

Middleburgh Reformed Church

News & Announcements

December 2014

Annual Meeting: December 14th, following worship will be our congregational meeting that includes lunch, reports of our life and ministry together, making plans for the next year, and electing Elder and Deacon

Our Remembrance Tree: Each year during Advent, we place lights on the bushes in front of our church in memory or honor of loved ones. The names of those being remembered are then placed on a "Remembrance Tree" which will be displayed in the sanctuary the following year. Donations for each light will be used for program and activities for the youth of our church. If you would like to remember a loved one and make a donation for this year's Remembrance Tree, please see Leslie Hooper.

Notes from Your Board of Deacons

- Thank you for supporting the food pantry. Please buy **canned fruit** in December.
- Consider an alternative to traditional gift-giving by purchasing a gift that will bless those in need. Such gifts may be given in honor of loved ones, friends, or others you want to recognize at Christmastime. We recommend World Vision or Samaritan's Purse. You will find gift catalogs in the church foyer. They may also be accessed online at worldvisiongifts.org or samaritanspurse.org

Advent Sundays 11/30-12/23

11/30 1st Sunday of Advent:
Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16: *God with Us*

12/7 2nd Sunday of Advent
Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; *A New Vision*

12/14 3rd Sunday of Advent
Scripture: Isaiah 35; To See, Hear and Leap, Celebrating the Lord's Supper

12/21: 4th Sunday of Advent.
Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11; Yahweh Comes
Sunday School Program



Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm
Service of Lessons and Carols

Next **Consistory Meeting:** December 10th, 7 pm

Next **Newsletter** will be out in January. If you would like to include an article send them to Sarah Bramer by December 30th.

Regular Happenings

Bible Study Tuesday: 1 pm-2:30 at the Spencer's house, studying the Scripture for the coming week in worship.

Bible Study Thursday: 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Marian Lynes' house, studying the book of Acts.

Operation Christmas Child

2014 Shoebox Totals:

Middleburgh Reformed Church - 339

MRC Relay Center - 1,433

Area Collection Center - 12,743



Simple Gifts Open Doors ~ A Modern-day Nicodemus

We are familiar with the story of Nicodemus, the Pharisee who went to see Jesus under the cover of darkness (John 3:1-21). Having knowledge of Jesus' teachings and healings, Nicodemus needed to know more about this man he considered to be a "teacher come from God." Fearing repercussions from the Jewish leaders, he went to see Jesus in secret.

Josephine is the Discipleship Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child in Northern Mali.* Following a shoebox distribution in a remote village, her team was camping by a river. That night a young mother in full burqa, with only the slit for her eyes visible, came to ask questions. She shared, "All my life I have been taught to hate Christians but this gift that you gave my child is so generous, could you tell me more about your Jesus?" That night on the riverbank Josephine was able to lead this young mother to Christ. She is now a secret believer.

Please pray for:

- a great harvest of souls for the Kingdom as a result of children receiving shoebox gifts
- favor with governments and communities as shoeboxes are distributed
- for God to be glorified as churches find a platform for witness through OCC

*The population of Mali is 90% Muslim.

Consistory (term ending)

Elders

vacant	(2014)
Sarah Bramer	(2015)
Joan Youmans	(2016)
Kim Smith	(2017)

Deacons

Karen Miller	(2014)
Leslie Hooper	(2015)
Arleen Kingsbury	(2016)
Mary Lou Ryan	(2017)

Neighbors Eating Together (NET) Dinners in December

Wednesdays, 5-6:30 pm.

3rd: Here (Middleburgh Reformed) *see the Table to help.*

10th: Our Lady of the Valley

17th: Middleburgh United Methodist

24th & 31st: No dinner

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