

Middletown Messenger

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*Men of God need to
hold one another
accountable and
build each other up
in the faith.*

JANUARY EVENTS

- 6 | Men's Ministries
Breakfast
- 6 | Monthly
fellowship potluck
- 8 | Women's
Ministries Meeting
- 9 | 8 Weeks to
Wellness begins
- 17 | Financial Peace
University begins

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 3 | Monthly
fellowship potluck

Food & Faith with the Fellas by Curtis Tucker

On the morning of Sabbath, December 2, a group of 12-15 men met for the first monthly Men's Ministry Breakfast under the co-leadership of Lloyd Graves, Kelly Frantz, and Evan Dick. The newly-revitalized Men's Ministry welcomes males of all ages. The men enjoyed a delicious meal of eggs, hash browns, fruit, vegan sausage, Green Goodness Juice, orange juice, and water.

After the meal, Pastor Marius Serban shared information about the Joshua's Men program being launched at Middletown in January 2018. Joshua's Men is designed to provide training to the current and potential leaders of the local church. It focuses on four important areas: character development, spiritual

development, learning leadership principles and skills, and developing group unity and accountability. Joshua's Men is a one-year program that will include a variety of activities designed to promote specific learning and development.

Next, Martin Lalnunsanga and Curtis Tucker shared their experiences attending "The Greatest Reunion" Men's Conference at Indian Creek Camp in October along with Pastor Marius. Tremendously impacted by the various speakers, activities, and camaraderie with other men, Martin and Curtis encouraged the men to take a larger group from Middletown to the conference next fall.

Finally, Lloyd and Kelly posed the two questions to the group:

"Why do we meet?" and "What do we want to achieve with the Men's Ministry?". This reminded the men that this is a shared ministry requiring every man's input and involvement. As Lloyd aptly pointed out, "iron sharpens iron" (Proverbs 27:17), meaning that men of God must hold one another accountable as leaders and build each other up in the faith.

Ideas were solicited from the group, one of which was to work with the homeless, which all the men thought would be a great outreach to the community.

The Men's Ministry invites all men and boys to the next Men's Ministry Breakfast on Sabbath, January 6 to enjoy food and faith with the fellas!

Gifts & Games with the Gals by Kristianne Roberts

Twenty seventeen was another year filled with blessings, and what better way to cap it off than to come together as sisters in Christ to celebrate the birth of our Savior! About 20 of the ladies of our church gathered on Sunday, December 10 for a night filled with lots of fun, laughter, delicious food, and games.

The night started off with an appetizing meal prepared by the

loving hands of Brenda Reynolds as a Christmas gift to the partygoers. Then we enjoyed some good belly laughs trying to solve Christmas song riddles.

This year the women were asked to bring a \$10 store or restaurant gift card in lieu of a wrapped present. We ended our festive gathering with a fun, yet sometimes confusing,

"Left, Right" story as a fun way to exchange the gift cards.

What an awesome way to end the year! We'll see you at our first 2018 Women's Ministries meeting on Monday, January 8!





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"A safe environment... where people relationships become kingdom relationships"

Reaching Out at Christmas Store & Beyond by Barbara Hagele

EACM Christmas Store 2017 is now history, but the influence of this year's event will live on in the coming months. In addition to what has always been done at the Christmas Store (i.e. organizing gifts that the families can choose from, wrapping gifts, and distributing free homemade Christmas cookies), our Middletown Outreach Team took an active part in this year's store. A nicely decorated table, manned by Pastor Marius Serban, Martin Lalnunsanga, and Barbara Hagele, was placed at a strategic point where all shoppers passed by. The table offered free books on spiritual and health



Joy Dugan assisting a shopper with her Christmas Store selections

topics as well as flyers promoting the upcoming outreach events planned for 2018. We were able to interact with each family as they passed through, giving them an opportunity to fill out a survey on which they could indicate their interest in receiving Bible studies as well as what types of events they might be interested in attending.

We are pleased to report that 27 surveys were completed, and five families indicated an desire to receive Bible studies. Many also indicated an interest in various topics covered in our upcoming community events. Nearly every family who came through the Christmas



Mellanie Hunter & Barbara Hagele

Store received a copy of "Steps to Christ". Recognizing and seizing opportunities to witness and bless our community is the goal of Middletown's Outreach Team. An array of events have been planned for 2018 with that goal in mind, with each successive event building on what was presented in prior events.

For example, 8 Weeks to Wellness which will run in January and February will be followed by a Vegetarian Taste Fest in March where participants will be able to taste various vegetarian foods. That event will lead into a monthly cooking class where those who desire to switch to a vegetarian lifestyle can learn how to make tasty dishes that their families will enjoy.

Other educational options will include two Dinner With A Doctor events where attendees will enjoy a delicious vegetarian meal, hear a talk on the advertised topic such as women's health, and be able to ask the doctor questions. Other events being planned for later in the year include a CPR class, stop smoking class, banking seminar, and fitness and archaeology presentations.

So what is the point? Why do we go to all the trouble of offering these events? Our purpose



EACM volunteers Rebekah and Glenda

is twofold: first, to be a blessing to our community by helping people live healthier, happier lives. Secondly, we aim to build friendships and gain the confidence of the attendees so that eventually they may be open to our sharing the precious truths God has entrusted to us for this time in earth's history.

So how can members get involved?

- (1) Flyers for each event will be available several weeks in advance for you to share with friends and family.
- (2) Plan to attend yourself and try to bring a friend!
- (3) Pray that God will lead you to invite people in your sphere of influence that are especially in need of the information that will be presented in these seminars.
- (4) We will also need members to help with the work involved in presenting each event.



Rick Monroe taking gifts to vehicles

Please pray that people will read the books distributed at the Christmas Store, that those who expressed an interest in Bible study will respond to the lessons we deliver, and that many of them will attend our outreach events.

