

MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1850

MESSENGER

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

4635 Dallas Highway, Powder Springs, Georgia 30127
Tel. 770.422.4974 E-mail. Church.Office@MidwayPCA.org
www.MidwayPCA.org

Rev. David Hall, Senior Pastor

November 2007

Vol. 29 No. 11

FROM OUR PASTOR

Progress in God’s Church

Do you find yourself anxious to have our building completed and occupied? I do. Aren’t there times when you wonder if it is all worth it? I do. Do you wonder if our church is being tested and refined, and wonder if we’ll make it?

We all do; and progress in God’s Church does not always come in a straight line. There are jagged ups-and-downs, sometimes idling in neutral times, some rain delays (praise the Lord for that!), and many other challenges.

But please be encouraged by two things: (1) the visible process; and (2) the invisible promise.

The visible process, since the last newsletter, shows:

- Two concrete foundations laid—one for the sanctuary and the other for the Fellowship Hall—much backfilling has been completed, and rebar is beginning to poke out of the ground. Before the nice rains of late October, we were only slightly behind our time table. In the near future, things will start going vertical, and we want you to be encouraged by that. As soon as the weather clears, the Fellowship Hall will begin to rise from the ground.
- Moreover, we received a very encouraging financial report at the end of the third quarter for this year. After September was closed out, our receipts were ahead of expenses—and that is rare for the month after a full summer—and we praise the Lord for the faithfulness of God’s people.
- Our week of prayer and fasting called us back to greater devotion and sacrifice. How we thank you for your prayers and look toward God’s continued strengthening.

- Our committees looking for new staff members are doing a great job, and they are very encouraged. Please keep praying for them.

However, the strongest encouragement I can give you is from Jesus’ own words in Matthew 16:18: “. . . *I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*” I urge you to rest in that promise . . . and to enjoy watching how God will build his church. We have Christ’s own promise—and it cannot fail. Onward, Christian Soldiers.

Youth Rediscover Ancient Hymns

In the recent *By-Faith* magazine, Melissa Morgan wrote an article about how a new generation is rediscovering old hymns. She writes:

“In high school, Matthew Smith was a faithful church attendee, active in his youth group, and eager to grow in his faith—but despite all this he felt like a failed worshiper.

“In the church I grew up in, I felt like I had to drum up an emotional experience for myself in worship,” said Smith. “The praise choruses we sang were centered on me: “I give you praise God,” “I give you my all,” “I want to worship you.” But I often didn’t feel those things—or even mean those things—when I sang them, so the whole experience felt dishonest.”

When he began attending college at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., Smith started visiting Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) meetings, and for the first time began hearing old hymns set to new music. “These hymns weren’t about me—they were about Jesus. They didn’t say, “I want to worship you.” They described what Jesus has done, and *that* is what made me say, “I want to worship you.” Singing these hymns, along with the teaching I was hearing, completely changed my perspective on worship. And ironically, when I stopped focusing on myself and my

From the Pastor cont.

emotional experience in worship, that's when my heart began to feel.

Smith's journey parallels many in today's postmodern culture, those who crave authenticity over affection, mystery over order, community over individualism, and substance over ephemera.

'In a world where everything is over-hyped, slick, and marketable, it's refreshing to see these texts written without any of that baggage,' said Smith. 'What could be more authentic than a folk song written 250 years ago in a tiny English village for a congregation of 30?'

From the Cutting Floor

John MacArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church, is well known for his insights and biblical faithfulness. John Ross recently shared MacArthur's thoughts in the letter below, and I wanted to pass them on to you. It might also be of interest for your children or any who are re-locating to another city.

Dear Friend,

It's likely that you or someone close to you has been part of a church battle or split. If so, your experience is testimony to the sad fact that such divisions are all too common.

In today's evangelical churches, members often fight the fiercest battles over the most inconsequential issues. The style of the pews, the color of the choir robes, the design of the church bulletin, or who has the positions of power. I hear all sorts of stories about churches disagreeing and dividing over insignificant matters.

Disruptive arguments like that spring up when believers emphasize style over substance. That kind of superficial thinking defines our culture, and it's being embraced more and more by God's people. In many churches, digging into the meat of Scripture had become far less important than what the church and its services look and sound like.

One major consequence of setting aside biblical teaching is that it opens the door for divisive, petty arguments, which in turn distract from the preaching of God's Word and make it even less of a priority. The cycle is almost impossible to break, and it's deadly. It's like spiritual quicksand.

When you see so many churches fighting battles that lead nowhere, that have no eternal importance, and that leave the church members mentally drained, emotionally discouraged, and spiritually malnourished, the obvious question is, What are the issues worth fighting for?

People often ask me what the non-negotiables are when looking for or evaluating a church. What should they be willing to tolerate, and what kinds of things are

deal-breakers? How can they know when it's time to start looking for a new church? I usually point to a few basic priorities that will be true of any church that seeks to glorify God and edify believers.

First, I encourage people to look for a church that has a **high view of God**. Many churches have bought into the marketing mindset of the secular world—they've designed their entire ministry around satisfying the felt needs of their target audience. The member and his or her taste, interests, and preferences are at the center of the universe.

However, a healthy local church won't revolve around its members. The church exists to unfold God's glory and intimately acquaint believers with His majesty—it points upward. Every aspect of the worship service should be transcendent, pointing God's people to praise and love for Him.

Secondly, I tell people to look for a church that **exalts Christ**. Far too often today, in worship and in teaching, churches downplay or neglect the person and work of Christ. He's rarely the focus of the worship or the sermon—and when He is included, it's almost an afterthought.

But Christ is not a postscript. Instead of minimizing and marginalizing Him, He needs to be at the center of everything the church does. The church needs to be the place believers come to grow in their knowledge of and love for Christ. A good church will do everything it can to eliminate anything that distracts from the person of Jesus Christ.

I also urge people to look for a church that will cultivate a love for Scripture. God's Word is not intended to support, punctuate, or illustrate the ideas and opinions of men. Human insights and clever storytelling are nothing compared to eternal, life-transforming truth of Scripture.

Third, When you're looking for a church, find a place that **proclaims and explains God's Word in a way that builds your appetite for it**. Sitting under shallow preaching is a sure way to turn yourself into a spiritual anorexic—instead, find a church where you're regularly encouraged to feast on the meat of Scripture. If the pastor has done his job, you should always come away from the sermon with a hunger to dig deeper and know more of God's truth.

One more essential element unifies it all—a strong, sacrificial yet humble love between pastor and people. Love binds everything together.

If you find a church that makes biblical priorities, the trivial disputes will stay trivial. Petty bickering can't take root in your church when you're given over to glorifying the Lord, knowing Christ, studying Scripture, and loving humbly.

From the Pastor cont.

Of course, that brief list of priorities for a healthy church is not exhaustive. In fact, many people would have automatically included at least one other priority that has become a dividing line in many churches: worship style.

Many churches are changing their worship services. Pop choruses are replacing classic old hymns. Electronic band instruments are in, organs and pianos are long gone. Casual, convenient services are edging out serious, formal Sunday morning worship.

The debate over contemporary worship has caused an alarming amount of division in churches everywhere, and we get questions about the issue all the time at Grace to You.

Is one style of worship more biblical than another? How important is worship style when deciding to join—or leave—a church? What does a biblical worship service look and sound like?

In a thought-provoking new interview called “Contemporary Worship: Civil War in the Church,” my friend Phil Johnson and I discuss the nagging question people are asking. Your church’s worship service matters to God. And biblical principles should guide the way you worship and the choices your church makes. . .

I trust you understand the importance of finding a local church that has biblical priorities—a place where God is glorified, Christ is exalted, Scripture is faithfully and accurately taught, and God’s people exhibit a humble love for each other. Nothing can replace the sanctifying influence of worship within the fellowship of like-minded believers.



Jonathan Jackson’s contact information:

Home: 770-505-5274

Cell: 404-386-9619

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER:

- 4th Discipleship – Middle School 4:45 p.m. - High School 7:00 p.m.
- 7th 1st Wednesday Youth Group 7:00 p.m.
- 9th-11th Middle School Fall Retreat
- 14th Youth Group
- 17th High School Atlanta Day - Meet at church
- 18th Discipleship – Middle School 4:45 p.m. - High School 7:00 p.m.
- 21st Thanksgiving Eve Service (No Youth Group)
- 25th Discipleship – Middle School 4:45 p.m. - High School 7:00 p.m.
- 28th Youth Group
- 30th Open Gym (all youth invited) 7-10 p.m.

DECEMBER:

- 2nd Discipleship – Middle School 4:45 p.m. - High School 7:00 p.m.
- 5th 1st Wednesday Youth Group 7:00 p.m.
- 8th Middle School Christmas Party
- 9th Discipleship – Middle School 4:45 p.m. - High School 7:00 p.m.
- 12th Youth Group (last one until Jan. 9th)
- 14th Open Gym (all youth invited) 7-10 p.m.
- 15th High School Christmas Party
- 16th Discipleship – Middle School 4:45 p.m. - High School 7:00 p.m.

Special People/Special Announcements

Happy Birthday Senior Saints



NOVEMBER

- 4 Catherine Norris
- 11 Dot Finch
- 11 Dorothy Taylor
- 13 DeWitt Massey
- 13 Katherine Watson
- 15 Charlie Rader
- 25 Lily "Bit" Graden



PRAY FOR OUR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

- Stace Huff Amanda Jeffares
- Mary Katherine Keel
- Mercy Chebe Michelle Pritchett

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This Christmas, share the love and hope of Jesus Christ with a needy child in a country like Uganda or El Salvador by using a simple shoe box. Operation Christmas Child is an easy missions project that every member and family can participate in by bringing a gift-filled shoe box to church in the next two weeks. Brochures can be found on the Children's Ministry table. Please place filled shoe boxes under the Children's Ministry table by Sunday, November 18th. Remember to enclose \$7 to help cover shipping costs.

FLOWERS

The 2008 Sanctuary Flowers Sign-Up sheet is on the WIC table. Please consider providing fresh flowers for the worship services one Sunday next year. Call Lynn Wagoner if you have any questions.

MISSIONS TRIP

The Midway Missions Committee is planning a trip to New Orleans to assist with the ongoing rebuilding effort as a result of Hurricane Katrina. We are looking for 6-8 men or women with construction skills to assist with the renovation of St. Roch Community Church from January 20 to 26, 2008. The church is associated with Desire Street Ministries and the PCA. More information can be found at www.strochcc.org.




Baby Shower

All ladies are invited to a Baby Shower for Stace Huff on Saturday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

REPORT FROM THE DIACONATE

Receipts for September 2007	\$135,496
Ahead of budget for September	\$18,588
Building Fund to Date	\$4,846,948
Over and above Missions giving YTD	\$16,214
Future Daughter Church Fund to Date (Since April 2003)	\$11,360
Future Daughter Church Planting Receipts YTD 2007	\$1,260

For the Diaconate
In His Service
Reggie Harris

SPECIAL CARE

Volunteers needed for special care ministry: Volunteers are needed at 9:45 and 11:00 on Sunday mornings. No special training is necessary, only a loving, cheerful attitude is required. Please contact Nancy David (770-423-9154) or Teresa Bursi (770-422-1153) for more information.

PALMER HOME FOR CHILDREN TRIP

November 11-17. If you are interested in going to Palmer please sign up in the Narthex. See Reggie Harris or Steve Furlong if you need additional information.

Missions

MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES

Stanley and Donna Armes - 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

Water, or the lack of it, has been much in the news and on our minds lately. Our Earth is some times called the water planet because so much of it, 3/4, is covered by water. One only has to look at a globe to see a lot of that water is in the oceans. In fact 97% of the earth's water is saltwater. Of the remaining 3% that is fresh water, 2% is frozen at the Polar Regions. But our Creator God designed the water cycle to provide what we need for

thousands of years using only 1% of the earth's water. Here in America we are careless with our use of water because it has been so readily available. Having traveled to a number of countries on summer mission trips, drinkable water available from the tap is rare and sometimes having any water is a challenge.

Proverbs 25:25 *"Like cold water to a weary soul, is good news from a distant land."* Our Midway missionaries are carrying the best news there is to refresh weary souls around the world. We were so privileged to hear reports from many of them during our recent World Missions Conference. The messages from Claude McRoberts were challenging, the fellowship sweet and the food abundant. We had many opportunities to get to know our missionaries on a personal level. Attendance was good and I know those who came were blessed. Special thanks to the following folks for housing and/or preparing meals for our guests: Don & Karen Barnett, Paco & Sarah Combes, Jerry & Becky Blades, Roger & Sharon Rhodes, Paul & Lynn Wagoner, David & Jennifer Westall, Diane Armstrong, Jerry & Sandy Burton, David & Ann Hall, Mike & Barbara Kline, Rodney & Nancy Pritchett, Evanda & Shelley Remington, and Tom & Lucy Todd. As always we appreciate our staff's wonderful support with childcare and music for the extra services and meetings. Trip Godwin did a super job coordinating the conference committee and bringing all the details together for the weekend. Next year's conference will be November 7 - 9, 2008 with Dr. Henry Krabbendam as the keynote speaker.

Yes, there are worse things than a drought. Amos 8:11 *"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land - not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD"*. For 70 years Communism held much of Russia and Eastern Europe in a drought of God's word. Clay and Darlene Quarterman were among the first to go there with the truth of the gospel. Clay will be preaching at Midway Sunday night November 18. Much has changed in Ukraine since the early '90's. Look at the missions display for a picture he recently sent of the Ukrainian graduates of the seminary in Kiev.

Upcoming mission dates:

November 11 - 17 - Palmer Home Trip

November 18 - Clay Quarterman, MTW - Ukraine

Habakkuk 2:14, *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."* I am praying for this promise to be fulfilled.

Becky Blades, for the Missions Committee

Music Ministry



MCCS Off and Running for 07-08

November is the month that we all associate with a thankful heart. These are days filled with great expectations, our spirits lifted by the cooler weather, and the prospect of family gatherings around a traditional meal. Upon checking our Trinity Hymnal, there are three hymns under the heading *Harvest and Thanksgiving*; “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”, “We Plow the Fields” and “Sing to the Lord of Harvest”. These three hymns have certain things in common. For one, the first verse of each hymn speaks of God’s grace in granting a physical harvest of crops. *We Plow the Fields* reads, “We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand.” It is the second verse of *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* that addresses the subject of harvest, reading “By him the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring, the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing. He filleth with his fullness all things with large increase, he crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.” And of course the very familiar first verse of “Come, Ye thankful People, Come” reads, “All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin; God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied”.

The second thing each of these hymns has in common is their use of a harvest of crops as an analogy for a harvest of souls. There are references to gifts of life, to taking His harvest home, a request that “we wholesome grain and pure may be”, and “the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls he died to save.” Each of these hymns is clear in its proclamation of God as maker of all things. The final verse of “Sing to the Lord of Harvest” is Trinitarian, in that it addresses God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. And finally, each hymn is truly a song of thanksgiving and praise. May God grant to each Midway family a November filled with gratitude for all that He has done, and may you sing each of these hymns with a heart overflowing with thankfulness.

In Christ,
Judy Dodd

Construction activity may have knocked the car line off course this school year, but nothing has slowed the Midway Covenant Christian School cross country team. The Lions brought home their third consecutive state title in October to get the school year off on the right foot. Congratulations to the entire team on this tremendous feat.

Another group of MCCS students getting its exercise is the elementary school students as they climb all over the much-anticipated new playground equipment on the east side of the school property. The old playground was removed to make way for the construction and the school is proud to now provide a larger play area with a wider variety of equipment for all ages.

While the first two months of the school year have seen plenty of change outside MCCS, students, faculty and staff are working just as hard as ever on the inside to make this the best year ever. From K-4 through the 8th grade, students are reading, writing, conducting scientific experiments, playing music, studying the Bible, building valuable computer skills and much, much more. Mrs. Kline would like to thank the faculty, staff, parents and students who make Midway Covenant Christian School a life-changing experience for everyone involved in it.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER VOLUNTEER LIST:

NOVEMBER 4

8:20 Rachel Zimmerman, Sandy, Katie & Kim Burton Alicia Bartlett, Lee Tebbens

9:35 Billy & Rebekah Resh, Elizabeth Taylor, Liz Vawter, Debbie Zimmerman, Cheryl Marsh

10:50 Zack, Grace & Greta Taylor Jeff & Sandra O'Hara, Kimberly & Morgan Kennedy, Kevin Kahle, Lori & Chris Cowley, Luke Burton

5:50 Allen, Susan & Andrew Scott

NOVEMBER 11

8:20 Andrea Simmons, Carol DeMar, Susan & Whitney Brookins, Conner & Kate Worley

9:35 Chris Spicer, Mary Katherine Keel, Chuck Duneheew, Cliff & Christie Cook, Larry & AbbyJane Eller

10:50 Shari & Allison Purdue, Jeff & Jean Ross, Derek Spicer, Joe & Denise Monroe, Jill & Lucy Barrett, Sarah & Maggie Eller, Donna Way

5:50 Paula Wilson, Karen Widner, Sherri Taylor

NOVEMBER 18

8:20 Nicole Neumeier, Lauren Crumbley, Gayle, Lauren, Anna McLean, Leslie & Taylor Nichols,

9:35 Kelly Stout, Todd & Tricia Ver Steeg, Jeremy & Theresa Fix, Jason & Robin Curtis

10:50 Katie, Maribeth & Christy Wichterman, Allie, Katherine & Lori Peterson, Charles & Kim, Michael & Katherine Matthews

5:50 Dave & Sandra Westerfield

NOVEMBER 25

8:20 Jennifer, Halie & Sophie Siewert, yAnna & Sarah Dudt, Dylan Crumbley, Jerry & Becky Blades

9:35 Jennifer Pursley, Paco Combes, Heather Cartwright, Amanda Caden Billy & Rebekah Resh,

10:50 Bob & Debi Tango, Richard & Polly Vogh, Jodine Poole, Lauren Kirschner, Laura & Evan Keesee, Susan Chewing, Joseph & James Boggs

5:50 Courtney & Claire Pursley, Barbara Kline

DECEMBER 2

8:20 Anne & Emily Hart Herbert, Paige & Jeffrey Siewert, Jeffrey Baxter,

9:35 Joel & Sandy Kroese, Janice Furlong, Jeannie Fair, Doug & Dena Clapp

10:50 Brandi & John Marchant, Terri & Melody Kayler, Sarah & Rachel Howard, Anna Hankal, Chris Cowley, Scott & Samantha Clapp

5:50 The Pritchett Family

DECEMBER 9

8:20 Kim & George, Tyler & Emily Jones, Susan & Whitney Brookins

9:35 Paul & Mary Katherine Keel, Becky Jackson, Christopher Braaksma

10:50 Donna Way, Ann & Emily Kistner, Mike Snider, Leila & Marshall Chumley, Karen Burnsed

5:50 Barbara Bokhoven, Sherri Taylor

DECEMBER 16

8:20 Charles Joseph, Keira Hall, Andrea Simmons, Lauren Crumbley,

9:35 Billy & Rebekah Resh, Melissa Klein, Shannon Howard, Ruth Dewhurst,

10:50 Dean, Kim & Alez Wardlaw, Katherine Matthews, Bobbi & Michelle Mitchell, Ken Dewhurst, Kimberly & Morgan Kennedy, Katie Wichterman

5:50 Laura Joseph, Austin & Tyler

DECEMBER 23

8:20 Rachel Zimmerman, Lee Tebbens, Sandy, Katie & Kim Burton

9:35 Debbie Zimmerman, Liz Vawter, Elizabeth Taylor, Jodine Poole, Mary Burton Chris Spicer

10:50 Zack, Grace & Greta Taylor, Luke Burton, Jeff & Sandra O'Hara, Kevin Kahle, Derek Spicer

5:50 James & Joy Scott

DECEMBER 30

8:20 Conner & Kate Worley, Carol DeMar, Alicia Bartlett, Nicole Neumeier,

9:35 Cheryl Marsh, Larry & Abby Jane Eller, Chuck Duneheew, Cliff & Christie Cook,

10:50 Jeff & Jean Ross, Allison & Shari Purdue, Joe & Denise Monroe, Sarah & Maggie Eller, Lori, Allie, Katherine Peterson, Samantha Clapp

5:50 Dan Widner, Zach Wagoner,

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
- 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

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 a.m. - Men's Early Prayer, Gene Hunt's office
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Study, Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

- 7:30 p.m. - Young Adults