

MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1850

MESSENGER

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

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Rev. Michael Brock, Assistant Pastor
Rev. Marc Harrington, Assistant Pastor
Rev. Joel Smit, Assistant Pastor

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FROM OUR PASTOR

Rev. David Hall

Like a Family

I've used this analogy before but I can't quite get away from it, and, of course, it is far from original with me. The apostle Paul speaks of the church as a family often, and a family with a particular father “from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.” (Eph. 3:14). Accordingly, each congregation has a strong resemblance to a family.

Our church is like a family, and we must adjust to layoffs, lower incomes, difficult economic times, and changes just as a family would. I know of one family that has experienced unemployment, and the father has taken other work for which he is vastly overqualified, and the children and wife all pitch in. Amidst all this, that family lives on far less but is happy and blessed; and each member is learning a lot. Another family had to make different educational choices, but their family is healthy, the children doing well, and God is blessing. Other families had to forego distant vacations this summer, and enjoy day trips. And most children and parents are every bit as happy. We all really could live on a little less.

Our church may have some similar belt-tightening in order, but we will adjust and be just as healthy. At a recent joint meeting of the Deacons and Elders, we were informed that our General Fund giving is off 15% to date. None of us wish to cut programs, missions, or other ministries by that much, but if our family needs to adjust, we sure will. And we'll do so with love for each other, with more volunteerism, and by reminding ourselves and each other that our church is the Lord's and the tithe is the Lord's and that we are to “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” (Mal. 3:10).

So, as our officers consider budgets, planning, and programs for next year, would you please do a few things for your church family:

- (a) *Pray*: asking God to bless, to renew our generosity, to show us ways we can give more and serve more,

and to call us to support our church with the first-fruits of our giving.

- (b) *Serve*: be willing to keep nursery an extra time or help with the youth or children if hands are needed. If any program areas are cutback, it would encourage your whole family if you would step up.
- (c) *Give*: In the Malachi passage cited above, God views folks who do not tithe as “robbing God,” because the tithe belongs to the Lord by right because he is our Sovereign. The Lord calls us all to tithe. Some may be able to give more, and if you can give to support the General Fund for the remainder of the year, that would allow our family to maintain all its ministries. If not, we will find ways to happily live on less as most families are.
- (d) *Be part of the solution instead of a critic*. Families who tighten their belts do better during constrictions with encouragement, joy, cheerfulness, and helpfulness than with grumbling, blaming, pessimism, and cries of “a crisis never, ever seen in the history” of our family. Do be a joyful family member.

God will continue to provide as he always does. Thus far this year, and Midway is blessed, we've paid all our bills, completed a wonderful building, supported all our mission works, funded ministries that are great and improving every week, and we've retired SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS of building debt (out of approximately \$11.3 million dollars for the final price) in less than 4 years, all while supporting the work of the church. **I have nothing but praise and thanks for this congregation in its giving.**

I ask those who can give more to please step up at this time, and for all that we remember that we're a family—we'll get through this challenge, we'll continue to grow, we'll continue to serve the Lord. And for all who are faithful, you'll see “so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” That is God's promise, and he is our family's Father, always providing and guiding.

God bless you all.

Pastor cont. / Assistant Pastor / Youth Calendar / Music

Why would you miss Special Services?

We have some outstanding opportunities ahead of us. Sometimes, folks don't know what they miss until it's over. We have two outstanding speakers visiting our church in the next two weeks. Please try to join us for the Reformation Heritage Conference (Oct 30-31) and learn from Dr. Paul Jones—maybe you could bring a friend, and there is no charge for Midway folks.

Also, our Annual Missions Conference is November 6-8, with the Rev. Carl Robbins from Greenville, South Carolina speaking. Come and hear his sermons on "The Attributes of God and Mission" and meet some of our missionaries.

And in coming conferences (2010, 2011) we have incredible speakers—Steve Lawson and Michael Horton—scheduled.

Thanks Scott Keesee

Our church has recently completed a week of prayer and fasting. Many participated both on and off site, and this is a great reminder of how to come before the Lord humbly and with reliance. It is good for us to feel the pinch of hunger, to know a little sacrifice, to remember that we are but dust, and to know how frail we are. Wisdom's beginning, with the right fear of the Lord, was shown in our fast, and I wish to thank Elder Scott Keesee for leading us in this season. It was a blessing.

Note from Michael Brock:

Please be sure to pass the registration pad in the pews each week. This is very important as we try to effectively follow up visitors. Also, if you are at the opposite end of the pew, pass it back to the end from which it came. This step is needed so that folks can greet one another by name after the service. We want to be a warm and welcoming congregation. If there is someone sitting next to you that you don't recognize, speak to them. If you are afraid of speaking to them because you don't want to look stupid if they are already members, say something like, "Perhaps we've met before, but I'm (insert your name)."

CALENDAR OF YOUTH FALL EVENTS:

Weekly Events

-Sun. School – 9:45AM

-High School in Youth Assembly

-Middle School in Gym Room

-Wed. Night -7:00 PM

Monthly

Nov. 2 (Tues.) -MS Trip to the Corn Maze
-Meet at Church; 12PM.

Nov. 8 (Sun.) -MS "Grand Slam"

Nov. 14 (Sat.) -HS Bon-fire

Nov. 21 (Sat.) -Youth Service Day

Nov. 22 (Sun.) -"Homerun" @ Peterson's

Dec. 16 (Wed.) -MS Christmas Party

Dec. 19 (Sat.) -HS Progressive Christmas
Dinner

Please check the Youth Calendar on the Church web page for up to date calendar info:

<http://www.midwaypca.org/youthcal.html>

From the Music Director . . .

Wanted: Singers!!! Please consider this your very own personal invitation to join the adult choir. We are always looking for additional singers to augment the excellent choristers who currently sing with the Midway Choir. We especially are in need of sopranos, but will be very pleased to find new altos, tenors and basses. Preparations for Christmas are just now getting under way, so this would be an excellent time to add your voice to ours. No auditions are required, just a heart for the Lord and His church. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. I will be delighted to speak with you!

In January, we will be starting a Beginning Bell class. The class will be open to ages 10 and older, and will meet on Thursdays, 6:15-7:00. In order for the class to make, we will need 8 students. Be thinking now about including this activity in your schedule.

Missionaries / WIC

MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES

Stanley and Donna Armes - MTW, South Africa
Peter and Diane Bakelaar - MTW, Japan
David and Stacy Bergmark MTW National Associate – Sweden
Roy and Kristy – Restricted, Asia
Benji & Ester Campbell
David and Sue Cunningham - MTW, Australia
Rob and Angie Edwards - RUF, University of Georgia
Alan and Chinglien Fiol - MTW, Taiwan
Dan and Rebecca Gregoire – MTW, Slovakia
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT 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
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
Andy and Sue Peck - WBT, Orlando
Clay and Darlene Quarterman - MTW, Ukraine
Palmer and Joanna Robertson - ABU, Uganda
Guillermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico
Chuck and Wyema - Restricted, Europe
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
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
MTW -- Mission To the World
MIA - Missions to Albania
NAV - The Navigators
PEF - Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship
Restricted – due to sensitive ministry
RUF - Reformed University Fellowship
SIM - Serving in Mission
WBT -- Wycliffe Bible Translators

*Please join us for
a brunch baby shower for
Amber Whitener Stout
November 21st at 10a. m.*

*David and Amber do not know
if the baby is a boy or girl.*

WIC Happenings . . .

- Order a poinsettia in honor of memory of someone special and help beautify the church this Christmas. Watch for full details and sign-up sheets this month.
- The Covenant Children's Christmas Tree is back! Look for full details in this newsletter.
- Come and help decorate the church for Christmas on Tuesday morning, December 1. Mark your calendar and join us at 10:00 a.m.
- Save the evening of December 8th for our WIC Christmas Celebration, "Treasures for the King".
- Save Friday night and Saturday, March 5 and 6th : MIDWAY WOMEN'S RETREAT at Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge in Dawsonville, GA. Watch for full details in the near future.

BABY SHOWER

All ladies are invited
to a drop-in baby shower for
Stefanie Smit
on Monday evening Nov. 9th
from 7:00-9:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall.
The Smits are having a girl
and are registered at Target.

Announcements



UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING

Upward Registration for ages K5-5th grade --To register your child for the Upward basketball and cheerleading season, please fill out a registration form located on the children's ministry table or Sherry's desk and place it in the church mailbox or office of Marc Harrington (located inside left door as you enter the sanctuary).



Poinsettias

Can you believe that it's time to start thinking about decorating our church for Christmas? Now that we've had some time to familiarize ourselves with our beautiful new facility we have lots of new decorating ideas to enhance our worship time and honor the birth of our Savior.

A large part of our display will be live poinsettia plants so, once again, we invite our families to help us by purchasing a plant or plants that will be used to decorate and then after the Christmas Eve service they can be taken home for the whole family to enjoy. Very soon we will begin sending sign up sheets to the adult Sunday school classes for you to sign up and participate in this endeavor. There will also be a sign up sheet on the WIC table in the hallway (the table will the lamp on it). Cash or a check made out to WIC can be placed in the attached envelope.

Ladies who enjoy decorating and would like to help are invited to join the WIC Council and other volunteers as we "dress" up the church for Christmas on Tuesday morning December 1st. Mark your calendars now and join us for a time of service, fun and fellowship.



COVENANT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Starting November 1, please stop by the WIC table to order your Covenant Children's Christmas photo ornaments. The cost is \$3 per ornament. These hand made ornaments will be displayed on a tree at Midway during the month of December, and may be taken home prior to Christmas. To place your order, complete the order form on the WIC table, and leave an envelope containing \$3 cash and a photo no larger than 2" x 3. The deadline for ornament orders is November 22. Contact Ann Kistner at 770-426-8874 with questions.



Midway Library

As this natural world around us slows down, heading for a long winter's sleep, the library at Midway is "waking up" after an extended period of hibernation. We are so glad to have the last project of our long building program finally done: the new library space has been renovated and furnished. Both the children's section, managed by Sandy Burton of Midway Covenant Christian School and the adult library, with Joyce Talley as librarian, are being moved into the new space and will soon be in normal operation.

In coming months look for book reviews and recommended reading lists in the newsletter Anyone interested in a Book Club, with a monthly meeting to discuss our reading, please contact Joyce Talley at joyce2@aol.com. Also, let Joyce know of any titles that you would like to see in our library.

We invite everyone to come by and see our beautiful new space-- across from the kitchen entrance. We have many excellent books, both fiction and non-fiction, for children, teens, and adults. We have books that will broaden your horizons, enrich your spiritual life, and help you to live a godly life in an un-godly world. We also have lighter literature that will simply provide a good enjoyable read on a rainy afternoon. Come by the library and.... check us out!

In His service,
Joyce Talley, Librarian

Diaconate Report / MCCS

DIACONATE REPORT

	August-09	Year to Date
Undesignated Receipts	\$118,018.00	\$911,116.14
Over / (Under) Budget	(\$12,433.48)	(\$132,495.66)
Missions over and above	\$1,173.00	\$12,484.17
Ministries & Misc.	\$548.00	\$44,310.00
Expenses	\$99,955.55	\$1,058,862.62
(Over) / Under Budget	\$15,351.51	(\$42,539.65)
Cash on Hand	\$64,192.56	
Building Fund	\$16,727.00	\$211,754.60
Building Fund Since Inception	\$6,979,393.32	
Daughter Church	\$0.00	\$140.00
Daughter Church (Since April 2003)	\$13,380.00	

Midway Covenant Christian School

Excitement has built over the past weeks as Midway's library has neared completion. New shelves are being filled with books. Soon technology will be up and running and a link from Midway's website to the library. Students and staff have worked together to bring the books from downstairs to the new location. We are thankful for this provision.

MCCS's 5th – 8th grade boys and girls are involved in basketball practice several times a week as they get ready for the new season. Our cheerleaders are working hard as they learn team work. The cross country team is making great strides. Mattie Griffith ran with one shoe knowing that if she stopped she would lose time. She won a medal! It is a joy to see our young people working hard to glorify our God in all they do.

The PTF (Parent Teacher Fellowship) under the leadership of Connie Fortney is well organized as they plan for upcoming events. A Scholastic Book Fair is coming November 3rd-6th. Come by and see variety of books. This book fair is an occasion to earn dollars that will be used to enhance our library. Once again MCCS students will partner with MPC children to participate in Operation Christmas Child. It is an opportunity for our students to serve others.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is open to all middle school students. They meet each Friday at 7:30a.m. for a time of fellowship, food and learning to apply God's word. FCA speakers encourage our students to live our theme verse found in Romans 12:10. We are thankful for Joel Smit's message in October.

We thank and praise our Lord for His provisions:

A committed Godly School Committee

Elders who pray for this ministry

Deacons who care for our facility and coordinate the many activities of a growing church and school.

A church that is committed to children.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Nursery Ministry

Midway Nursery Ministry

Thank you Nursery Parents! We are very appreciative that you trust us with your precious ones. We love it when they are enthusiastic to come, as well as disappointed to leave, the Nursery Ministry. Of course, if your little one comes in hesitantly, don't give up. We have found that persistence pays off, usually it only takes 3 consistent weeks or so, for the hesitant one to see how much fun Midway Nursery can be. Sometimes a parent will need to stay and "show" them how much fun it is. But after a time or two playing with Mom or Dad, they understand. If the crying continues, please remember that it could be just separation anxiety and subsides once you have left the area. We have very reliable pagers that we use if they won't settle down.

Our small Nursery Staff is very appreciative of the Nursery Volunteers because it takes over 35 volunteers every Sunday to provide the proper care for each child. Our Super Hallelujah goes to our Parent Volunteers! You are so appreciated as you sacrifice your time, worship and learning to provide a caring, loving and very welcoming place for our littlest covenant children once every other month.

Our wonderful Facilities Maintenance Team has installed hand sanitizer dispensers at each Nursery Welcome Station, our way of hitting the germs before they come in and so they won't go home with you. To keep germs away from the Nursery, if your children have had a fever within 24 hours, vomited, have the colored runny nose, or just don't seem to feel good, please stay home with the sick ones. If you are scheduled to volunteer in the Nursery and you have any of the above symptoms, please stay home and get well first.

Nursery Volunteers, as we enter the Holiday Season, please be especially aware of when you are scheduled to serve in the Nursery Ministry. Any trips over the holidays that you have planned ahead, swap with another volunteer, email me and we will work out a change if you are scheduled during that time.



OUR EXPECTANT FAMILIES: Stefanie & Joel Smit, Laura (Bursi) & Matt Cobb, Catie and James DeMar, Amber & David Stout, Shelley & Evanda Remington, Emily (Jordan) & David Vreken, Anna & Tom Campbell, Allison (Walker) & Jonathan Ferro, Rebekah (Tippins) & Billy Resh, Nikki & Paul Allen

Nursery Volunteers

Midway Nursery Ministry

NOV 1

9:35 Mary David, Carol & Catie DeMar,
Dina Dropp, Janice Furlong, Melissa Klein

10:50 Jill & Lucy Barrett, Jeffrey Baxter,
Mary & Mary Grace Burton, Luke & Will Burton,
Heather & Anna Kate Cartwright, Lori & Chris Cow-
ley, Sue & Jessica Dudd

5:50 Laura, Austin & Tyler Joseph

NOV 8

9:35 Dan & Karen Widner, Mary Katherine Keel Bob
Tango, Chris Spicer, Susan Brookins

10:50 Katie & Maribeth Wichterman, Christy & Julia
Wichterman, Lee Tebbens, Whitney Brookins Amy &
Derek Spicer, Tammy, Nick & Noah Robertson, Claire
& Courtney Pursley Jocelyn Pharr

5:50 Stefanie Smit, Becky Lewis

NOV 15

9:35 , Gail Griffin, Tom & Anna Campbell
Alicia Bartlett, Jeannie Fair, Kim Matthews

10:50 Richard & Polly Vogh, Brandy & John Mar-
chant, Ann Kistner, Anna & Libby Hankal,
Keira Hall, Gayle, Lauren & Anna McLean,
Erin Fair, Shari & Allison Purdue, Emily Keesee Na-
than, Zach & Drew Bohannon

5:50 Michael & Katherine Matthews,
Barbara Bokhoven

NOV 22

9:35 Lisa Brock, Theresa & Jeremy Fix,
Ruth Dewhurst, Doug & Dena Clapp

10:50 Leila Chumley, Bryant & Charles Brock, Tabby
& Priscilla Brock, Bobbi & Michelle Mitchell, Saman-
tha Clapp, Sarah & Maggie Eller, Sarah & Anna Dudd,
Terri & Melody Kayler, Ken Dewhurst Anne & Emily
Hart Herbert

5:50 Paula Wilson, Barbara Kline

NOV 29

9:35 Cliff & Christie Cook, Lance & Sonja Cooper
Mary David, Julie Dykstra

10:50 Julie, Elizabeth & Joseph Bell, Christina Rodri-
guez, Kimberly Burton, Kendall Butler, Gabe Bostwick,
Rebekah & Michelle Cooper, Asa & Aaron Cooper,
Max & Emma Jeffries, Larry & Mary Judy, Jeffrey &
Sophia Siewert, Kate & Connor Worley

5:50 Julie & Leah Knox, Kimberly Smith

DEC 6

9:35 Caron Hobson, Shelley Remington, Joel &
Sandy Kroese, Katie Edwards, Christopher Braaksma

10:50 Madison Braaksma, Chris Cowley, Rachel & Sa-
rah Howard, Katy & Ryan Howell, Jonathan Jackson,
Sara & Tracy Miller, Jennifer Nolan, Jean Ross, Allie &
Katherine Peterson, Jennifer & Jackson Siewert,

5:50 Jerry & Becky Blades, Becky Lewis, Michael &
Katherine Matthews, Sarah Combes

DEC 13

9:35 Elizabeth Taylor, John Nichols, Celise Bell,
Cheryl Marsh, Brittany Funk, Susan Brookins,

10:50 Grace & Greta Taylor, Leslie & Taylor Nichols,
Becca Leslie, Laura & Lexi Keesee, Emily Keesee,
Amy & Sam Griffith, Mattie, Mallory, Samuel Griffith,
Whitney Brookins, Heather & Anna Kate Cartwright,

5:50 Lindsay Moss, Charles & Kirt Moore, Breanna
Robinson, Sarah Combes

DEC 20

9:35 Melissa Klein, Janice Furlong, Dina Dropp,
Carol DeMar, Ruth Dewhurst,

10:50 Jill & Lucy Barrett, Jeffrey Baxter, Mary Burton,
Luke, Will & Mary Grace Burton, Gayle, Lauren &
Anna McLean, Jocelyn Pharr, Courtney & Claire Purs-
ley, Katie Wichterman, Richard & Polly Vogh., Ken
Dewhurst

5:50 Nancy, Phoebe & Calli Pritchett

DEC 27

9:35 Dan & Karen Widner, Bob Tango, Chris Spicer,
Mary Katherine Keel, Gail Griffin

10:50 Samantha Clapp, Christina Rodriguez, Christy,
Maribeth, and Julia Wichterman, Lee Tebbens, Derek &
Amy Spicer, Tammy Robertson, Nick & Noah Robert-
son, Ann Kistner, Anna & Libby Hankal,

5:50 Laura, Austin, & Tyler Joseph

Midway Presbyterian Church

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