



## Greetings from "The Brook"

Tuesday, January 20, approximately 30 people gathered at the Methodist Building to watch the Inauguration of the 44th president of the United States of America. The group included young and older adults, males and females, Blacks, Whites and Hispanic. It truly represented the diversity of the United Methodist Church.



The election of the first African American President reflects the change taking place in our nation. That change is possible because we, as Methodists, along with others, have allowed the Spirit to use us to reach more people, more younger people and more diverse people.

The Commission on Religion and Race has collected stories about the changes that you have seen or would like to see in your community, church or state. Those stories have been compiled to form a booklet for Lent. Middlebrook and Forest Hill have a story that need to be shared. It is time to pick up your pens and write... As we

tell our story we also help other to learn about building bridges across racial lines.

All members were invited to the church growth training on February 8th after worship service. We cannot teach what we have not been taught. This was be a time of learning and Christian fellowship. Member were asked to bring a covered dish. The training was a great success. I am excited about what God is doing. Middlebrook has been given a great opportunity to serve God by reaching out into the community. We must walk out of the building and began to serve God by serving the people of God.

On Ash Wednesday night we, the body of Christ, gather at the "Brook" to worship. That group was young and old, male and female, black and white, Methodist and Baptist. Maybe God was showing us what we can truly be if we are willing to serve Him. Come and let us serve the Lord.

*Peace and Love*

*Rev. L. Fitzgerald Lovett*



## MIDDLEBROOK

United Methodist Church

Rev. Fitzgerald Lovett, Pastor – Email: revlovet@hotmai.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 22658 • Jackson, MS 39225-2658

Office Phone: 373-3296 • Fax: 373-3342

Web site: <http://thebrook.info>

Middlebrook on the Web has a new address

Check us out at:

<http://thebrook.info>

(We can also still be accessed at [jxnsaints.com](http://jxnsaints.com))

### WANTED

A person to help maintain the web calendar.

(if interested talk to Steve Seeley)

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS REPORT

The Youth Sunday School Class, The Believers, thanks the Middlebrook family for 93 pairs of socks (54 men; 33, ladies, and 6 boys) which were made available for the 2nd Annual Project Homeless Connect Day in Jackson.

The Youth Sunday School Class also welcomes new teacher, Mrs. Cynthia McMillian ( who has volunteered to teach the class) and her daughter, Ciara.

Ciara McMillian is a 9th grader at Murrah High School. She recently was awarded Honorable Mention for her Monologue at the Tennessee Williams Festival in Clarksdale. Ciara was the only 9th grader at the festival who placed in the competition. Ciara also is a member of the Middlebrook Choir.

Mrs. McMillian's other daughter, Cozetta, a sophomore at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama, was recently inducted into the National Honor Society for Allied Health at Tuskegee University, which is part of the honor convocation at Tuskegee. Cozetta is an Occupational Therapy major.

Congratulations to Jared Fitzhugh for his participation in the science fair held at Siwell Middle School in January 2009. Jared won 1st place in the Zoology field. His project was titled "Snake Movements and the Surfaces They Travel On". Jared will be participating in the Regional Science Fair to be held at Jackson State University on March 26, 2009.

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The members of THE BELIEVERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS can hardly wait to receive their 2009 issue of DEVOZINE. Class member, Whitney Wade, age 17, submitted an article to DEVOZINE. Her article was accepted and will be published in the March-April issue.

DEVOZINE is an Upper Room devotional lifestyle magazine for teens and youths. It is a daily devotional. Each day, the teen or youth (age 13 thru 25) are encouraged to read the Scripture, devotional, and prayer; thus starting a lifelong habit of daily devotional time.

DEVOZINE is the resource used by THE BELIEVERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS here at Middlebrook.

We at Middlebrook are praying for guidance as we plan on how to improve our Sunday School classes so more parents will bring their children to Sunday school. Meanwhile the members of THE BELIEVERS class are excited and looking forward to seeing their classmate's name in print. What a way to go, Whitney!!!

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## BLANKETS ARE NEEDED

"Give each person a blanket and a sheet until the blankets run out; then give each person 2 sheets." These were the instructions given to us. And we did run out of blankets.

The CLARION-LEDGER article published on Friday, January 16 read, "Low temperatures have filled a Jackson community center kept open at night to shelter the homeless. An estimated 61 homeless people spend the night in the Johnnie Champion Community Center." Extra cots were needed and were provided by the City of Jackson.

Helping to distribute blankets and sheets were

Middlebrook's members: Patrick Phillips, J.D. McAdory, Frances Moffett, Eligah Killebrew, and Roberta Pennington. In addition to handing out bedding, they helped fill out surveys until the Salvation Army brought supper. The surveys were needed because there were many new faces at the shelter, due to these economic times, a City of Jackson employee explained.

Blankets are needed. If you have extra, clean, slightly worn blankets, please bring them to Middlebrook and Frances and Eligah will see that they will be taken to the right place where they are needed.

God (thru us) will provide when there is a need.

## MIDDLEBROOK UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Connie Fitzhugh, president of the Middlebrook Unit of the UMW, was elected secretary of the 2009 Mississippi Conference Executive Committee.

The Mississippi Conference approved the election of new officers for 2009 at their annual meeting in Greenwood, Mississippi.

Connie has attended a training session for new Conference officers in November in St. Louis, Missouri.

In addition to Connie, other Middlebrook members holding offices in the UMW organization include Cheryl Haynes, who serves on the West Jackson Committee on Nominations and Berenda Johnson, Sub-District Four president.

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## OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

On Feb 10, the Older Adult Ministry observed Black History Month with a presentation by Howard Edmonson. The topic was "Out of Africa" (Consequences of the Diaspora). It dealt with the impact that the African Slave Trade had on the world, particularly the United States and the Caribbean beginning in 1445, 47 years before Columbus discovered America and ending in 1808 with

the national ban on the Slave Trade from Africa. Seventeen persons attended the session. There was a lively discussion with every one participating.

On Feb 20, a group of 10 attended and enjoyed the opening of Tyler Perry's top spot \$41.1 million opening of the movie, "MADEA GOES TO JAIL"



Church members stayed after church for several Sundays preparing our Welcome Bags to give to our new neighbors.

### Welcome Neighbors!

Our new neighbors have begun moving into Forest Hill Place! As of now we have a total of 39 families as our new neighbors. We expect that more new families will be moving in soon and regularly until all 325 are in their new homes. We have completed the preparations for all the Welcome Bags and they are ready for delivery.



## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### Sundays:

8:30 AM – Philippian Church Worship

9:00 AM – Middlebrook Sunday School

10:30 AM – Middlebrook Morning Worship

Wednesdays: 6 PM – Middlebrook Prayer and Bible Study

## *A Church for All God's Children*

### Our mission is to:

- \* *Make disciples of Christ;*
- \* *Build community; and*
- \* *Enhance the quality of life – through the development of social structures to improve the lives of those we serve and seek to serve.*

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### Middlebrook Welcomes New Members – Thanks be to God!

Bernice Course  
Toni Fitzhugh  
Jared Fitzhugh

Betty McLaurin  
Ruth McLaurin  
Sandra Randall

Chauncey Spears  
RaShell Smith-Spears  
Germaine Turner

Middlebrook UMC  
P.O. Box 22658  
Jackson, MS 39225-2658

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### Greetings From Your New Lay Leader

As we embark upon a new year, let us recommit ourselves to the Middlebrook mission of making disciples for Christ; building community and enhancing the quality of life through the development of social structures to improve the lives of those we seek to serve. Our mission statement challenges all of us to be more involved in our church and focus on our Christian values.

God has blessed Middlebrook with many assets. With these blessings and the leadership of our pastor and the support of our membership much is expected. There

are numerous opportunities awaiting us. We must boldly go forward and identify, engage and manage these opportunities for it is written in scripture, “Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded” 2 Chronicles 15:7.

Middlebrook, let us embrace the positive, reject the negative, and love one another.

*JD McAdory*