

MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1850

MESSENGER

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Rev. David Hall, Senior Pastor  
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Rev. Joel Smit, Assistant Pastor  
Rev. Todd Allen, Pastor Emeritus

April 2011

Vol. 33 No. 4

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. David Hall

**April: Month of Renewal and Resurrection**

The month of April brings promise. As the flowers and shrubs begin to reach full blossom, we become persuaded that winter is over, another spring begins, and the rays of the sun—even with the green cover of pollen—remind us of renewal and resurrection. Our church has a wonderful month ahead of us, and I want you all to know what's ahead.

**April 9-10** Dr. Michael Horton of Westminster Seminary California and the White Horse Inn radio program will be with us for two days of excellent teaching on "Christ-centered Living: Today and Tomorrow." Dr. Horton will speak at 5:00 PM on Saturday night (on "Christless Christianity"), followed by a covered-dish supper at 6:00, with a second talk that night: "The Church: Important to God, Important to us?" Please make every effort to be with us and invite friends for this. Then on Sunday, Dr. Horton will speak to combined Sunday School classes and preach in the morning on "Putting Amazing Back into Grace" and in the evening on "Affliction." This will be a superb conference. Do join us and help pass the word.

**April 17** Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week, as we focus on the passion and suffering of Christ.

**April 21** Maundy Thursday Communion at 7:00 PM. This is one of the most deeply-moving services of any year. It is enriching to gather and reflect on the deep love of Christ for us.

**April 24** Resurrection Day! Join us for a joyous celebration of our Lord's victory over the grave.

All of these are excellent opportunities for outreach. Please be in prayer for the Lord to work in all of these. And make every effort to gather with us for these blessings.

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Your Session's Statement Education as a Parental Choice

Our elders, seeking to lead and provide biblical guidance, have adopted a statement of our opinion on an important subject. Below, please find the statement adopted Feb. 21, 2011, on parental choice in education. We believe this to be sound, biblical, helpful, and full of pastoral counsel. This is a good summary of what our church has and does believe on this subject. We commend it to you.

Statement on the Church and Parents'  
Chosen Methods of Education

The Session of Midway PCA has long supported a variety of educational options for our families, not giving preference to any one particular educational choice. As such, families and students who make different choices have been knitted together into the body of Christ; we wish to see that strength continue and be enhanced. Since we have many new families and since this issue should not be a divisive one, we wish to publish our beliefs on the role of the church and education.

The role of the church is to proclaim the glorious riches of God and to invite sinners into our fellowship. We thus invite and welcome all, regardless of personal preference, to join with us in glorifying God, confessing our faith, and uniting his saints. We confess also that the church is not the only governing sphere in Scripture (the others are civil government and family government), and that our church might not organize every conceivable ministry, leaving much to the wise discretion of our families. We believe that each family loves its own children and is in the best position to make their particular choices for their own children's education (Mt. 7:9-11). Your elders wish to encourage all its member and visitor families to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:1-4) as our baptismal vows require. How each family pursues that goal, we believe, is a matter of family choice and discernment. Such personal decisions should also be respected by all members of our church. Our church does not require uniformity on this matter but views this as a parent's decision. Accordingly, we believe that:

## *Pastor Cont.*

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1. All parents are called by God to be involved in their children's education and discipleship (Dt. 6:6-8; Eph 6:4). We believe this to be a high calling and urge all parents to embrace their educational oversight role as a parental calling that is not shirked.

2. We equally recognize that members may reasonably and scripturally choose to exercise this calling by delegating parts of their children's education (1 Cor. 12:7-8) to a variety of educational methods, including public schools, private schools, home schools, and Christian schools. Our members may even make different choices from these options for different children within their own families, depending on need and without any censure or stigma.

3. Since we view this as a set of choices governed by Scripture, Christian liberty, and sanctified prudence, we do not view any one educational method as inherently superior to the others (Acts 20:27; Gal. 5:1; 1 Cor. 10:23-24). There is, in our view, no single, superior educational choice that we endorse for every family. Each family must assess its own gifts, location, finances, season of life, in-home assistance, the child's individual needs, and other factors to decide what is best for it as it seeks the renewal of disciples' minds (Rom. 12:2-6). Counseling with elders and pastors on this subject is always welcome.

4. Hence, the role of the church is to support and equip its members (Eph. 2:14-22) in whatever educational choices they select. There should be no discrimination between any educational method simply due to its nature. Neither should church activities target only members who make one choice nor exclude members who make other choices. We also urge each family to recognize the limitations and weaknesses of any chosen method and to seek to offset those weaknesses with biblical values (1 Thess. 5:21). Furthermore, we remind our members that every student is fallen, no educational material is perfect, and sin will appear in every student, school, and chosen options.

5. We invite all members who have taken vows to study the purity and peace of the church—noting that none of those vows contain any particular commitments to any educational method—to work for unity of the church (Eph. 4:1-7), even among peers who choose other options than one's own (Rom. 14:1-4). Proselytizing to one method is not encouraged nor helpful for the unity of the body. Recognizing the frequent tendency of committed believers to divide along these lines, we urge each member to be cautious not to criticize another's choice nor to look down judgmentally on others' choices (Mat. 7:1-5; Phil. 2:1-3).

6. We further commend our youth and children's ministries, along with age appropriate Sunday School classes as helpful for youth discipleship. The Session is committed and cautious in calling and approving workers and employees in these areas, and thus we see value in biblically-led, age-segmented groups

(2 Tim. 2:2), under the oversight of ordained ministers. Such youth and children's ministries are integral to the congregation's covenantal responsibility to assist the parents in the Christian nurture of their children.

7. We urge all members to avoid fragmenting the church around such choices (Rom. 15:5-7). More-over, parents should not expect that the church will subsidize their or others' educational choices.

8. At the same time, the Session believes that children may need counseling and correction from ordained leaders, regardless of educational method chosen (Rom. 3:23). That is to say, our goal is to present every believer as mature (Col. 1:28-29) and equipped to minister, serve, and lead in this life. Whether the area is academic, social, relational, occupational, or financial, we hope to lead young people to grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus and have their character developed as holistically as possible under the ministry of this church.

9. We wish to affirm the high value of all teachers (Eph. 4:11) and educators in our congregation. Whether in public, private, home, or Christian schools, we see this as a very high calling and thank God for all our teachers. We encourage all our gifted teachers to pursue such callings and bear witness for the Lord. The church's ordinary worship and ministry should equip teachers for such.

10. Finally, we exhort and encourage parents to prepare their children for a lifetime of learning and service so that they may be Christian leaders in the community, business, and the church. Such excellent education and training is comprehensive and brings glory to God. The methods of obtaining these educational goals are left to parental wisdom with liberty in the Lord.

We have committed ourselves to these goals, praying for God to bless our homes and build up the next generation.

# Missions

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## MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES

Stanley and Donna Armes - MTW, South Africa  
Peter and Diane Bakelaar - MTW, Japan  
David and Stacy Bergmark MTW National Associate – Sweden  
Chris and Jen Bowen – RUF Kennesaw State University  
Roy and Kristy – Restricted, Asia  
Benji and Esther Campbell – WBT Papua New Guinea  
David and Sue Cunningham - MTW, Australia  
Alan and Chinglien Fiol - MTW, Taiwan  
Dan and Rebecca Gregoire – MTW, Slovakia  
Sebastian and Isabel Heck – R2G, Germany  
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Orlando/Nigeria  
Gary and Linda Johnson – MTW, Sweden  
Scott and Tracy Ketrow - CCC, Italy  
Dale and Nancy Knudson - MTW, Cambodia  
Albert & Jennifer Kona – MTA, Albania  
Endi and Kati Kovacs - CRM, Hungary  
John and Kathy Lesondak - MTW, Slovakia  
Steve and Ann Lutz – SIM, USA  
Tim and Nicole - Restricted, Europe  
David and Jill Martin - MTW, Ukraine  
Demetrios Marmaras - PEF, Greece  
Mike and Robin McMahan - MTW, Ecuador  
Bob and Patty Meredith - NAV, Kenya  
Harry and Julie Miller - PEF, Atlanta/Bulgaria  
Wayne and Amy Newsome - MTW, Japan  
Young and Soon Park - MTW, South Korea  
Jean Paul – RHI, Haiti  
Andy and Sue Peck - WBT, Orlando  
Chuck and Wyema - Restricted, Europe  
Clay and Darlene Quarterman - MTW, Ukraine  
Nathan and Clare Richardson – HCCF, Panama  
Palmer and Joanna Robertson - ABU, Uganda  
Guillermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico  
Roger and Dianne Smalling - MTW, Latin America  
John and Liz - Restricted, West Africa  
Jan – Restricted, Europe  
Linda Summer - PEF, The Agape Puppets  
Jim and Catalina Tate - MTW, Ecuador  
Johan and Stephanie van der Westhuizen, MTW, Chile  
Bruce and Barbara Wannemacher - MTW, South Africa  
Becky White - MTW, Taiwan  
Linda Wixon - MTW, Japan  
Steve and Kathy Womack – WBT, Waxhaw / Africa  
Pat Wood - PEF, Freedom Ministries

### Mission Organizations supported by Midway

ABU -- African Bible University  
CCC -- Campus Crusade for Christ  
CRM-- Church Resource Ministries  
MTA -- Missions to Albania  
MTW -- Mission to the World  
NAV - The Navigators  
PEF - Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship  
Restricted – due to sensitive ministry  
RHI -- Reformation Hope, Inc.  
R2G - Reformation 2 Germany  
RUF - Reformed University Fellowship  
SIM - Serving in Mission  
WBT -- Wycliffe Bible Translators

### Japan Missionaries

Our missionaries of the month for the month of March were Peter and Diane Bakelaar in Nagoya Japan. We didn't know when choosing them how much they would be needing prayer support during the month. We are also supporting Wayne and Amy Newsome and Linda Wixon. All of them are on a team that is involved in church planting in the Nagoya area. The Bakelaars have been very heavily involved in earthquake

relief efforts and below I have reprinted below some excerpts from their reports. Please continue to pray for them and all of our missionaries in Japan as they minister to those whose lives have been so severely impacted by the quake.

Diane wrote:

Dear All,

Just a quick note to say that we are all doing fine. Nagoya seems to go on as usual. There are no fuel shortages here. Only bottled water is in short supply at the grocery store. Otherwise we can buy what we want and need. We continue to keep our pantry stocked and our gas tank full - just in case. (I think growing up in Illinois and knowing how to be prepared for winter blizzards has really helped me in this situation.)

The response to people helping and donating items is overwhelming. The church continues to receive items from people. Today an appeal was made at church for helping throughout the next two weeks. We need people to be at the church from 9AM to 9PM to receive donations. We need people to sort and box these donations; people to help with renting trucks, securing fuel, writing updates/communication, buying items for shipment and drivers for the truck. WE have a truck secured through April 1. Each run will take 2 -3 days for the truck to go up to Fukushima or Sendai, unload and then return. Fukushima is just north of Tokyo (probably about a 5-6 hour trip one way from Nagoya) and Sendai is about a 10 - 12 hour trip one way from Nagoya.

The truck has made its second run to Fukushima (near the nuclear power plant) and is coming back tonight (Sunday). It will get reloaded tomorrow morning and leave again on Monday evening. Peter will be one of the drivers on this Monday night trip to Sendai. We have 3 drivers go each time for safety and for driving relief. Please pray for Peter and this trip. It will be our church's first trip to Sendai. They must take all their fuel with them since there is no fuel in Sendai. We have missionary friends who live in Sendai and our church is coordinating with them as to where the relief supplies will go once they get to Sendai.

In a report received today Peter Bakelaar reported that the relief trip to Sendai was successful and they had returned home safely. He concluded by saying:

Thank you for praying for our safety and success in this endeavor. Two more trucks have left from our church since this update. More are scheduled. The size and shape of what we are doing will change as more information is available and needs become clearer. Please continue to pray that we will be used of God to help those in need to share His love in word and deed.

Jim Wolff  
For the Missions Committee

# Report from the Diaconate

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## *Report from the Diaconate*

	February-11	Year to Date Feb 11 - Jan 12
Undesignated Receipts	\$109,824.70	\$109,824.70
Over / (Under) Budget	(\$29,575.30)	(\$29,575.30)
Missions over and above	\$781.00	\$781.00
Ministries & Misc.	\$75.00	\$75.00
Expenses	\$331,631.65	\$331,631.65
(Over) / Under Budget	(\$192,189.98)	(\$192,189.98)
Cash on Hand (less restricted funds)	\$236,467.89	
Building Fund	\$4,474.00	\$4,474.00
Building Fund Since Inception	\$7,813,218.00	
Daughter Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
Daughter Church (Since April 2003)	\$13,499.77	

**A COVERED DISH DINNER** will be held on Saturday evening, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Please bring 1) a main dish, and 2) either a salad, vegetable or dessert. All else will be provided.

**The ladies of Midway are cordially invited to attend a BRIDAL SHOWER BRUNCH** honoring Miss Sarah Whitaker on Saturday morning, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Sarah is the daughter of Bob & Cindy Whitaker and is registered at Crate & Barrel; Bed, Bath & Beyond and Home Depot.

**NEW WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY: JAMES** - We will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month, from 7 - 8 p.m. at the home of Joyce Talley. It's not too late to join. For more information please contact Laura Keesee 770-444-9837, slelek@bellsouth.net or Joyce Talley 770-499-8145, Joycetalley2@aol.com.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** – Mark your calendars for July 18-22<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers are needed; contact Marc Harrington as meh8171@yahoo.com

***There will be NO Wednesday Night Dinner or activities on April 6<sup>th</sup> & April 20<sup>th</sup>.***  
*(Adult Choir and Wednesday night prayer group will meet at their normal time.)*

# ***Midway Presbyterian Church***

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Powder Springs, GA 30127