

MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1850

MESSENGER

“Every member a STUDENT, a SERVANT, a SOWER, and a STEWARD”

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Rev. David Hall, Senior Pastor
Rev. Gene Hunt, Associate Pastor
Rev. Greg Doty, Assistant Pastor

May 2007

Vol. 29 No. 5

FROM OUR PASTOR

Groundbreaking Soon!

For many of you who have waited, prayed, and given for such a long period of time, our Groundbreaking Celebration on May 6th will be an encouragement. Our Building Program is ready to begin and move ahead. We invite all of you to participate and witness with us at this occasion. Please see fuller details in Elder James Scott's update below.

As construction begins in earnest this summer, please do not stop praying or supporting this work. It is still our goal to have 50% of this work completely paid for by the time we dedicate the building, with an additional 25% already reserved in the budget for the debt service. But all this depends on your continued faithfulness, stewardship, and sacrifice.

By the time you receive this, some staff members will be relocating their offices to the temporary trailers, and things will begin to grow complicated. Your staff will still be keeping regular office hours, unless construction hinders, so do please call on us any time we can help. Our services will continue with as little interruption as possible, and we pray that God's Spirit will continue to work in all of us.

I ask that each of us make this a time to renew our vows to the Lord, to His church, and to His people. By God's grace, let's make this a time of healthy church expansion. Each of us, pursuing the Fruit of the Spirit (review Galatians 5:22-26 and pray that God will give you these virtues), can make this a positive time and avoid complaining or grumbling.

May God bless each of you and cause us to rejoice even more as the Lord leads us.

Special Services Ahead

Over the next several months, we have some exciting speakers who will visit our church. Be sure to make the most of these opportunities.

May 1 @ 9:00 AM. Northwest Georgia Presbytery will meet at our church, and Dr. Harry Reeder, pastor of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL will be preaching.

May 6 @ noon: Special Groundbreaking Celebration in conjunction with the First Sunday of May.

May 20 @ 6:00 PM is Youth Sunday. Join us as we honor graduating seniors and praise God for his work with our Communicants and youth.

June 10 @ 6:00 PM Dr. Jonathan Sarfati of Creation Ministries International will be speaking at our evening worship. He is a scientist, an author, and expert in defending creation against evolutionary critics.

July 22 @ 8:30 and 11:00 AM worship services. An international Gideon speaker will present a testimony of how God is working through the dissemination of Scripture.

We are grateful for these times of hearing how God is at work. Bring a friend to any of these!

Thank you from a Marine

Will Talley's letter below reminded me not to forget our soldiers and those who protect our nation. You will be encouraged when you see how our church can minister to those who serve in our military.

From the Pastor cont. / Youth / Christian Education

Pastor Hall,

Before I leave for Djibouti, I wanted to write and express my sincere gratitude for everything that you and the Midway Family have done for those of us in service to our nation. Every time I come home and visit I am astounded by the love and support from everyone at Midway. My line of work can be challenging; not only to the body and mind, but also the spirit. God finds so many ways to give us strength during difficult times, and I know that one source I have and will continue to draw upon is the knowledge that so many are praying for those of us who leave home to face this conflict.

I am already looking forward to coming back to Midway later this year, and seeing all of the wonderful plans that will have begun to take shape. Again, thank you so much for all of the prayers and concern. It is such a blessing to know the people of Midway are there.

Will Talley

From the Cutting Floor:

John Gill said that the word 'Abba' was spelled the same forwards and backwards and we could take that as indicating God would be a Father to us in times of prosperity and also of tribulation. It is a wonderful thing to be able to say to God, "Abba." You can search the whole of rabbinical literature and never find a single instance of a believer addressing God as 'Abba.' When Jesus called God 'Father' he was inaugurating a theological revolution. – Rev. Geoff Thomas

YOUTH SUNDAY

May 20th

6:00 p.m.

Sandwich Supper to Follow

Christian Education

From Gene Hunt

From the Westminster Confession of Faith, we read:

1. "All of God's people are united to Jesus Christ, their head, by His Spirit and by faith, and have fellowship with Him in His grace, suffering, death, resurrection, and glory. United to one another in love, God's people have fellowship in each other's gifts and grace and are obliged to perform those public and private duties which nourish their mutual good, both spiritually and physically in the inward and outward man." WCF 26.1.

2. "By their profession of faith God's people are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and communion with each other in the worship of God and in the performance of other spiritual services for their mutual improvement. They are also bound to help each other in material things according to their different abilities and needs. This fellowship is to be offered, as God gives the opportunity, to everyone in every place who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus" WCF 26.2.

To our modern-day thinking these words from the Westminster Confession of Faith are radical. But the concept of the covenant community has always been radical to the unregenerate man. God asked Cain, "Where is your brother?" Cain's response, "Am I my brother's keeper?" has reverberated down through the centuries in all manner of selfism.. The Bible clearly teaches that "I am my brother's keeper!" This is what the church is all about. We are actually obliged to share our gifts, graces, and goods with one another. When there is holy fellowship and communion within the body we validate the power of the Gospel. Jesus prayed "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me." This truth of the "covenant community" must always be at the heart of our Christian Education. I am deeply blessed by our Midway family as I see you share your gifts, graces, and goods for the mutual good of one another. May we continue to grow in our understanding of the privileges and responsibilities of being a "covenant community" as we seek to advance the Kingdom right here in our "home grown" mission field.

Special People/Special Announcements

Happy Birthday Senior Saints



MAY

16 Ellen VonStein
29 Billy Penrod

JUNE

15 Pat Phillips
16 Carol Roberts
25 Julie Morrison



PRAY FOR OUR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Amy Blalack
Paige Richardson Forrester
Missy Crew
Shelley Remington
Kelli Shipman
Amber Magee Michael
Camille Jackson
Sara Beth Chumley
Jennifer Nolan



BRIDAL SHOWER

You are invited to a Bridal Shower for Amber Whitener and David Stout on Saturday, May 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Macy's and Target.



BRIDAL SHOWER

You are invited to a Bridal Shower for Laura Lynn Boggs and Jared Carroll on Saturday, May 12th at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Macy's.

*Mr. and Mrs. James Boggs
Request the honor of your presence at the
marriage of their daughter*

Laura Lynn

to

Mr. Jared Ryan Carroll

*on Friday, the first of June
two thousand and seven
six o'clock in the evening
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Hiram, Georgia*

Reception to follow

Hiram Community Center

RSVP by 5/7/07

770-654-5591



Thank You!

Charlie and I want to express our gratitude to all of you for the cards, e-mails, calls, concerns, and prayers during the last couple of months. Your prayers, support, and encouragement mean so much to us. We feel so blessed to be a part of such a loving covenant family. Please continue to pray for us as the Lord guides and carries us on this journey. Let's praise His name together and thank Him for how is working. We rest in His loving kindness, compassion, and tender mercies. We are carried by His amazing grace and are so blessed!

Teresa and Charlie Bursi

GIFT CD'S

A CD of the Sunday morning sermon will be available to you as you leave the Sanctuary. These CD'S are complimentary and will be available each Sunday morning.

ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Please send your graduation information to Greg by May 14th, for inclusion in the Youth Sunday Bulletin. Email Greg at MPCYouth@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Missions

MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES

Stanley and Donna Arnes - MTW, South Africa
Peter and Diane Bakelaar - MTW, Japan
David and Stacy Bergmark - MTW, Sweden
Ron and Gayle Clegg, World Harvest Mission- - Hungary
David and Sue Cunningham - MTW, Australia
Jack and Kim Cunningham - MTW, Thailand
Rob and Angie Edwards - RUF, University of Georgia
Alan and Chinglien Fiol - MTW, Taiwan
Dan and Rebecca Gregoire - MTW, Slovakia
Ester Hunter - WBT, Chad, Africa
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Orlando/Africa
Scott and Tracy Ketrow - CCC, Italy
Dale and Nancy Knudson - MTW, Philippines
Endi and Kati Kovacs, CRM, Hungary
John and Kathy Lesondak - MTW, Slovakia
Steve and Ann Lutz - SIM, Niger, Africa
Tim and Nicole - MTW, 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
Andy and Sue Peck - WBT, Orlando
Clay and Darlene Quarterman - MTW, Ukraine
Palmer and Joanna Robertson - ABC, Uganda
Mike and Sheryl - MTW, Atlanta area
Gullermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico
Jonathan Sawtelle - CO, Samford University
Chuch and Wyema - MTW, Europe
Roger and Dianne Smalling - MTW, Latin America
John and Liz - MTW, West Africa
Jan - MTW, 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, Kenya
Pat Wood - PEF, Freedom Ministries

Mission Organizations supported by Midway

ABC -- African Bible College
CCC -- Campus Crusade for Christ
CO -- Campus Outreach
CRM-- Church Resource Ministries
MTW -- Mission To the World
NAV - The Navigators
PEF - Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship
RUF - Reformed University Fellowship
SIM - Serving in Mission
WBT -- Wycliffe Bible Translators

Weather is something easy to talk about but there is very little you can do about it. We certainly can't control it like the thermostat in your house. It is normal here in the southeast to have very warm periods in 'winter' followed by freezing weather in 'spring'. That is why those who know, advise waiting until mid April to set out annuals or start summer vegetable crops, even in

years when it is 80 degrees in March. This year's Easter freeze was particularly harsh ruining the peach, apple and blueberry crops. Most ornamental plants only lost flowers and new leaves should recover. The exception would be those plants already in decline or ones newly planted without time to become established. The timing for potting up plants for the mission trips plant sale fell on that Saturday and it was very cold for the workers as well as the plants.

Unlike weather conditions, our faith is harder to talk about. That is why I use plants or insects to lead into spiritual conversations. Gardening and talking about plants is safe and non-threatening. Wherever our missionaries have been called to work they look for items from the culture to spark spiritual conversations. We have been blessed recently to hear many reports from visiting missionaries. The needs are great in Haiti and India where the new NW Georgia presbytery supports missionaries. Our Midway missionaries reported on their work in England, Japan, and the University of Georgia campus. Peter Bakelaar showed great pictures of Japan, thanking Midway for contributing to the ministry center, which was one of our over and above giving projects in the past. Our medical team also gave an inspiring report on their trip to Honduras, which is another very needy country.

Many of you showed your support of our summer teams by coming to the Missions Dinner and plant sale. Thank you. The teams headed to Mexico, Slovakia and England now need your prayers as they prepare and go. I wish all our members could have the opportunity to see first hand what God is doing around the world. In the past, mission trips have helped me keep my priorities straight and visiting teams certainly are an encouragement to our missionaries.

Upcoming Missions dates:

Sunday Evening July 29 - Ron Clegg, Hungary
October 5 - 7, 2007 - Missions Conference

This year's freeze damage was bad but not all-inclusive. Some plants in exposed areas lost all their blooms and new leaves while others growing under the protection of trees or against the house were unscathed by the bitter cold. Life itself has many bitter times. We need to be deeply rooted in God's word. Christians who are covered by the blood of Jesus and protected by the covenant church family certainly go on to bloom and produce fruit following trials.

Becky Blades, for the Missions Committee

Music Ministry / Diaconate Report

Music Ministry *by Judy Dodd*

“I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.” Psalm 104:33

Each year, the month of May brings about a number of activities which mark the end of a season. And this year is no exception! On May 20th, our children’s and handbell choirs will present a Spring Recital. This is a culminating event which allows each choir to perform publicly some of the music they have studied during the year. I would like to take this opportunity to invite our church family to this recital. Our singers and ringers work diligently at weekly rehearsals to learn music which is God honoring, and to continually hone the technical skills necessary to sing and ring well. Please join us as we praise God with His gift of music.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who make this ministry work. Abby-jane Eller is completing her 12th year as a volunteer in the children’s choir ministry, and Dianne Matthews more years than that! Abby does a tremendous job with our youngest singers, the *Cherub Choir*, bringing to this position her love of God, her musical abilities and her love for these children. Our children’s choir accompanists this year are Dianne Matthews and Julie Knox, both gifted musicians whose faithfulness and diligence are greatly treasured. Thanks also to Bonnie Scott and Ann Tippins for their willingness to step in as substitutes when needed. And a most sincere thank you to Rodney and Nancy Pritchett for their leadership with the bell choir. You are greatly appreciated! Next time you see them, I hope that you will take the opportunity to thank these wonderful volunteers for their service to our Lord and His church.

REPORT FROM THE DIACONATE

Receipts for March 2007	\$124,121
Ahead of budget for March	\$11,380
Building Fund to Date	\$4,020,513
Over and above Missions giving YTD	\$4,390
Future Daughter Church Fund to Date (Since April 2003)	\$10,860
Future Daughter Church Planting Receipts YTD 2007	\$760
For the Diaconate In His Service Reggie Harris	

Nursery Ministry

Midway Nursery Ministry

Jennifer Nichols, Nursery Director

Do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

It takes courage and trust in the Lord to bring up children in today's world. We welcome the opportunity to "come alongside" of you and offer support as you do the most important job life can offer--loving and guiding our covenant children toward maturity.

We do need God's help in accomplishing this. A key element to our children's well-being is teaching them to pray and to believe that God hears each prayer. How can we do this? First of all, by our own example. As our children observe our own dialogue with God and dependence upon Him during the day and they see us wait for His answers, we demonstrate our belief in the importance of communication with our Heavenly Father. And as He responds, we must tell our children and others -- building their faith in a God who hears.

We need all the help we can get! How are we supposed to get the older ones off to school, husband out the door in clean clothes, dog walked & fed, children and ourselves cleaned up and ready to come to bible study or church, when just then the phone rings, or the dishwasher overflows! Yet it all can be done with God's help and guidance -- if we pray right before or in the midst of the morning's hustle and bustle, asking the Lord's help and trust in that He will do so. He will stretch our time, energize us, and be for us the patience and wisdom that we need.

If our children see us stop in the midst of a busy day to talk with God, that idea will stay with them. If we take time to listen courteously to our children, we demonstrate the reality that what they have to say is worthwhile enough to be taken seriously by the most important people in their lives. That knowledge will give them the faith to believe that God listens to them also, just as lovingly and carefully.

May we receive God's help to nurture our children's desire to be close to Him and talk to Him.

SUNDAY NURSERY SUPERVISORS

Infant Areas:

8:30 & 9:45 Andrea Baxter 11:00 Bonnie Scott

Nursery Desk:

8:30 Rose Wichterman 9:45 & 11:00 Sally Braaksma

Evening Nursery:

Sandy Burton, Kindy Moore (May) Beth Leslie (June)

May Volunteers & Sunday School Teachers:

Rainbow Room 3's: Bob & Rose Wichterman

Lion's Den 2's: Phil & Patti Schrock

MAY 6

8:30 Jennifer Acree, Jerry & Becky Blades, Jeffrey Baxter, Taylor Brittingham, Carolyn Sqrow, Carol DeMar
9:45 Shelley Remington, Shannon Howard, Kelly Stout, Cheryl Marsh, Cynthia Brittingham, Cliff & Christie Cook

11:00 Chris & Cowley, Jonathan & Kelsey Hutson, Joe & Denise Monroe, Lori Peterson, Allie & Katherine Peterson, Megan Martin

6:00 Sherri Taylor, Laura Joseph, Tyler & Austin Joseph

MAY 13

8:30 Lance & Sonja Cooper, Susan & Whitney Brookins, Rachel Cooper Asa & Aaron Cooper, Paul Nichols

9:45 Todd & Tricia Ver Steeg, Jennifer Pursley, Doug & Dena Clapp, Greg Kistner, Mary Katherine Keel

11:00 Rachel & Rebecca Wilson, Susan Chewing, Samantha Clapp, Diane Joung, Terri & Melody Kayler, Laura, Evan & Lexi Keesee

6:00 James & Joy Scott, Mac Hunt, Claire & Courtney Pursley

MAY 20

8:30 Katie, Christy & Maribeth Wichterman, Charles Joseph, Lauren Crumbley, Nicole Neumeier, Anna & Sarah Dudd, Emily Hart & Anne Herbert

9:45 Paco & Sarah Combes, John & Jeannie Fair, Janice Furlong, Chris Jackson, Billy & Rebekah Resh,

11:00 Kim, Katherine, & Michael Matthews, Richard & Polly Vogh, Jeff & Sandra O'Hara Family, James & Joseph Boggs, Sarah & Rachel Howard, Matt & Sara Beth Wilson

6:00 Allen, Susan, & Andrew Scott, Zack Wagoner

MAY 27

8:30 John Roberts, Dylan Crumbley, Tina Cantwell, Keira Hall, George & Kim Jones, Tyler & Emily Jones

9:45 Christopher Braaksma, Jodine Poole, Larry & Abby Jane Eller, Becky Jackson

11:00 Bobby & Gene Cork, Anna Hankal, Sarah & Maggie Eller, Evodia Fonji, Morgan Kennedy, Ann & Sara or Emily Kistner

6:00 Barbara Kline, Paula Wilson, Thomas Chumley

Nursery Ministry cont.

SUMMER QUARTER:

June Volunteers and Sunday School Teachers:

Rainbow Room 3's: Bob & Rose Wichterman

Lion's Den 2's: Tartals and Fix's



JUNE 3

8:30 Jennifer Acree, Sandy, Katie & Kim Burton, Julie, Bryan & Cole Dykstra, Mickie Roberts,

9:45 Amanda Caden, Heather Cartwright, Ruth Dewhurst, Melissa Klein, Joel & Sandy Kroese, Chris Spicer

11:00 Karen Burnsed, Lori & Chris Cowley, Ken Dewhurst, Bobbi & Michelle Mitchell, Mike Snider, Derek Spicer

6:00 Thomas Chumley, Sherri Taylor, Dave & Sandra Westerfield

JUNE 10

8:30 Alicia Bartlett, Susan & Whitney Brookins, Taylor & Hayden Johnson, Robby & Dana Langston, Jeffrey & Paige Siewert

9:45 Paul & Mary Katherine Keel, Richard & Beth Ann Bowers, Shelley Spratlin, Elizabeth Taylor, Liz Vawter

11:00 Dina Dropp, Kevin Kahle, Ruth Ann Knight, John & Brandy Marchant, Jeff & Jean Ross, Zack, Grace, Greta Taylor

6:00 Barbara Bokhoven, Kay Johnson,

JUNE 17

8:30 Lauren Crumbley, Leslie & Taylor Nichols, Shari Purdue, Halie Siewert, John & Andrea Simmons, Katie, Maribeth & Christy Wichterman, Rachel Zimmerman

9:45 Billy & Rebekah Resh, Mary Burton, Chuck & Linda Dunehew, Shannon Howard, Mark & Connie Jennings, Debbie Zimmerman

11:00 Jill & Lucy Barrett, Olivia Burdine, Luke Burton, Larry & Mary Judy, Katherine Matthews, Bob & Debi Tango, Dean, Kim & Alex Wardlaw

6:00 The Pritchett's

JUNE 24

8:30 Chris Acree, Jeffrey Baxter, Jerry & Becky Blades, Taylor Brittingham, Tina Cantwell, Carol DeMar, Jessica Kuipers,

9:45 Cynthia Brittingham, Doug & Dena Clapp, Cliff & Christie Cook, Cheryl Marsh, Jodine Poole, Kelly Stout, Lynn Wagoner

11:00 Samantha Clapp, Evodia Fonji, Jonathan & Kelsey Hutson, Morgan Kennedy, Lauren Kirschner, Megan Martin, Denise & Joe Monroe, Lori, Katherine & Allie Peterson, Rachel & Rebecca Wilson

6:00 Zack Wagoner, Dan & Karen Widner

We join Matt and Linda Harris in praising God for the birth of their daughter Annabel Grace Harris who was born on Friday, April 20 2007. Annabel is also the granddaughter of Reggie and Elaine Harris and Liz Vawter.

We join Adam and Havilah Kline in praising God for the birth of their daughter Sarah Grace Kline who was born on Sunday, April 22, 2007. Sarah Grace is also the granddaughter of Mike and Barbara Kline and great-granddaughter of Pat Phillips.

We join Jason and Robin Curtis in praising God for the birth of their son William Evan Curtis who was born on Tuesday, April 24, 2007.

We join Nathan and Clare Richardson in praising God for the birth of their daughter Ester Jane Richardson who was born on Wednesday, April 25 2007. Ester Jane is also the granddaughter of Wes and Susan Richardson.

Midway Presbyterian Church

4635 Dallas Hwy
Powder Springs, GA 30127

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE:

SUNDAY

- 8:30 a.m. - Early Morning Worship (Nursery ages 0 – 3)
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Nursery ages 0-3)
- 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship (Nursery for ages 0 – 3)
- 4:30 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. - Middle School Discipleship
- 5:15 p.m. - Prayer time for Missionaries in the parlor
- 6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship Service (Nursery ages 0-3)
- 7:00 p.m. - High School Discipleship

TUESDAY

- 9:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 a.m. - Men's Early Prayer, Gene Hunt's office
- 5:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper
- 7:00 p.m. - Youth Fellowship
- 7:00 p.m. - Children's Program
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Study, Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

- 7:30 p.m. - Young Adults in the Fish House