



Middleton Community UCC
 The Communicator
 October 2011



Fall is officially upon us, and the fall season is in full swing. That's true here at MCC as it is in many parts of our community. My column this month will be filled with "this and that" as it relates to our church and its ministry.

Sabbatical grant: as of this writing, I still have not heard from the Lilly Endowment regarding the sabbatical grant proposal we submitted last May. The application materials said that they would notify applicants in September of their grant decisions. By the time you receive this newsletter, I most likely will know their decision. No matter what they decide, we will still proceed with the plans we made last spring. Stephanie and I will travel in Great Britain during the month of June. I'll stay on for a few more weeks at a retreat center and pursuing some personal interests. Not only during the sabbatical time but in the months leading up to it, I'll be studying and making plans for a visioning and planning process for the church. Where are we now? Where are we headed? What dreams do we have for our church? What are the opportunities for us to grow in faith and ministry?

Learning and fellowship groups: All our learning and fellowship groups (Very Cool Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Groups, Tuesday Night Fellowship, Coffee and Conversation, Tuesday Morning Study Group, and Men's Group) are in full swing. Look for the articles describing each group and their activities during October. Take advantage of these groups as a way to connect with MCC members and friends and to grow in your faith and understanding.

Inquirers' classes continue: we began our fall inquirers' class for people interested in becoming members of MCC or who just want to learn more about it. These sessions will be held Sunday morning, following worship. See the article for more details.

Fall stewardship season: During the month of October, we'll be highlighting the ministry and mission of MCC and encouraging all our members and friends to support it with their financial gifts. This season will conclude on October 30 with Stewardship Celebration Sunday. See the article for more details.

British pastor to visit: Stuart Nixon, a pastor in the United Reformed Church of the British Isles, will be our guest October 15-18. He will also preach during Sunday morning worship on the 16th. See the article for more information.

Church growth efforts: this congregation has emphasized hospitality and invitation over the last several years. Over the last year and a half, we have worked with Paul Nickerson, a church growth consultant, to develop strategies and programs to assist us in the work. At its October meeting, our Church Council voted to discontinue this work. They felt that there were other issues that needed our attention at this time that precluded continued work with him. This doesn't mean that hospitality and invitation are off the table, however! This vital effort should continue into the future as we seek to reach out to our community and offer hospitality to all. I expect that further organized efforts will be included in our visioning and planning for the future.

There are many ways to get involved in the life and work of MCC. You're invited to be a part of it!

See you in church!

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Worship in October

Sunday Worship

9:30 am

Nursery care available

Refreshments
and fellowship
after worship

Very Cool Sunday School

(ages 3 years-5th grade)
9:45 am

Office Hours

Office hours are 8:00 am to noon, Monday through Thursday. The church office is closed on Friday.

Be Our Friend!

MCC now has a Facebook page! If you're a



Facebook user, add our site to your list of friends. Search for "Middleton Community United Church of Christ."

Visit our website:

www.middletonucc.org

We welcome your comments, thoughts, and suggestions!

October 2

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

"To Whom Much Is Given"

We continue our journey through Jesus' parables in the Gospel of Matthew. Today, it's the Parable of the Vineyard Tenants, a parable of judgment against those who have turned God's emissaries into enemies.

October 9

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

"Come to the Feast"

Today's parable from Matthew is the Parable of the Wedding Banquet, a common image for the Kingdom of God. The parable explores who has accepted the reality of the coming Kingdom and who has not, who will enter the Kingdom and who will not.

October 16

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 2:15-3:13

Rev. Stuart Nixon, a pastor of the United Reformed Church of the British Isles, will be preaching on the "idol of individualism" as it relates to the church both here in the US and in Great Britain.

October 23

19th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

"Rendering"

The fall of each year brings the stewardship season, but stewardship means so much more than "how much money will I give to the church next year." How do we make decisions about the resources at our disposal? How does our faith impact those decisions?

October 30

20th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Luke 6:27-38

"Count Your Blessings"

Have you ever counted your blessings? Where do you start? Where do you end? Is it possible to develop within us an "attitude of gratitude" in all times and circumstances?



Worship



Pie Auction for Jamaica Missions

Thank you for your generosity at the Pie Auction on September 11. We raised \$1,105 toward our Jamaica missions.

Count Yourself Blessed: 2011 Financial Stewardship Campaign

*"Give and it will be given you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap, for the
measure you give will be
the measure you get back."*

Luke 6:38

The above passage forms the basis for this year's financial stewardship campaign. We know that we are blessed in countless ways, and God's blessings flow even more when we are generous to others.

A letter was sent to our church members and friends in late September, announcing the campaign and listing the "Top Ten Reasons the Board of Mission and Stewardship Is Thrilled It's Stewardship Season."

Early in October, stewardship packets will be mailed to you, containing a pledge card with return envelope and other information about the ministries that are supported by your gifts.

During Sunday worship in October, you will hear brief messages from

your MCC friends about their church and the important place it has in their lives.

October 30 will be Stewardship Celebration Sunday, when we celebrate the blessings of God, the significant ministries of the church, and the generosity of many people as we receive and consecrate your gifts.

Faith is personal but not simply individual. Although your pledge is a personal decision, it is more than an individual matter. It shows and confirms your connection to others and helps support many people in a variety of ways. Your

gifts provide a chance to connect with something larger and more important than yourself. Through your generosity, you discover that Jesus was right. When we give, we receive – more than we ever thought possible! Please be prayerful, thoughtful, and generous as you make your pledge and gifts in support of our church's ministry in 2012.



Inquirers' Class Continues in October

Interested in joining Middleton Community Church? Do you want to know more about MCC? The inquirer's classes began on Sunday, September 25. The schedule is as follows:

Oct. 2, 11 am "Sharing the Faith"

We get to know one another better by telling stories about ourselves. We also will talk about the basics of the Christian faith and the heritage the United Church of Christ and Middleton Community Church.

Oct. 10, 11 am

"Life and Ministry at MCC"

Learn more about the ministries and programs that MCC has to offer and ways in which you can participate in them!

New members will be received into the church in October or November. Light refreshments will be served during each session. Childcare will be provided. It's not too late to take part! Contact Pastor Jim (831-4694 or jiliff@tds.net) if you have any questions.

Daily Bible Reading Guide for October

1.....	Psalm 72
2... 1	Corinthians 11:17-34
3.....	Ruth 1:1-22
4.....	Ruth 2:1-23
5.....	Ruth 3:1-18
6.....	Ruth 4:1-22
7.....	1 Samuel 25:1-44
8.....	2 Kings 6:8-23
9.....	Job 32:1-22
10.....	Job 33:1-33
11.....	Job 34:1-37
12.....	Job 35:1-16
13.....	Job 36:1-33
14.....	Job 37:1-24
15.....	Job 38:1-41
16.....	Job 39:1-40:2
17.....	Job 40:3-24
18.....	Job 41:1-34
19.....	Job 42:1-17
20.....	Amos 5:1-27
21.....	Jonah 3:1-10
22.....	Jonah 4:1-11
23.....	Micah 1:1-16
24.....	Micah 2:1-13
25.....	Micah 3:1-12
26.....	Micah 4:1-13
27.....	Micah 5:1-15
28.....	Micah 6:1-16
29.....	Micah 7:1-20
30.....	Nahum 1:1-15
31.....	Psalm 46



Happy Anniversary!

Peter & Lynn Burke

John & Peggy
Comerford

Joe & Sarah Danes

Jeff Durkee & Kristin
Friel

Eric & Cristie
Fredrickson

Larry & Sherry
Gustafson

Anthony & Wendy
Koran

John & Carol Menz

Bill & Gail O'Neal

Stan & Carol Scheel

Frank & Judy Wilkins

Did we miss yours?
Call the church office
and let us know.

Coffee & Conversation

Coffee and Conversation is currently reading "Love Wins" by Rob Bell. Bell's argument for an inclusive heaven has ignited both tremendous controversy and tremendous new hope among Christians and non-Christians. We've been having such rich discussions, we've decided to slow down our schedule a bit.

Why not join us? C&C meets the

1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings of each month from 8:00-9:00am at TNT Coffee & Café, on Old Sauk & High Point Roads, Madison.

A revised reading schedule is available in Fellowship Hall. **All are welcome!** Join us for coffee and lively discussion. For more information, contact Laura Crow at crows@chorus.net or 831-4694.

Men's Group Meets October 8

The MCC Men's Group will meet on Saturday, October 8, at 8:00 am to discuss the article "Fighting with Another Purpose: Veteran Paul Chappell on the Need to End War," by Leslee Goodman, from the April 2011 edition of The Sun. In this article, Goodman interviews Chappell, whose opposition to war comes from his own and his father's experiences in the military. Following a military career,

Chappell began "waging peace" and encouraging others to do likewise through his work with the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Copies of the article are available on the Faith Formation table in Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome to attend this group and share in the fellowship and discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

Tuesday Night Fellowship

Tuesday Night Fellowship (TNF) continues its study of the New Testament book of 1 Corinthians. This letter was written by the Apostle Paul to a gifted but conflicted congregation in southern Greece. He confronts a number of unfaithful practices by the Corinthians and offers advice on a number of issues: what does it mean to be the church? What is our obligation to other church members? How do we navigate our way through a dominant culture that has very different values? What does the way we conduct table fellowship have to say about our faith? Are

some gifts and talents more important than others? Each week, we will read and discuss two or three chapters of this letter and seek to discover their meaning.

Each evening's gathering begins with a soup supper at 6 pm. The study will begin around 6:30 and will conclude by 8. This fellowship and study group is open to all who would like to take part, even if you've never studied the Bible before. Study guides and discussion questions are available in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

Confirmation Continues

Our 2011-2012 Confirmation year began on Sunday, September 18, at 8:30 am. Confirmation is a two-year process for high school freshmen and sophomores and older students who have not completed the process. We hope that each confirmand will use this opportunity to examine the Christian faith and grow in understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is a time that prepares them to take on for themselves the promises made on their behalf at baptism—or, if they have not been baptized yet,

to make those promises themselves at their baptism.

During this class year, we will focus on the basic beliefs of the Christian faith and how we live out that faith in everyday life. In addition to classroom time, there will be mission projects, time spent with mentors, and other special events. Confirmation Sunday (for second-year confirmands) is scheduled for April 29.

If you would like to be a part of the Confirmation process, please contact Pastor Jim (215-8924 or jiliff@tds.net).

Tuesday Study Group

The Tuesday Study Group continues its study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (see the Tuesday Night Fellowship article below for details). Everyone is welcome. You will enjoy quality conversation, friendships and coffee.

If you have any questions, contact Rose Ann Sprang (831-6486) or Carrie Doersch (238-2386).



Sound Operators

Have you ever wondered about our sound system? Are you just dying to try experimenting with all those tiny knobs? Or maybe you just want to practice with a microphone, before doing a solo or reading scripture? Or you think you might be willing to vol-

unteer at the sound board, adjusting volume levels during the service? Well, the friendly sound team is happy to talk to you, and show off the equipment. Just contact Bill Love (831-2776) or Andy Phelps (833-0562) or any of the sound operators.



Coffee Hour Hosting

Your help is needed to provide an important part of our church's ministry of fellowship: coffee hour! Light snacks and refreshments create a welcoming environment for

members and guests.

Thanks to all who have already volunteered for this ministry. Won't you consider taking part as well? Check the sign-up sheet on the coffee hour table for available dates.

Happy Birthday!

Caitlin Besadny
 Donald Blindauer
 Marty Falk
 Cheri Farha
 Mark Gessler
 Halli Hagen
 Lisa Hellenbrand
 Wendy Koran
 Kayla Meier
 Ruth Munz-Kalinke
 Jim Neuman
 Liliana Riechers
 Jane Rosssdeutscher
 Dale Slusser
 John Snell
 Dotty Stluka
 Dan Sullivan
 Jahn Tinglum
 Ryan Ubersox
 Katherine Vater
 Jones Wallman
 Maya Wallman
 Frank Wilkins

Did we miss yours?
 Call the church office
 and let us know.

Very Cool Sunday School News

Dates to Remember:

- **October 2**—No VCSS
- **October 9**—Bible Sunday
- **October 14**—MS Youth Group: Corn Maze
- **October 16**—Madison-Area CROP Walk
- **October 21-23**—Women Gathered at the Well Retreat
- **October 22**—HS Youth Group: Corn Maze
- **October 23**—Children SING in Worship
- **October 23**—Waunakee Meal Pack Event
- **November 6**—No VCSS
- **November 6**—HS Youth Group: Dinner & Game Night
- **November 13**—Confirmation Movie Night
- **November 13**—MS Youth Group: College Care Packages
- **November 18-20**—Middle School Knock! Knock! Retreat
- **December 11**—MS Youth: Sharing Christmas
- **December 18**—Christmas Pageant
- **December 18**—HS Youth: Sharing Christmas

Very Cool Sunday School is off to a wonderful start! This year we are learning about Leaders & Followers. We are starting with stories and characters from ancient Israel: Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and David. Each week students get to read, create, and act out a new adventure—whether it is reliving the plagues or helping bring down the walls of Jericho.

VCSS Students will SING in Worship on Sunday, October 23. Please

have your children here by 9:00am to practice before worship.

Don't forget...Friends and visitors are ALWAYS welcome in our Very Cool Sunday School classes. Invite a friend and share the FUN!

There will be **NO Sunday School** October 2 or November 6. Children are encouraged to worship with their families on these Communion Sundays. Nursery care for infants through preschoolers is available each Sunday.

Very Cool Sunday School Offering

This year, our Very Cool Sunday School Offering will go to Middleton Outreach Ministry. MOM provides lots of support and services that kids can relate to—things like food, clothes, school supplies and even birthday party kits!

Boxes of Student Offering envelopes

are available for families wishing to use them. Envelopes are also available each week in the Worship Folders (coloring folders) at the back of the sanctuary.

Please contact Laura Crow at 831-4694 or crows@chorus.net. if you have any questions.

Wish Lists

The start of a new school year always brings an opportunity to take a fresh look at our nursery and classroom materials and dream of ways to spruce up and improve our programs. As we think of things, we will post them here. If you have new or gently used items from our list, please consider donating them to our church community.

Questions? For Nursery items, please contact Erin Wilson (uwmadison2000@gmail.com). For Classroom items, please contact Laura Crow (crows@chorus.net). If you have other items you wish to donate, please contact either Erin or Laura before bringing them to church. Thanks!

Nursery Wish List:

- Large baby dolls, clothes, and blankets
- Kitchen
- Newer books

Classroom Wish List:

- CD player/boom box (3)
- Board Games: Candyland, Chutes & Ladders, Playing Cards, Skip-bo, Connect 4, Farkle, Mancala, Backgammon
- Monopoly money (we have 2 otherwise complete games, but no money)
- Books, CD's and DVD's for Children and Youth

Youth Groups Get Going

Middleton Community Church has TWO Youth Groups—one for middle school students (grades 6-8) and one for high schoolers (grades 9-12). Each group is a place for youth to connect with other students, have fun, and make a difference. It is a place where you can bring your friends, and a safe place where you can express your ideas and individuality. Check out some of these upcoming events...

- **Treinen Farm Corn Maze.** This is an annual favorite for both MS & HS groups. The farm is located in Lodi and the cost is \$8.50/person. Adult drivers are needed for BOTH groups...
MS Youth: Friday, October 14 @ 6:00pm. Led by Laura Crow.
HS Youth: Saturday, October 22 @ 5:00pm. Led by Cheri Farha.
- **HS Youth Dinner & Game Night.** Sunday, November 6 @ 6:00pm. We will do planning for future YG activities and for the HS Sharing Christmas activity.

- **MS Youth Care Packages for College Students.** Sunday, November 13 @ 6:00pm. We will prepare & pack Thanksgiving-themed gifts for MCC's college students.

IF YOU HAVE A COLLEGE STUDENT—Please send Laura his or her current address and contact information no later than November 6. We don't want to miss anyone, but cannot send packages if we do not have a confirmed current address. THANKS!

- **MOM Sharing Christmas.** This is a December project that has been embraced by both our MS & HS students. Students shop for gifts for Middleton Outreach Ministry clients, then wrap and deliver them to the families. Dates & details will be coming in November.

Please contact Laura Crow (831-4694 or crows@chorus.net) if you have questions about these events or suggestions for future events!

Faith Five for October

"Faith Five" is a method for personal or family devotions that focuses on relationship—nurturing our relationships with one another and with God. It is a great tool for growing together in faith and exploring the connections between Faith and Life!

Gather everyone together at bedtime (or any time that works for you!) and simply follow these five steps:

1. **SHARE** the highs & lows of your day or week.
2. **READ** together the appointed bible passage.
3. **TALK** about how the verse relates to your own experience

4. **PRAY** for one another and the highs and lows that were shared.
5. **BLESS** one another by reminding ourselves that we are all beloved children of God.

Start today by using these passages for personal or family reflection...

- Sept 25-Oct 1: Exodus 2:10
 - Oct 2-8: Exodus 3:7
 - Oct 9-15: Exodus 20:2-3
 - Oct 16-22: Joshua 1:7
 - Oct 23-29: 1 Samuel 3:4
 - Oct 30-Nov 5: 1 Samuel 16:7
- Learn more at: www.faithink.com.

Bible Sunday October 9

All Kindergarten and 4th grade students will receive a new age-appropriate bible on October 9. All students are encouraged to be in church that Sunday for this special presentation!

Pageant Planning

This year's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 18.

This is an ALL-AGES, ALL-CHURCH event, so mark your calendars with these important dates...

Nov. 13: Music for Strings, Band groups available

Nov. 13 & 20: Drama "auditions" for speaking parts

Nov. 30, Dec 7 & 14: Wednesday evening Choir & Drama rehearsals

ALL VCSS classes will have a designated part in the program and we will be learning these during class beginning Nov 27.

If you have any questions, please contact Mindy Bergman (833-3669) or Laura Crow (831-1993).



Don't forget...
the 1st Sunday of the month is

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY!

Please bring:
towels & sheets
or check out Middleton Outreach Ministry's "Top Ten List" at www.mompop.org
Questions? Contact the church office (831-4694).

ADDRESS CHANGES

Chris & Kari Lascale
7113 Belle Fontaine Blvd.
Unit 100
Middleton, WI 53562

Pat Foersterling
7777 Elmwood Ave. #207
Middleton, WI 53562

Moslem-Christian Dialogue

There will be a series of events over two weekends in October to help increase our knowledge of the Islamic faith and be in conversation with people of the Christian and Moslem faiths. These events are being hosted by Madison Christian Community, 7118 Old Sauk Road.

On Saturday, October 15, at 6:30 pm there will be a video presentation, followed by discussion, that will teach the basics of the Moslem faith: when did it begin? What do they believe? How do they practice their faith?

On Friday, October 21, you are in-

vited to attend Friday prayers at the Islamic Center of Madison, from noon to 3:00 pm. Pre-registration is required. Call Madison Christian Community at 836-1455 to sign up and for location.

On Sunday, October 23, members of local Moslem groups will be joining Madison area UCC churches for worship. At 11:30 am, all are welcome to attend a potluck at Madison Christian Community. At 1:00 pm there will be presentations by area religious leaders and a chance for conversation and dialogue.

Leadership Opportunities at MCC

You are invited to share your gifts and talents through **the leadership ministries of the church**. This year, the opportunities are as follows:

Board of Worship

Responsible for the worship life of the church, including worship, sacraments, sanctuary decorations, and music.

Board of Finance

Responsible for church finances, budget preparation and monitoring, and the church's physical plant.

Board of Christian Education

Responsible for the educational ministries of the church for children, youth, and adults.

Board of Mission and Stewardship

Responsible for mission education, special offerings, mission projects, and the fall stewardship campaign.

Board of Membership and Fellowship

Responsible for the fellowship life of MCC, including coffee hour, church dinners, inquirers' classes, membership, outreach, and hospitality.

Terms for all boards are for two

years, renewable up to six years.

Additionally, we are seeking:

- a **Moderator Elect**, who shares leadership of the Council and congregation with the moderator and is a member of the Board of Mission and Stewardship. In the second year of this two-year commitment, the Moderator Elect serves as Moderator, who chairs Council and congregational meetings and serves as lay leader of the congregation.
- a **Clerk**, who takes minutes at all Council and congregational meetings and maintains an accurate membership list.

If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, or if you would like more information, **check the box marked "Church leadership" on the Pink Sheet**. Election to these boards and offices will take place at the Election Meeting on Sunday, November 20. New board members and officers assume their roles after the Annual Meeting in January. Contact Ron Dorsch (238-2386) or Pastor Jim (215-8924) if you'd like to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Christmas Is Coming!

It's never too early to think about Christmas—especially when a new co-chair is needed for the annual ChristmasFest community Christmas dinner sponsored by Middleton Outreach Ministry. MOM is looking for two individuals to co-chair the 2011 ChristmasFest. The event has a long and successful tradition, with many volunteers who return every year to cook or serve at the Christmas Day event.

The co-chairs need to be organized, detail oriented, and comfortable with Excel spreadsheets and e-mail communications. Organization for the event starts in late October and runs through Christmas Day, with a time commitment averaging about 2–4 hours per week in October, increasing up to about 8 hours per week in late December. For more information, please contact Val at 836-7338.

11-1-11—11-11-11 Mission:1

From November 1-11, MCC will be joining with other UCC churches across the nation on a shared mission to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. Called Mission:1 this outreach effort will, over the course of eleven days:

- Collect more than 1 million items of healthy food and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.
- Make an extra push to gather contributions of more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, and \$111,111 for East Africa Famine Relief.
- Joining with Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" cam-

paign by offering more than 11,111 letter to congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide.

Look for more information from the church as we get closer to this major mission project. From November 1-11, an online tote board at ucc.org will tally our collective count of food-stuffs, donations and letters. The world needs the distinct values, vision and voice of the United Church of Christ – Continuing Testament. Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.

4th Annual Art Show and Silent Auction for MOM

Food Concepts, Inc. (FCI) will hold its 4th Annual Art Show and Auction to benefit MOM on Thursday, October 13, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at FCI, 2551 Parmenter St., Middleton. This year's event will showcase and auction over 200 pieces of art ranging from paintings, photography, ceramics, jewelry, glass and more.

The evening will also feature light

Hors d' Oeuvres, beverages, music by the Hanson Family Jazz Band and Caricature Artist Bernie Tennis. This year's Master of Ceremonies is WOLX Radio Personality Adam Elliott. There is no admission fee to attend, but reservations are requested.

RSVP online at fciartshow.com or call 830-5000.

Stay Connected With MOM

Join the e-mail list for MOM's monthly [eConnections](#) newsletter! Find out about their monthly needs as well as other fun ways to get involved in serving the community. Go to www.mompop.org and look for the "Join MOM's eConnections!" box. You can also send MOM an email at econnections@mompop.org. Join now!



Kids Against Hunger

**October 23
4:00-5:30pm
@ Waunakee
Village Center**

“Kids Against Hunger” is a meal packing event which provides specially designed and nutritious meals both for emergency intervention in Dane County and for distribution around the world through relief agencies. The well-organized event is held locally at the Waunakee Village Center.

We are still looking for a leader for this event as Laura will be returning from the Women’s Retreat in Green Lake right around 4:30pm.

If you can help-as a volunteer or as a leader, please contact Laura Crow at 831-4694 or crows@chorus.net.

Dinner at the Crossing—October 9

A few volunteers are needed. Do you have a yummy dessert you’d like to share? Does sharing Christian hospitality with our younger generation warm your heart? Are you missing your college age son/daughter now that they’re off to school? If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions the Dinner at the Crossing mission could just be your niche. The Crossing Campus Christian Center is a place for UW students to gather on campus for worship and fellowship, and Middleton Community Church regularly provides one meal each semester to grateful students at the Crossing. This semester we will provide dinner and share fellowship on

Sunday, October 9. As host, MCC volunteers deliver and share a meal with approx. 25 students (set up at 4:30 p.m., worship service at 5:00 p.m. with dinner following). MCC provides an easy meal (such as lasagna), complete with home-made desserts. The students do the clean up! It is an easy and fun way to share our gifts of fellowship and home-cooking. Please watch for a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall to volunteer to host, provide a dessert, or help to prepare the meal. You may also make a donation to help cover meal expenses. Containers for leftovers are appreciated!

For more information, please contact Lisa Hellenbrand 836-7060.

September 25 Congregational Meeting

At the congregational meeting held on Sunday, September 25, the congregation approved two proposals from the Church Council regarding our Capital Campaign last spring and our plans for debt reduction in the coming years.

The first motion asked congregational approval to reimburse the church’s General Fund for the cost of the Capital Campaign, \$60,127.01. This was approved, 77-0.

The second motion asked the congregation to authorize our Board of Finance, with the approval of the Church Council, to develop and implement a plan to use the Capital

Campaign proceeds to reduce or eliminate our church debt. This was also approved, 75-2.

The Board of Finance will contact area lending institutions in the near future, asking for proposals to refinance our building debt. Sometime early next year, the Board of Finance and Church Council will bring a refinancing proposal to the congregation for your approval.

Monthly updates of Capital Campaign pledge amounts and receipts is included in [Connecting Faith and Life](#), our mid-month mailing devoted to stewardship and mission.

CROP Walk—October 16

Captain CROP Walk was in church on September 25 to kick-start MCC's fundraising for the 2011 Madison-Area CROP Walk! This year's walk is Sunday, October 16 and helps to raise money and awareness for the work of the ecumenical agency Church World Service. Registration is at 12:45pm and the 1-mile or 3-mile Walk begins at about 1:30pm from First Congregational Church, Madison.

Middleton Community Church has a TEAM this year with over 10 walkers already committed to walking. Our **Middle School students are helping get everyone in the spirit** and are

working on a skit or video to share in worship on October 9, so mark your calendars! Will Captain CROP Walk make another appearance? We'll have to wait and see!

We are signing up more walkers and taking donations each Sunday. You can also visit our Team page, "Middleton Community Church", any-time at: www.cropwalkonline.org to register to walk, make a secure donation, or invite others to donate in a few simple steps! For more information, contact Dave Werner at 826-0319.

GO TEAM!!

Rev. Stuart Nixon Visits MCC

MCC will host Stuart Nixon, a pastor serving in the United Reformed Church of the British Isles, from October 15-18. This is part of an annual exchange between the Wisconsin Conference UCC and the URC. A Wisconsin Conference pastor travels in Great Britain in the spring; a URC visits Wisconsin in the fall.

Stuart, married with four young children, has served two congregations in the Plymouth, England, area for the last five years. His trip to Wisconsin is part of a sabbatical in which he is visiting a number of UCC congregations. He writes, "My study . . . is to look at leadership, and in particular leadership in a church that is suspicious of leadership invested in an indi-

vidual. I am hoping to have some conversations with you about how you 'do' leadership in the UCC and see if there is anything we in the URC could learn."

He will be leading worship at MCC on October 16. On October 17, he will be visiting various religious and civic leaders in the Middleton/west Madison area and will meet with our Church Council that evening. He will be attending a clergy gathering at Salem UCC, Verona, on October 18, and will spend the rest of his stay with the Verona congregation.

We welcome Stuart and hope that his time with us will be helpful and enjoyable for him.

Next IHN Hosting Week:

Oct. 16 – Oct. 23

Our next hosting week for Interfaith Hospitality Network is approaching! There are lot of ways to get involved—preparing and serving meals, playing games or reading books with the children, helping with set-up, tear-down, and laundry. Please check the sign-up board and join us in this important and fulfilling ministry!

Remember that homelessness never takes a vacation. Please help Middleton Community Church extend its concern and compassion to families in need.


MIDDLETON COMMUNITY
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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 Middleton WI 53562

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 Address Service Requested

Middleton Community Church Vision Statement

As a faithful church, we will provide opportunities for growth in our witness to the grace and love of God through worship, fellowship, education, and outreach.

<p style="text-align: center;">Middleton Community UCC 645 Schewe Road, Middleton, WI 53562 <i>(2 miles west of the Beltline, at the corner of Old Sauk and Schewe Roads)</i> 9:30 am Worship Service & Very Cool Sunday School <i>Nursery Care Available</i> <i>Handicapped-Accessible</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Staff</p> <p>PastorJames Iliff Director of Music Bob Mirshak Faith Formation Laura Crow Children’s Choir DirectorMindy Nelson-Bergman Keyboards Barbara Brown Secretary Diane Koch Custodian..... Irvin Dennis</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">How to Reach Jim Iliff</p> <p>Church office: 831-4694 Cell Phone: 215-8924 Email: jiliff@tds.net</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Monday–Thursday 8:00 a.m. to noon (Closed Fridays)</p> </div> </div>