

MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1850

# MESSENGER

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

August 2011

Vol. 33 No. 8

## FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

### Approaching a New Season

Summer at Midway has flown by. We've had two wonderful youth retreats with RYM—over 60 middle and high schoolers attended excellent conferences. And we've just completed an excellent Vacation Bible School. Most families will try to catch their breath one last time before school resumes in mid August.

We are planning a fall filled with Scripture and practical assistance for discipleship. We hope you'll be a part. I want to share some of our plans with you.

### Back to School Basics Sermons

Beginning in middle August, and continuing for a month, I will preach on a few very practical topics, reviewing several basics. We all need such from time to time. In my series will be the following:

Aug 14 The morning sermon from the Christian Classics Series will be "All of Grace." And the evening sermon from 2 Samuel is "The Effects of Sin Cannot be Isolated." Families need to hear both of these messages.

Aug. 21 The morning sermon will be one that each family should hear on "Faith, Family, and Football: Is anything more important than Giving God what is His on the Lord's Day?" Then in the Evening, I'll continue our series on 2 Samuel with an important parenting sermon: "How to Raise an Absalom: Parenting for a New School Year."

Aug. 28 Pastor Harrington will preach in the morning service, and the Annual Joint Worship service of Northwest Georgia Presbytery will be hosted by Midway in the evening, with the Rev. Alan Lutz from Cherokee PCA in Canton preaching. Join us for this expression of our broader fellowship.

Sept. 4 The morning sermon to conclude our "Christian Classics" sermon series will be "The Costs of Discipleship." Pastor Smit will preach in the evening.

Sept. 11 One of our favorite missionaries will return to preach in the morning. Join us to hear Dr. O. Palmer Robertson, president of Uganda Bible College, bring God's Word. And in the evening, I will preach a sermon on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sept. 11. I think you'll want to hear both of these sermons.

Sept. 18 In the morning service, I'll preach on Principles of Giving from 2 Corinthians 8-9.

These sermons, thus, address the importance of worship, our priorities, child-rearing, discipleship, missions, security, and giving. Shortly after those, I'll resume our Romans series at Romans 8:31 where we left off.

Will you join me in praying for this growth priority in the fall: that our congregation would have a growing thirst for God's Word. Pray for eager hearers.

**Wednesday nights:** Pastor Harrington will be teaching on the book of James on Wednesday nights, **beginning August 24.** You'll want to hear this excellent teacher on these practical topics. Wouldn't it help you and your family more to hear God's Word more during this hour?

Why not bring your family to the excellent dinner from 5:30-7:00 and include your children in our children or youth ministry?

I give God thanks for a great summer and for his Spirit's work among us. Shouldn't you be a part and be inviting others to join with us?

## ***Pastor cont. / Assistant Pastor***

*CUTTING FLOOR: On new trends and the overuse of cliché in churches, read this excerpt and then, perhaps, read the entire piece, “Doing Authentic Ministry with My Smokin’ Hot Bride - A list of the worst ever Christian clichés” by Karen Swallow Prior.*

I slipped. My husband and I were asked to take on another church commitment. I was trying to decline graciously. In my e-mail response, I wrote, “We cannot help now, but hopefully in another season.” I copied my husband on the e-mail and instantly received a one-word reply:  
“Season?”

You see, *season* is one of many words long ago banned from our vocabulary. But my lapse reminded me how hard it is to resist the lure of the handy cliché.

The trouble with prefabricated words is that they don’t require or encourage much thinking. Yes, clichés contain truth; that’s why they are used so much. But familiarity can turn even truthful words into vain repetitions.

Church-based clichés are nothing new. In 1719, satirist Jonathan Swift warned in “A Letter to a Young Clergyman Lately Entered Into Holy Orders.” against “the folly of using old threadbare phrases.”

So I did some brainstorming with many Hermeneutics writers to find some of the worst clichés in vogue among Christians. (In fairness, the cliché problem isn’t limited to Christians.) The terms here are my personal peeves. If you happen to be fond of any of them, please know I’m not judging you — just your vocabulary, and mine.

Cliche Category #1: “Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice”

I drink my coffee black, prefer more potatoes to dessert, can’t abide chick flicks, and have a low tolerance for sweetness (puppies excepted). Sicky-sweet terms that certain Christians seem to love include

- *precious* (road trip to the Precious Moments Chapel, anyone?)

- *come alongside* (I can just see the strong arm of a big, burly come-alongsider draping across the shoulders of a grateful come-alongsidee)

- *love on*, as in, “Let’s just love on these precious kids.”

- *a real heart for God*: why doesn’t anyone ever talk about having a mind for God, which is just as scriptural?

Cliche Category #2: “Good Words Gone Bad”

*These are perfectly fine terms that through misuse, overuse, and abuse have become trite.*

- authentic
- contemporary
- intentional
- relevant
- community

[Read More](http://blog.christianitytoday.com/women/2011/07/the-worst-ever-christian-clich.html) (if you wan’t to get to the title cliché) at: <http://blog.christianitytoday.com/women/2011/07/the-worst-ever-christian-clich.html>

## **Children’s Ministry**

The Midway Children’s Ministry is pleased to welcome Brad Winstead who was recently hired by the session for the position of part time Children’s Director. Brad lives in Tucker, Georgia, is the father of 8 children and the director of Children’s Ministry International (CMI), a position he has held for over 15 years. Through his ministry with CMI, he travels throughout the world teaching children at MTW mission conferences as well as developing curriculum for children’s ministry. He will be working with the children on Wednesday nights this year as well as teaching in children’s church and overseeing the children’s Sunday school program. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the children’s ministry, please contact me at [meh8171@yahoo.com](mailto:meh8171@yahoo.com) and I would be happy to introduce you to Brad. Please find an opportunity to welcome him to our church!

# WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

**Dinners resume August 24, 2011.**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **FOR PREPARATION & CLEAN UP.**

**Age 16 to 60 and beyond, MALE or FEMALE, are encouraged to volunteer for a commitment of at least one week per month.**

Volunteer meal free the night you work.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT:**

Debbie Taylor at 770-439-9755

Dena Clapp at 770-443-4690 ddclapp@bellsouth.net

#### **PREPARATION & SERVING TEAM**

**4:00 - 6:30**

- Prepare Meal  
No experience necessary. On the job training provided. You will be given preparation instructions.
- Serve meal starting at 5:30 (alternate servers so you can eat with your family).
- Keep salad bar and serving line supplied with food.

#### **CLEAN UP TEAM**

**5:30 - 7:30 (or until done)**

- Wash dishes (dishwasher and/or sink)
- Dry and put away dishes
- Wipe down tables, clean dining room.
- Put away salt and pepper shakers
- Put away food
- Take out trash

*Please prayerfully consider joining us in serving our Lord,  
our Church and our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

# ***Wednesday Fellowship Dinner.....***

## **NEW for Wednesday Night Dinners beginning August 24, 2011**

Adult dinners **\$4.50** each

Child dinners **\$2.50** each

Family maximum of **\$20.00**

**\$1.00** extra for each “to-go” plate purchased.

Up to **\$10.00** charge for **NON CANCELLATION** of Reservations

- Dinner is served from **5:30 – 6:30**. To-go plates should be requested at the reservation/payment desk during this time. To-go plates will be ready to pick up by **6:30**.
- It is a self-supporting ministry. Money collected purchases food, paper products, linens, equipment, etc.
- It is a **volunteer** supported ministry. The dinner coordinators are volunteers; not paid staff.
- It takes 8-10 hours per week to produce a Wednesday Fellowship Dinner (planning, shopping, preparing and cleaning).
- 50% of the volunteers choose to volunteer **EVERY** week.
- There are **consistently 200 names** on the reservation list each week.
- There are **consistently 175 people served** each week.
- There are **consistently 25 people who do not cancel their reservation each week, although dinner has been prepared for them.**
- **To cancel or make a reservation (or volunteer), call or email Dena Clapp at 770-443-4690 or [ddclapp@bellsouth.net](mailto:ddclapp@bellsouth.net).**
- Even though notes are taken every week to compare how much food is cooked versus how much food is left over (or ran out), it has been determined that preparing just the right amount of food each week is **impossible!!**

## ***Announcements***

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Thank you to the Midway family for your concern while I was in the hospital. Many of you inquired as to my status and told us you were praying for us and offered help if we needed it. You are so kind and caring. That is so typical of the folks at Midway! Thank you and may God bless you for your Christ-like actions.

Wendell Way

### ***HELPING HANDS MINISTRY***

Good news! Six women have volunteered to work as a team of coordinators in the Helping Hands ministry. This mercy ministry coordinates many volunteers who provide meals, transportation or babysitting after childbirth or surgery, during illness or time of crisis, or after a death.

Dina Dropp is the contact for new requests. You can make a request by email, phone or by filling out a card on the Women's Ministry table. Dina will set up a schedule on the [www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com) website and email the volunteer group with the details. Volunteers sign up on the website to provide a meal or assistance when they are able. Contact Dina at 770-445-9810 or [dina.dropp@att.net](mailto:dina.dropp@att.net).

Nancy and Heidi Pritchett will monitor the schedule and send reminder emails or make phone calls if more volunteers are needed to fill the schedule.

Liz Darnell will handle announcements and communication about the ministry. She has already set up a Midway PCA Helping Hands Ministry facebook page. Check it out!

Sandra Westerfield and Barbara Kline will coordinate after-funeral meals and set up a schedule on the [www.perfectpotluck.com](http://www.perfectpotluck.com) website for volunteers who can help provide food.

We need more helping hands! If you can provide meals or other help occasionally, contact Dina Dropp be added to the volunteer email group. If you have questions about this ministry contact Ann Kistner, the Helping Hands team leader, at 770-426-8874 or [kistner218@comcast.net](mailto:kistner218@comcast.net).

### **SANCTUARY SOUND:**

Please know that the Midway Deacons are not satisfied with the clarity of the sound; we will continue to work diligently in our efforts to improve sound quality. In the meantime, if you have significant difficulty understanding the Word from the pulpit please consider making use of a Hearing Assist Receiver (found just outside the main sanctuary doors) as well as moving to a pew farther forward and/or more towards the center of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your patience.

### **TABLETALK MAGAZINE**

If you would like a subscription to the TABLETALK monthly devotional magazine from Lionier Ministries, the cost of a new subscription is \$23.00 and a renewal subscription is \$20.00. The cost for Midway members is only \$10.00 with Midway Church paying the balance. A sign-up sheet is on the table near the main, front (Dallas Hwy. side) outside doors of the sanctuary. If you desire a subscription, supply all information requested on the sheet and put your \$10.00 cash/check (payable to Midway) in the envelope attached. Any questions, contact Wendell Way. This is available through Sunday, August 7.

### **Good News Club**

Good News Club needs your help! Starting in September, each Thursday afternoon a team from Midway will offer a Good News Club to 2nd-5th graders at Still Elementary. We are in need of more volunteers each week from 1:30-4pm. There are opportunities to lead various portions of the club or to be a grade helper. Required training from Child Evangelism Fellowship for all volunteers is available two times in August. To sign up and get in on one of these trainings, or for more information, contact Jennifer Nichols at 770-422-4974 ext 1114 or [JHNichols1@hotmail.com](mailto:JHNichols1@hotmail.com).

# Missions / Diaconate Report

## 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  
 David and Sue Cunningham - MTW, Australia  
 Dan and Rebecca Gregoire – MTW, Slovakia  
 Sebastian and Isabel Heck – R2G, Germany  
 Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Orlando/Nigeria  
 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

## Diaconate Report

	May-11	Year to Date Feb 11 - Jan 12
Undesignated Receipts	\$156,151.64	\$549,055.24
Over / (Under) Budget	\$16,751.64	(\$8,544.76)
Missions over and above	\$745.00	\$2,866.00
Ministries & Misc.	\$0.00	\$375.00
Expenses	\$107,401.70	\$721,140.28
(Over) / Under Budget	\$32,039.97	(\$163,373.61)

Includes \$200,000 into a contingency fund

Cash on Hand (less restricted funds)	\$286,189.80	
Building Fund	\$5,375.00	\$52,077.00
Building Fund Since Inception		\$8,003,951.00
Daughter Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
Daughter Church (Since April 2003)		\$13,514.56

### 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

**Be in prayer for the Albania missions team** (Lexi Keese, Heidi & Phoebe Pritchett) who will be gone July 29- August 8. Pray for hearts of the people to be open to the Gospel, for effective communication during the English lessons and non-classroom time with the students, encouragement for the church in Durres, and for safety in travel. If you would like to support them financially, make checks payable to Midway with Albania in the memo line.

# *Music*

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## **From the Music Director . . .**

It's time for choir registration! Hopefully, all of you have had a restful and enjoyable summer, and are ready for all of our music programs to resume. Our children's choirs will begin rehearsals Wednesday evening, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Bell choirs will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Following is a brief description of each choir:

**Adult Choir** – We are always happy to have new singers join our adult choir. No audition is required, only a desire to sing praises to God. We rehearse year-round on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:15. Nursery is provided for children age 3 and under. It is such a privilege to serve with this faithful choir, preparing beautiful music to offer our Lord in worship. Please join us!

**Cherubs** – Beginning choir for ages K5-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This choir is under the direction of Abby Eller, assisted by Kellie Richardson and Sarah Eller, and accompanied by Ann Tippins. The children learn beginning choral skills, and sing for our evening service several times during the year. The choir rehearses in the MCCS music room, 6:15-6:55 every Wednesday.

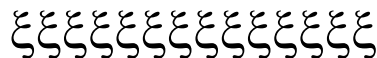
**Midway Singers** – An intermediate level choral group for grades 3-7. There is an emphasis on music reading skills and continued development of singing skills. These singers gain an understanding of how music is used in worship, and that their audience is God. The choir will be under the direction of Judy Dodd, accompanied by our new organist, Seung Min Oh, and will sing for morning & evening worship services several times during the year. *Midway Singers* rehearse in the choir rehearsal room #304, 6:15-6:55 every Wednesday.

**One Accord** – An advanced choral ensemble for grades 8-12. This youth choir builds on previous choral experiences, singing 3 and 4-part music. The choir is under the direction of Emily Marchman, and accompanied by Dianne Guy. They will sing in morning and evening worship services several times during the year. *One Accord* rehearses in the Sanctuary choir loft, Wednesdays 6:15-6:55.

**Midway Ringers** is a 3-octave handbell choir. This bell choir requires eleven experienced high school and adult ringers. They rehearse in the Music Workroom, #306, Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:00 p.m., preparing service music for morning worship services. Currently, we are in need of additional ringers. If you are interested in ringing, please give me a call! If there is enough interest, we will also have a beginning handbell choir, for ringers ages 10 and up, adults included. Handbell rehearsals begin Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning bells 6:30-7:00 p.m., Midway Ringers 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Registration forms for all of these choirs may be found in the adult choir room, #304. **Please register by Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**, so that we may have music folders prepared for our first rehearsals.

We look forward to great choirs this year! Please feel free to call Judy Dodd, 770-422-4974, ext. 1106, if you have any question concerning these ensembles.



# ***Midway Presbyterian Church***

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Powder Springs, GA 30127