. The Board of Deacons will miss the leadership of Ron Clark, who is moving on to be chairman of the Church Council. Filling his vacancy on the board is John Somero, previously chairman of the Board of Trustees. We look forward to his expertise as we seek to coordinate the efforts of the two boards in the future.

Also new to the Diaconate are Erika Carrington and Ellen Aronheim, who joined us late last year. They are filling out the unexpired terms of Mara Ford and Ann Marie Nikola, whom the board thanks for their contributions of expertise and enthusiasm.

The Diaconate meets on the third Sunday of the month, after worship, at 11:15 a.m. in the conference room. Our meetings are open to church members and your contributions are welcome. At our Feb. 19 meeting we expect to discuss pulpit supply of and plans for worship until an interim minister is appointed. We'll also be electing a new chairman, vice chairman and secretary, so it is a new year, after all!

- Howard Fielding for the Board of Deacons

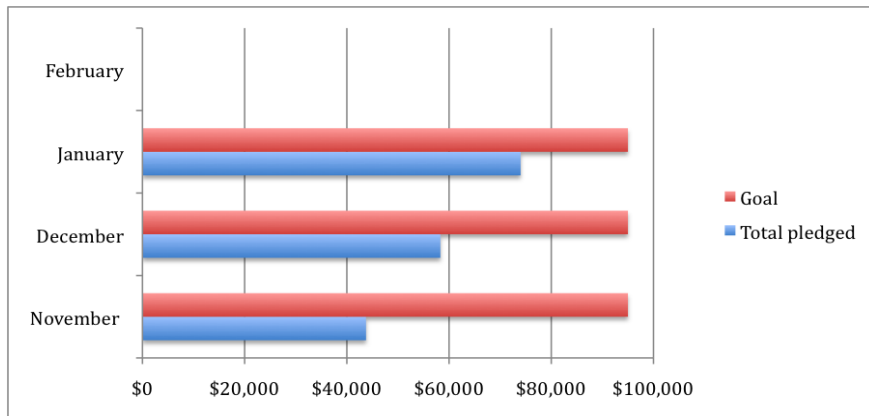
# STEWARDSHIP

February finds us in a time of change and renewal. It is time to move forward in many ways. That includes financially.

By now, every member also knows WHY we need the committed support of the members - so that we as a church can do what we are called to do and fulfill our mission.

The budget that was approved at the Annual Meeting is balanced, but already included cuts. We must *at least* meet the very realistic pledge goal of \$95,000 for the year.

So, for the next couple of months my report here in Church Life will chronicle our progress towards that amount. As our pledge drive began in the autumn, I have started with the first month that reflected progress toward our goal. If we meet and then exceed that goal, it will be a powerful statement of belief in our future.



In fellowship and prayer,  
Janine Sullivan-Wiley  
Chair, Stewardship Board

## Your Super Staff & friends are offering Homemade Soup & Chili to Take Home



Superbowl Sunday  
February 5<sup>th</sup>  
\$5.00 per Pint  
All Proceeds will benefit  
the Church's General Fund

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Middlebury  
Congregational Church  
1242 Whittemore Road

Sunday, February 19, 2012

11:00 am—12:30 pm

Adults \$10.00

Children & Seniors \$8.00

Under 5 Free

Families of 4 or more \$30.00

SPONSORED BY THE MCC MISSION COMMITTEE

# Young At Hearts PRESENTS GAME NIGHT



We're bringing  
back everyone's  
favorite night  
out!  
SNACKS! GAMES!  
FUN! FUN! FUN!



We look  
forward to  
seeing you  
there!

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY  
25<sup>TH</sup>, 2012  
7:00 PM  
THE  
AVCOLLIES

27 RIDGEWOOD DR.  
MIDDLEBURY, CT  
CALL KATE TO RSVP  
OR FOR MORE DETAILS!





## AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET MAY 5TH 2011

Get ready! This year's Annual Auction and Flea Market will be held on May 5, 2011.

Please plan on taking Friday May 4th off from work to help with the set up for this important event.

We will have sign-ups for that day and May 5th later in March.

At this time, we hope you will consider making donations of furniture, collectibles, antiques, and other valuables in good condition for the live and silent auctions. Please keep your ears and eyes open for donations from friends and family that may be downsizing or settling an estate. Pick-ups are available.

We have a large storage container on site in the church parking lot to hold all of our treasures until the big day.

Drop off Saturdays will be April 14, 21, and 28. Also any time during church office hours one week prior to the event. Watch for more details in March.

Andrea Douyard 203-758-2135 event chair.

## CHURCH RECORDS

### BIRTHS

*River Alexander Clark, son of Nicole and Paul Clark, grandson of Ron and Julie Clark, born on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

### DEATHS

*John V. Makepeace on January 8<sup>th</sup>.*

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## *The Deadline for March Church Life:*

*February 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 a.m.*

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### PUT NSB's MONEY WHERE YOUR HEART IS

The Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation is pleased to open the voting for its community Awards Program once again. Last year, 36 local non-profit organizations were awarded grants through this program. **MCC was awarded \$2900.00.**

This program is open to each Naugatuck Savings Bank customer to cast one vote, taking place from January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Every member of your family who has their own account can vote one time. You can cast your vote online at **naugatucksavingsbank.com**, complete the paper ballot in the MCC social hall or complete the ballot at any one of NSB's 15 branches.

Please vote today for Middlebury Congregational Church!

If you take pictures during a service or a function please email them to me for the Crier, Church Life, Bulletin Board and/or website.

Thank you! Jeanine  
(jbonaventure@middleburyucc.org)