

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

July 2011

Vol. 33 No. 7

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Staff Changes

Many of you have been praying and asking about how we will make staff replacements, and nearly all members have expressed their hope that we would be able to keep Pastors Harrington and Smit at Midway. *Below is some very good news.* Both have been promoted and we will also be adding additional staff members to their areas under their oversight. The Session is pleased to announce that it has approved a plan to use both of our young, gifted pastors, while also enhancing many other areas through reallocation of resources.

Effective July 1, Marc Harrington is promoted to be the Assistant Pastor for Teaching, Discipleship, and Congregational Care. He will preach a little more, teach the Adult Wednesday night bible study in the fall, serve as the primary hospital visitor, oversee counseling needs, and still serve (though less) in Children's Ministry. We will also add a part-time Director of Children's Ministry under Marc's oversight. In August, Marc will also begin a doctoral program in counseling in order to improve our ministry. Marc and Kate are great assets to our church, and we look forward to many years of excellent ministry under their leadership.

Effective September 1, Joel is promoted to be the Assistant Pastor for Youth and Outreach. He will preach a little more (but only after an intense summer), teach adult bible studies as needed, and take on the Assimilation/Outreach needs (which he has already begun and is shining!), and still shepherd, teach, and serve in Youth Ministry. We will also add a full-time Youth Assistant under Joel's oversight. Both of these men do such a superb job that we want them to continue to direct and oversee new employees and younger members to make sure these excellent programs remain strong and continue to grow. Joel and Stefanie are real blessings to our church, and we hope to maximize their gifts for many years, too.

Thank you for your prayers during this time. Your elders have given much thought, prayer, and study to these matters and have found an excellent way to use our exist-

ing gifts and also to add new staff members, while enhancing other areas in an economical way.

And let me express a huge thanks to our Emeritus Pastor Todd Allen for all his help during this transition. Pastor Allen has been visiting our hospitals and shut-ins, and we could not have bridged this gap without him. What a blessing!

We are looking forward to other new staff members, and Midway has many reasons to give praise to God. Please continue your regular prayers for us and enjoy all the ministry opportunities the Lord gives.

CUTTING FLOOR

Other Resources for Father's Day reading

Ken Wingate, *A Father's Gift: Lessons from Proverbs* (Banner of Truth Trust, 2009); \$12.00

Many young parents today are beside themselves with anxieties about their children, and, sadly, confusion too about how to nurture them. The ongoing addiction of our times to the heresy of modernity and its proud rejection—and ignorance—of the tested and tried wisdom of the past, inevitably leads to dysfunction in home and family life. Sadly, the older, wiser counsel of God's Word, and especially of the book of Proverbs, is unknown or neglected. Yet Proverbs was composed specifically as a manual for home and family instruction, and to prepare us for life in the world. It is a divinely given handbook to help parents.

The Family Worship Book by Terry Johnson (COST – ca \$ 13.50)

The invaluable guide to starting, and maintaining, stimulating spiritual times of family worship. Help your family grow together in faith, enjoy your responsibilities as parents and establish a grounding for their future. Johnson has provided a book dense with suggestions and resources. Here you will find an introduction to family worship, an outline for family worship, a sample of family worship, a Psalter and Hymnal, the Shorter Catechism, Bible memorization of 50 great passages, a family Bible reading record and much, much more!

Senior Pastor Cont. / Good News Club

The Family Worship Book Reveals:

- * What is family worship?
- * Why and how you should get started
- * A sample outline for family worship
- * Sample prayers, creeds, and teaching tools
- * Practical helps
- * Bible reading records, children's catechisms
- * Three great historical resources from Isaac Watts
- * Text for sixty Psalms and sixty hymns

IPC has an Amazon storefront to purchase available books online. or info@ipcav.org.

Family Worship, Joel R. Beeke (www.heritagebooks.com) 66pp, \$4.50

Dr. Beeke offers a heartfelt and solemn plea for families to return to Biblical, consistent and passionate family worship. With pastoral insight and care the author provides practical and valuable answers to the practice of family worship and at the same time addresses objections raised against it. In a world of impossible standards and idealism, this book is a helpful and motivating guide to implement or increase the depth of your family devotions.

Thoughts on Family Worship, James W. Alexander (gpts.edu) 260 pp; \$9.75

In a day when the world is making inroads into the Church, it has especially invaded the Christian household. The modern Church cannot compare with that of previous centuries in terms of practical holiness, and the reason may very well be that family worship no longer regularly occurs at home. It is to remedy this deficiency that this book was written. James W. Alexander was the eldest son of Archibald Alexander, the first professor of Princeton Theological Seminary.

Good News Club

What is a Good News Club?

Good News Club® is a ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® in which trained teachers meet with groups of children after school at Still Elementary. Each week on Thursday afternoon, the Midway Volunteer/teacher presents an exciting Bible lesson using colorful materials from *CEF Press*®. This action-packed time also includes songs, Scripture memory, a missions story and review games or other activities focused on the lesson's theme.

The purpose of *Good News Club* is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus

Christ and establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.

Can we really teach the Bible in public schools?

*Yes! The Gospel has been taught freely in public schools all over the world for some time. Now children in the U.S. have that opportunity, too! In 2001 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Good News Clubs v. Milford Central School* that *Good News Clubs* can meet in public schools in the United States after school hours on the same terms as other community groups.*

What is taught in Good News Club?

Each club includes a clear presentation of the Gospel and an opportunity for children to trust Jesus as Savior. Every club also includes strong discipleship training to build character and strengthen moral and spiritual growth. All children are encouraged to attend a local church.

Who teaches a Good News Club?

*Christians who are concerned for boys and girls work together volunteering their time and energy to teach **Good News Club**. We are trained by **Child Evangelism Fellowship** to have a club that is exciting and informative so that children will want to keep coming. Teachers are asked to sign the **CEF Statement of Faith** and agree to abide by the policies of the organization. Adults working with the program are screened according to our child protection policy.*

*In the United States there is a movement among churches to adopt a public school **Good News Club**. Midway has adopted Still Elementary School.*

How can I get involved?

*There are several opportunities to be involved with a **Good News Club**. You can pray for the children and teachers in the club. Become a club teacher or helper by contacting Jennifer Nichols and asking about training and opportunities. (770) 422-4974 ext 1114 or email JHNichols1@hotmail.com*

Announcements

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND a bridal shower in honor of Devon Hall on Saturday, July 16th at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Kris Ross or Alicia Bartlett if you would like to help with the shower. Devon is registered at Crate & Barrel, Macy's and Target.

FIELD USAGE

Please schedule all activities involving the use of the field with the church office until further notice.

STORY TIME FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS will be held in the church library every Wednesday morning in July from 10-11 AM. Anyone wishing to volunteer as a reader please contact Joyce Talley at 770-499-8145.

BOOKSTORE - Anyone wishing to order a book recommended in the pastor's Christian Classics sermon series may contact Joyce Talley at: joycetalley2@aol.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for July 18-22nd. Volunteers are needed; contact Marc Harrington at meh8171@yahoo.com

FOCUS PRAYER GROUP

A Focus Prayer Group for those who have a spouse, children, parents or siblings who are unsaved will begin meeting on July 5, for prayer for the salvation of these immediate family members. We will meet in the 1905 sanctuary at 7:00 pm every first and third Tuesday of each month. Anyone who has these close loved ones who are lost are welcome to join with us. Please contact Wendell Way or Scott Keesee with any questions.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED – Care Coordinator for Helping Hands Ministry – This ministry provides for practical needs in the congregation during illness or times of crisis, after childbirth, or after a death in the family. The care coordinator identifies needs and recruits Midway members to provide meals, babysitting, transportation, etc. If you are gifted with organizational and computer skills and might be interested in serving your church family in this way, please contact Ann Kistner for more information at 770-426-8874.

JOIN THE ALBANIAN SUMMER MISSIONS TEAM on Sunday, July 10 after the evening service for homemade desserts to hear information about their up-coming trip and how you can pray for them. If you would like to financially support the team, please make checks out to Midway with "Albania" in the memo line.



Dear friends,
We are abundantly blessed by your many kind expressions of care and concern over the last few weeks. Thank you for demonstrating God's love and the true meaning of fellowship in the Body of Christ to us. With love in the cause of Christ,
James and Joan Jordan

THE HARVESTERS SS CLASS is beginning a Summer study entitled, "Why We Believe the Bible". We will be using a DVD series featuring John Piper (pastor for preaching and vision at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis) to instruct and guide our discussion.

Topics included in the study are:

1. Why Does It Matter if the Bible is True?
2. Which Books Make Up the Bible?
3. Do We Have the Very Words Written by the Biblical Authors?
4. What Does It Mean That the Bible is Inerrant?
5. How Can We Justify the Claim That the Bible is God's Word?

Please join us in this important study and discussion. The purpose is to delight in the cast-iron reliability of the Word of God. Psalm 19:10 says of God's Words, "More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than the honey and drippings from the honeycomb." Our desire is that we will know the life giving nature of these words.

The Harvester Class meets in one of the southern most Sunday School rooms next to the Fellowship Hall / across from the cemetery and can be entered from the Coffee / Tea lobby area (door marked 228).

Missions

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

Missions News

On Sunday July 10th the Albania Missions team would like to invite the congregation to join them after the evening service for home-made desserts. During this time the team will be sharing information about and prayer requests for their upcoming trip to Albania.

If you would like to support the team financially please make your checks out to Midway with Albania trip in the memo line.

The team will be leaving for Albania on Friday July 29th and will be working with Midway supported missionaries Bertie and Jenny Kona,

On Sunday night July 31st We will be hearing from two of Midway's supported missionary families. Bob and Patty Meredith who are working with the Navigators in Africa and Roy and Kristy who are currently on HMA. The Missions committee will also be hosting a dinner for the congregation that night to give everyone a chance to meet our missionaries. More details will be given as the date gets closer.

On Sunday September 11th we will be joined by Midway missionaries Palmer and Joanna Robertson. Palmer is currently serving as Director of the African Bible College in Uganda. Dr. Robertson will be sharing about their work during a combined Sunday School class and preaching during the 11:00 service.

Diaconate Report

	April-11	Year to Date Feb 11 - Jan 12
Undesignated Receipts	\$112,104.57	\$392,903.60
Over / (Under) Budget	(\$27,295.43)	(\$25,296.40)
Missions over and above	\$765.00	\$2,121.00
Ministries & Misc.	\$0.00	\$375.00
Expenses	\$99,450.93	\$613,716.81
(Over) / Under Budget	\$39,990.74	(\$195,391.81)
		Includes \$200,000 into a contingency fund
Cash on Hand (less restricted funds)	\$237,461.63	
Building Fund	\$23,407.00	\$46,702.00
Building Fund Since Inception		\$7,975,864.00
Daughter Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
Daughter Church (Since April 2003)		\$13,510.41

UPCOMING SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Children's Activities

July

18th – 22nd - VBS

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - Terrific Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - Wednesday Night Bible Study
7-8:00

**More information can be found on the Children's Summer Calendar on the children's table downstairs.*

Youth Activities

July

10th – MS Grandslam, 7PM

11th – Leave for HS RYM, 8:30AM

18th – Beginning of VBS

24th – HS Homerun, 7PM

25th – Church Braves Game, 7PM

August

7th – MS Grandslam, 7PM

10th – End of the Summer Celebration

Midway Presbyterian Church

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