

CHURCH LIFE

MAY 2011



Here Ye! Here Ye!



Old Fashioned Auction
and
Flea Market
May 14, 2010

Shepardson Community Center
Rte. 188
Middlebury, CT

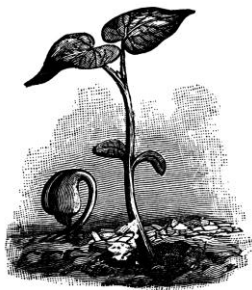
Flea Market 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
(Only Sell Flea Market Admission - \$30 in - \$10)
Preview Party & Silent Auction 5:30 pm
Live Auction 7:00 pm

Auction Fee: \$10.00
(Includes Preview Party & Auction)

Sponsored by
Middlebury Congregational Church
(All proceeds benefit MCC Ministries)

Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Green
1242 Whittemore Rd.
Middlebury CT 06762
203-758-2671
www.middleburyucc.org

ken's korner



Hi Everyone,

It's May and I am excited about possibilities. There are many new possibilities here in Middlebury. One of those is the wonderful new garden plots that have been created behind the parsonage. Our trustees cleaned out the old overgrown plots to yield clear ground. I have asked to plant them a garden.

You will see various kinds of roses and many different vegetables rising out of an area where only brambles lived. I have a particular passion for Kentucky Wonder beans which I share with another church member. So, she and I will have a friendly competition to see how many beans we can harvest.

Speaking of harvests, it's time for all of us to plant new things here in Middlebury. A gardener plants seeds and plants in hopes of an abundant harvest. I invite all of you to plant new ideas in freshly tilled spiritual ground to bear a harvest for Christ.

People are somewhat like bean plants. From one seed many pods will grow and produce many new seeds. Within this concept I ask you to come and share in a renewed effort to cultivate our church community and invite people to be part of our Christian worship and mission. Our church is a focal point of this community.

Jesus said "all things will be made new". This declaration can only happen with your participation and love. We can till the garden and fertilize it with scripture and fellowship and only the Lord knows what we will harvest.

ken

The Sunday School Scoop

During May, our children will be studying the unit "The Early Church as the Body of Christ". These lessons teach our students how the Christian church began. It is also designed to show our children that the church requires many different types of people with different strengths and abilities in order for the church to function as a whole.

On Palm Sunday, we held our 2nd annual Easter Egg Hunt. We had over 30 children attend! Thank you to everyone who contributed eggs and candy, as well as the youth group for filling all of the eggs. In addition, I want to give a special thank you to Lexi Fielding, Savannah Sprague, Claire Niesobecki, and Brittany Romaniello for their hard work hiding all of the eggs on Sunday morning! Thank you to our CE Committee as well, who hosted activities for the children before the egg hunt.

On Sunday, May 1st, we will be holding the Creation Pageant during church. We will be having a rehearsal on April 30th at 4:30pm. We look forward to honoring Lisa Crick's traditions and hope that it is successful!






On Sunday, June 5th, we will be having a Sunday Fun-day for our children during Sunday School time. We will have many fun games and activities for the children, including digging up our "Covenant Capsule" that we created at the beginning of the school year. Hopefully we will have some great spring weather and can enjoy the outdoors!

Valerie Beard

2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt!



Sunday School Grade Schedule May 2011

	<u>MAY 1</u>	<u>MAY 8</u> Early Church Week 1	<u>MAY 15</u> Early Church Week 2	<u>MAY 22</u> Early Church Week 3	<u>MAY 29</u>
Noah's Ark 		4 th /5 th	K/1 st	2 nd /3 rd	
Storytelling Tent 	All in Church for	K/1 st	2 nd /3 rd	4 th /5 th 6 th -12 th	All in Church 
Bibleland Theatre 					
Mary & Martha's Kitchen 	Creation Pageant	2 nd /3 rd	4 th /5 th 6 th -12 th	K/1 st	
Youth Room		6 th -12 th			6 th -12 th

The Deacons' Bench

Have you noticed the buzz lately? Before worship, people are talking to each other more. More folks are turning out for coffee hour, and they're staying longer. And attendance, in general, is up. Is that directly because people have been wearing their nametags? Probably not. But it is a good example of what can happen when more people go out of their way to meet others and share a few moments of their lives. We're all making the effort, and it's paying off.

The next step is to find people you don't know – who may or may not be wearing their name tags – and introduce yourself. This is harder to do; believe me, I know. I'm not very good at it myself. But in the last month, I've gotten to know more people, regulars as well as newcomers, than I normally meet in a year. If I can do it, you can, too.

Meanwhile, the Board of Deacons is undertaking another membership responsibility – a review of our membership rolls. This helps us to better fulfill our mission as a church and to each other, so please take a few minutes to read Ron's letter in this month's Church Life and to respond to our follow-up letter coming later this month.

After all, it's all about fellowship and ministering to each other. As they say in the lottery, you can't win if you don't play. And it helps to know the other players. That way we can all win together.

Howard Fielding for the Board of Deacons

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Board of Deacons and Church Clerk Bill Morris have begun a review of our membership lists – something that should be done annually, but hasn't been done for a long time. We need your help.

The Diaconate's job is to accept members into the congregation and see that the church ministers to their spiritual needs. Once you are a member of this church, you continue to be a member until you choose otherwise, and Middlebury Congregational Church will continue to offer you a spiritual home for worship, marriages, funerals, pastoral visits and all the things you expect of a home church.

Yet in everyone's life, change happens. People move away or find another path in their faith journey. For the church to do its job of ministering to its members, we need to know who our active members are, who wants to continue as a member but not participate at this time, and who no longer feels a part of the church. Under our bylaws, we do this by defining active and inactive members, and providing for resignation or letter of transfer for those who wish to leave.

Active members are members who have joined the church through confirmation, affirmation, or transfer and who do at least one of the following: attend regular worship services in addition to holidays, volunteer at church activities and events, serve on a church committee, or support the church financially. Members who, because of age or infirmity, can no longer do any of those things but were active until the time of their infirmity are still considered active members.

Inactive members are members who haven't met any of the criteria – regular worship, volunteering, leadership or financial support – for two or more years. Technically, inactive members lose voting rights at congregational meetings. Spiritually, inactive members are people to whom the church needs to reach out better. And yes, there is a financial reason for the church to distinguish between active and inactive members; we pay approximately \$10 in fees each year to the state conference and regional associations for each active member. *Continued on Page 7.*

Our Church now has 687 members on its rolls, which is a large number of “active” members for a church that regularly sees less than 150 people at worship each Sunday. We think the actual number of active members is closer to 300, but as a church, we have a responsibility to reach out to all members and give them a chance to come back to their church home.

In the coming weeks, all members will receive a letter asking how they see themselves fitting into the church membership. Of course, we hope everyone will choose to be active and think about how they can make that happen through worship, volunteering, leading and giving. Please think about your membership prayerfully, and feel free to talk with Bill Morris or any member of the Board of Deacons about where you see yourself fitting in.

-- Ron Clark, chairman, Board of Deacons

Special Congregational Meeting Amendments to the Bylaws Sunday, 22 May 2011

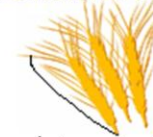
Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the congregation will be held in the sanctuary immediately following worship on Sunday, 15 May 2011. The purpose of this meeting is to consider and act upon recommendations of the Bylaws Committee of amendments concerning (1) the selection of delegates to wider church associations and events, (2) the designation of the *Code of Parliamentary Procedure* (Sturgis) as our parliamentary authority, and (3) the revision of the budgetary process. These amendments have been discussed at informational meetings for the congregation and with church boards and leaders. They are posted in the Social Hall. The Bylaws Committee welcomes your comments and questions.

Barbara Hampton (chair); Peter North; Curt Titus.

Treat yourself to a fun evening out...

Middlebury Congregational Church, GWIM Delegate Groups,
and Country Club of Waterbury invite you to attend a

SUMMER CROP to raise funds for:



**Greater Waterbury
Interfaith Ministries**

**Who/
What:**

Anyone interested in memory preservation (including but not limited to scrapbooking, photo album making, photo organizing, and card making). Beginners, laptops (CC of W has internet access), and Cricuts are welcome. Proceeds from raffle prize tickets as well as presale (www.mycmsite.com/marneepalladino) and event purchases will be donated to GWIM.

When:

Friday, June 24th, 4PM-11PM

Where:

Country Club of Waterbury, One Oronoke Road, Waterbury, CT

Why:

To benefit **The Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries, Inc.**, a qualified non-profit organization which provides a daily Soup Kitchen, **offering 85,000 meals** and an emergency food pantry that **distributes nearly 200,000 meals** annually to the indigent people of the greater Waterbury area.

Cost:

\$38pp (includes dinner, drinks, dessert, goody bag, use of CM tools, and demonstrations). Cash bar will be available.

Incentive:

Bring a table of 4 & **take \$3 off each crop fee.**

RSVP/Info:

marnee@palladin.com, 203-758-8402

Mail Crop

Fee:

Marnee Palladino, 407 Southford Road, Middlebury, CT 06762, please make check payable to Marnee Palladino

Direct

Donation:

If you can't make the event, but wish to support GWIM, please feel free to mail a donation to Marnee Palladino. Make check payable to: Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries.

**During summer vacation, many children will not receive school meals. Please bring a non perishable food item for GWIM's food pantry.*





Auction & Flea Market May 14, 2011

Spring is here and before you know it will be time for the Auction, Silent Auction and Flea Market. Once again we are looking for items for the Auction and Flea Market. *Especially the Auction.* We would like to start identifying items for the Auction and Silent Auction right away so we can

get a better idea of what we will have to sell. For the Auction we need such items as furniture, antiques, and collectibles in good condition. For the Flea Market we need such things as household items, toys, linens, sports equipment, etc. (all in good clean condition and working order please).

Some ways you can help to make this event a success:

Do you have items to donate? If you have large items you would like to donate please call Jeanine at the Church Office. We will be able to pick up large items or big loads. Drop offs at the church will be Saturday April 23rd & 30th and May 7th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at the church the week before the auction Mon.-Thurs. from 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00 & at Shepardson on May 13th from 11:30-7:00.

Do you have storage space? ... If you have dry storage space in a garage, basement, or barn let us know. Thus far we have a limited amount of storage space to hold our treasures.

Do you have a truck or would you like to help with Pickups? We need people to pick up large items and bring them to storage.

Do you like to cook or bake? To make our Preview Party fun and successful we need lots of appetizers, finger foods and desserts. Please consider making something for us. (COSTCO & BJ's have great frozen appetizers & desserts).

Do you have some time on Friday, May 13th or Auction Day? Don't forget the sign-up sheets in the social room (or you may call the office). We need help in all areas to prepare for the auction & flea market. There is also a **BIG** need for helpers to clean up after each function.

Would you like to be a Patron? Patrons have always been a big part of the Auction. Please take a Patron/Advertising Contract and either seek out a business to advertise or become a patron.

Please call Andrea Douyard at 203-758-2135 if you have any questions.



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(Early Bird Flea Market Admission - 8:30 am - \$10)

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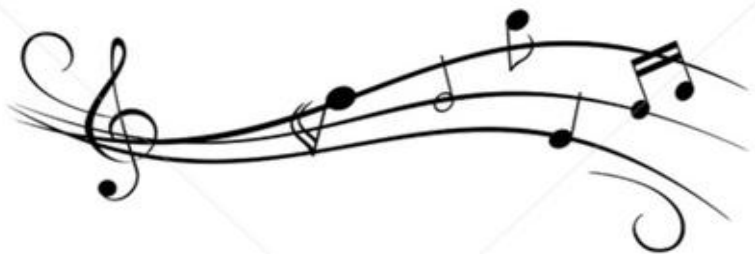
Drop-offs:

(9am – 12pm at the church)
Saturday, April 23

Saturday, May 7

Monday-Thursday, May 9-12

(11:30am – 7pm at Shepardson)
Friday, May 13



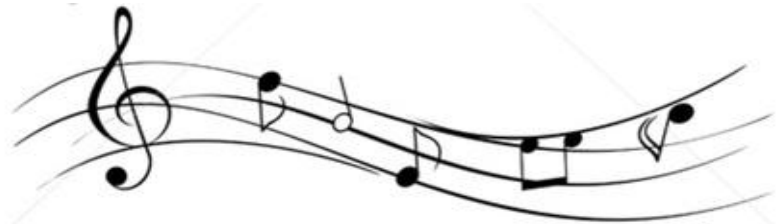
Benefit Concert

Saturday, June 11
at
7 p.m.

Featuring performances by church members and friends, including some Sounds of Joy favorites.

A collection will be taken to benefit the playground renovation in memory of Jeanne LaPorta.

Anyone who would like to sing with the group will be rehearsing Sundays (except May 15th) from 4 to 5:30 p.m. throughout May. Anyone who would like to perform a solo or small group or instrumental number should let Amelia know after church on Sunday morning.



PRESCHOOL ON THE GREEN NEWS!

As you are doing your spring cleaning, the preschool would be happy to take any collage/art materials you are getting rid of. Such as: fabric scraps, leftover wallpaper, ribbon, streamers, felt, buttons, craft sticks, stickers, etc.

Also, if you have anything to enhance the science table we would love to have it to share with the children. We are looking for things that enhance the sense of touch, hearing & sight along with nature items.

We also need empty frosting containers, child friendly Band-Aids and Clorox wipes.

CHURCH RECORDS

BIRTHS

Alaina Marie and Benjamin William Manfredi, son and daughter of Brooke & Kevin Manfredi and great grandchildren of Jeanie Henry born on April 5th.

DEATHS

Betty Jane Ford on April 9th.

The Deadline for June Church Life:

May 15th @ 9:00 a.m.