

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

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FROM OUR PASTOR

What an incredible Conference!!

We have just concluded a truly wonderful conference. The Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology (PCRT) came and brought excellent preaching, an awesome bookstore, good fellowship, and fantastic music and worship. I am so thankful that we had the opportunity to host this conference. Those who attended were built up, strengthened, challenged, and called to greater faithfulness.

I am also very proud of all the helpers from Midway. From the book table to the refreshments, from the music to the nursery, from the transportation team to the audio tapers, from the children's ministry to registration, from the nursery to Sherry Cowan's great coordination, our church's work can be summed up in two words: phen nomenel!

Not only were we blessed and challenged, but you showed how Midway can use its gifts and pull together when needed.

We'll not soon forget the teaching on the atonement of Christ. And we hope we'll see our friends from the conference again in the future.

Staff Workings

Your new staff is getting acclimated, and thank you for all your support and prayers. Pastor Brock has preached several times and will be preaching in mid-April. So will Pastor Harrington. Joel Smit will be here May 1, and all the pastors are lending a hand at many areas and working with great pastoral skills. Several new studies and week-long ministries for the children are being planned. As soon as all the details are worked out, we'll pass these on.

Calvin 500

On Saturday night of the PCRT conference, we handed out some brochures on an exciting commemorative tour for 2009. Calvin 500 is the anniversary celebration of the 500th birthday of John Calvin (born July 10, 1509). To learn more about the speakers at two anniversary conferences, the tour associated with the conferences, publishing, and other aspects, see www.calvin500.org.

Several leaders from Midway are vitally involved in the planning, the tours, etc. And Elder Mike Kline has been appointed as the local coordinator for Midway's members to join the tour. Yes, it's a little pricey, but this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear some of the finest preachers and also take in a great tour. Elder Kline would love to hear from you if you're interested in being in a Midway group for the tour. I hope you'll consider this trip and conference. Think of it as PCRT on steroids—except with a lot of European culture, too.

From the Assistant Pastors.

Thank You!

From Pastor Michael Brock

My family and I want to thank you all for the gracious and warm reception we've received since our arrival at Midway. It is really nice being back. We are thoroughly enjoying being a part of all the ministries here.

We appreciate your patience as we strive to learn names - don't be offended when we ask your name for a 3rd or 4th time.

One question I have received regularly is, "what are your responsibilities here at the church?" Well, I have been and will be spending my time in the following ways (these items not necessarily listed in an order of priority): Visitor Outreach and Assimilation; Membership Shepherding; Hospital Visitation; In-Home Visiting; Preaching; Teaching (Wednesday Night Adults, Sunday Schools); Counseling; Meetings (Deacons, Session, Committees, etc.); Discipleship (Small Groups and One-on-One).

I look forward to meeting you all and hopefully getting to spend some time with you in the near future. Do not ever hesitate to give me a call.

Michael



Midway Children's Ministry

Almost a month has passed since my wife, Kate, and I began work at Midway as your Assistant Pastor of Children and Families. We have enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to getting to know you and your children better in the coming months.

The passage I'm often reminded of concerning family and children is found in one of the greatest sermons ever preached. Peter, in Acts 2:39 reminded his audience that the gospel promises are "*for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself*"

Packed into that short phrase is what we, as members of a God-initiated covenant, believe and trust will be seen in our children. But as you know, children don't enter this world with bible, catechism and good works oozing from their souls. They have to be taught!

Though this training in Godliness is a long-term process that often isn't realized until later in their lives, our hope and firm belief is that God includes them in His covenant and will, in His perfect timing, complete His perfect work in their souls. This is a powerful motivation to teach them the great truths of Scripture, the privilege of prayer and the responsibility to worship with the body of Christ on the Lord's Day.

My prayer is that all we do in the children's ministry will be to glorify God by assisting you in training your children in the ways of God. With this in mind, I want to issue you an open invitation to join us in children's church, on Wednesday nights and during any of the special events we host for the encouragement of your children.

Many of you have heard by now that the dates for Vacation Bible School are July 21-25. We have chosen an Olympic theme that will challenge your children to "run with endurance the race of faith". Volunteers are needed for this important week so please contact me if you are willing to serve. In addition, we are meeting Wednesday nights throughout the summer from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for bible study and recreational activities. Feel free to drop in on us anytime!

May God raise up at Midway from your family a new generation that will carry the torch of Christ into the future.

Music / Youth / MCCS

From the Music Director . . .

There is a hymn in the Trinity Hymnal entitled, “I Know Whom I Have Believed”. The writer of this hymn text is Daniel W. Whittle. Mr. Whittle was born in 1840, a native of Massachusetts. He fought in the Civil War, rising to the rank of Major. Major Whittle lost his right arm during the war, and spent time in a POW camp. It was during his recuperation in the hospital that Major Whittle became a Christian. After the war, he briefly worked for the Elgin Watch Company. He left that job to go into full-time evangelistic work, a contemporary of D. L. Moody. Major Whittle always worked with a gospel singer and song leader, the first of which was Philip P. Bliss, writer of the music for “It Is Well with My Soul”. Major Whittle wrote twenty-three hymns, most of which have passed out of use. The Whittle hymns which are still sung today include “There Shall Be Showers of Blessing” and “Moment by Moment”, in addition to “I Know Whom I Have Believed”.

These hymns employ a style of music known as the gospel hymn. Gospel hymns make use of a simple harmonic progression, using two, maybe three harmonies total. The form will be strophic, meaning that it will have several verses, each followed by a single chorus. The style is a simple style, easily accompanied by a keyboardist with little formal training. This ease of execution was instrumental in the rise of popularity of the gospel hymn in nineteenth century America.

When our son was born, he was very ill, remaining in neonatal ICU for several weeks. During this dark time, the Lord brought to my mind the hymn, “I Know Whom I Have Believed”. My personal hymn preferences lean more toward the chorale based hymns. But in the midst of a personal trial, this simple gospel hymn is the one that came to my mind again and again. Each verse begins with a statement of something that I do not know. The chorus is based on 2 Timothy 1:12, which reads, “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day.”

Do you have a hymn story, some event in your life where God used a hymn to comfort or guide you? If so, I’d love to hear your story! Give me a call.

References

Brown, Robert K. and Mark K. Norton: *The One Year Book of Hymns*; Tyndale

House Publishers, 1995. July 15

Osbeck, Kenneth W.: *101 Hymn Stories*; Kregel Publications, 1982. p. 117

www.cyberhymnal.org

YOUTH NEWS:

contact Jonathan at 404-386-9619 for questions about Youth

- Middle School Discipleship Sunday nights at 4:45 p.m.
- High School Discipleship Sunday nights at 7:00 p.m.
- Youth Group Wed. Night at 7:00 p.m.

Midway Covenant

Christian School

Spring is here and with it is the precious reminder of beginnings. All around us we see change, construction and the hope spring brings. I always feel exhilaration with spring as the bleak winter blahs give way to green grass, budding trees and fragrant flowers. Spring also signals the coming end of school. Your school is full of activities and the challenge of staying focused as we move toward summer.

MCCS has completed achievement tests and we look forward to productive days of learning. We are blessed each year during testing week as we come together for Fine Arts Festival. Our students work hard in the morning and break at 11 a.m. for Great Performances. This year Midways own Midway Ringers came and shared their gifts with our students. What a pleasure to hear the beauty of the bells. We so appreciate the time and energy given to our students as they presented not just listening pleasure but gave instruction about the history of bells. Our students heard bagpipes, a poet, Sarah Beth playing viola and several former students came with the drama team from Dominion High School.

Thank you for your prayers on our behalf. One student new to our school this year stated when asked how she liked MCCS stated, “I don’t like Midway, I love it!” We are truly blessed with a sweet environment in which we not only stretch our children intellectually but one in which we are privileged to lead our children to a desire to “set their minds on things above...” Col.3:1a

Special People/Special Announcements

Happy Birthday Senior Saints



APRIL

8 Carolyn Kemp
14 Buck Kemp
22 Gay Ottinger



PRAY FOR OUR EXPECTANT FAMILIES

Paul & Mary Katherine Keel, Billy & Rebekah Resh, Matt & Laura (Bursi) Cobb, David & Jennifer Westall, Paul & Tori Fish, Paul & Nikki Allen, Dan and Karen Widner, Richard and Beth Ann Bowers, Jason and Shari Purdue, Craig & Karen Burnsed, Clare & Nathan Richardson, David and Elizabeth DeMar



We join Emmanuel and Mercy Chebe in praising God for the birth of their son Jesse Che Chebe who was born on Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

We join Rory & Michelle Pritchett in praising God for the birth of their son Charlie James Pritchett who was born on Thursday, April 3, 2008.



To our Midway Family,
Margaret and I want to thank you for all your prayers, visits, cards and phone calls during my time of sickness. Your kindness meant so much to us.

Thank you,
Fred and Margaret Warren

REMINDER: To avoid scheduling conflicts and be good stewards of the building, the Diaconate requires that all facility usage requests receive prior approval. Any facility usage requests can be directed to the church office to be placed on the calendar.

Spring WIC Event

Ladies, the WIC Spring Event will be Tuesday night April 29th in the Fellowship Hall. We are blessed to have Kathy and Alanna Lesondak, missionaries with Missions to the World as our guest speakers. Your cost for the catered meal is \$4.00 per person. Sign up at the WIC table this week.

MISSIONS TRIP

Midway is organizing a return trip to New Orleans to assist St. Roch Community Church in their rebuilding and church planting effort resulting from Hurricane Katrina. The trip date is scheduled for June 21 through June 28. The work will consist of construction, renovation, and community outreach. Visit www.strochcc.org for more information or contact Kip Howard or Fred Chumley if interested.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent for Dean's funeral and the many cards and other expressions of your love. You have been a great comfort to our entire family.

We are grateful for the love and support you have given us throughout Dean's long battle with cancer. Your prayers have been answered. Dean won the battle and is with Jesus. Our family is comforted by God's presence and His promises. The children are firm in their confidence of God's sovereignty and His love. The power of your prayers continues to sustain and encourage us.

The Lord used you to show us His tender mercies.

For His Glory,
Gene and Susan Hunt

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
Roy and Kristy – Restricted, Asia
Ron and Gayle Clegg, WHM-USA/ Eastern Europe
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
Ester Hunter – WBT
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Orlando/Africa
Gary and Linda Johnson – MTW, Sweden
Scott and Tracy Ketrow - CCC, Italy
Dale and Nancy Knudson - MTW, Philippines
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 - ABC, Uganda
Mike and Sheryl – Restricted, Atlanta area
Guillermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico
Jonathan and Kellie Sawtelle - CO, Samford University
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, 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
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

Easter was early this year but reminders of Christ's work on the cross are still before us this spring. Everything about spring speaks of new life but the dogwood tree has a touching legend in its blossom. At the time of Christ's crucifixion, the dogwood tree was large like the oaks of the forest. So strong and straight the wood was chosen for the cross. To be used

for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree. Jesus sensed its sorrow as he was nailed upon it. In gentle sympathy He said to it, "Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross." Our native flowering dogwood is a small woodland tree with slender limbs that reach for the sun. It rarely grows taller than 30 feet. Its blossoms are in the shape of a cross with two long and two short white bracts, each with a rust colored nail print in the outer edge. In the center the true flowers form a crown.

So many around the world don't understand the work Christ finished on the cross. Caught up in false religions they try to earn their way into heaven. Our Midway missionaries have been called by God to tell of His grace by living and ministering in a different culture. Ann Lutz recently wrote, "Steve and I will ever be unspeakably thankful to the Lord for the 10 wonder-filled years that He gifted to us, leading us to Muslims in Africa. We will never forget how so precious and unexpectedly He led us to them, and then surprisingly employed so many of them to kindle in us an even greater adoration of Him as our knowable God! What an incredible wonder to be called to go, to proclaim Him, and then observe His active and alive Word drawing others to all the life residing in Him!" In Slovakia, the Gregoires welcomed Mazzy Anne on February 1st. Mazzy in Hebrew means precious pearl. *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. -Matthew 13:45, 46.* This summer they are planning a weeklong backyard English camp for children in their village in their home. Dan writes, "This idea is both exciting and terrifying." These and other recent letters from our missionaries are posted on and around the missions bulletin board. Take a few minutes to read their ministry updates. To receive emails from overseas throughout the week just send your address to bladesg@bellsouth.net and I will add you to our list of missions prayer warriors. Join us at 5:15 every Sunday afternoon to pray through that week's missionary letters before the evening worship service. We meet in the parlor when it is available.

Upcoming Missions opportunities:

Missions Dinner - May 17

New Orleans team - June 21 - 28

June 29 – Steve Womack, WBT Kenya

Jay Fontanini – ABC Uganda

London Team - July 26 - Aug. 2

Annual Missions Conference – November 7 - 9, 2008

Dr. Henry Krabbendam - keynote speaker

The legend of the dogwood is only a story but it could be used to open a conversation about Jesus. Teaching opportunities are everywhere in God's creation. Look for ways to use them for His glory.

Becky Blades, for the Missions Committee

Nursery Ministry

Midway Nursery Ministry

Spring is here and we have many new opportunities at Midway. We are excited to provide Nursery Ministry for the PCRT conference and Spring WIC event. Please if you are planning to bring your Nursery aged child during any of our Special Events make the call to reserve a place for your child.

Call Jennifer Nichols 770 422-4974 extension 1114 or email Nursery@MidwayPCA.org

VOLUNTEER LIST

APRIL 6

- 8:20** Alicia Bartlett, Gayle, Lauren & Anna McLean, Anne & Emily Hart Herbert, Julie, Bryan & Cole Dykstra
9:35 Cliff & Christie Cook, Larry & Abby Eller, Kelly Stout, Dina Dropp, Jennifer Pursley
10:50 Lori & Chris Cowley, Anna Hankal, Rachel & Sarah Howard, Larry & Mary Judy, Laura & Evan Keesee, John & Brandi Marchant
5:50 Barbara Kline, Sherri Taylor, Claire & Courtney Pursley

APRIL 13

- 8:20** Susan & Whitney Brookins, Dylan Crumbley, Charles Joseph, Leslie Nichols
9:35 Mary Burton, Jason & Robin Curtis, Billy & Rebekah Resh, Bob Tango
10:50 Karen Burnsed, Luke Burton, Leila & Marshall Chumley, Richard & Polly Vogh, Donna Way, Jennifer Nichols
5:50 Laura Joseph, Austin & Tyler Joseph

APRIL 20

- 8:20** Jeffrey Baxter, Sandy, Katie & Kim Burton, Lauren Crumbley
9:35 Heather Cartwright, Amanda Caden, Dina Dropp, Jeannie Fair, Becky Jackson
10:50 Terri & Melody Kayler, Katherine Matthews, Bobbi & Michelle Mitchell, Katie, Christy & Maribeth Wichterman
5:50 Zach Wagoner, Dan Widner

APRIL 27

- 8:20** Carol DeMar, Sarah & Anna Dudt, Paul Nichols, Connor & Kate Worley
9:35 Nikki Allen, Paco Combes, Joel & Sandy Kroese, Lance & Sonja Copper
10:50 Samantha Clapp, Ann & Emily Kistner, Mike Snider, Kimberly & Morgan Kennedy, Cooper kids
5:50 Allen Scott Family

MAY 4

- 8:20** Nicole Neumeier, Jennifer, Halie & Sophia Siewert
9:35 Elizabeth Taylor, Shannon Howard, Ruth Dewhurst, Jeremy & Theresa Fix
10:50 Jeff & Sandra O'Hara, Zack, Grace & Greta Taylor, Shari & Allison Purdue, Lauren Kirschner, Ken Dewhurst, Chris Cowley,
5:50 Sherri Taylor, Barabra Bokhoven

MAY 11 (Mother's Day)

- 8:20** Susan & Whitney Brookins, Paige & Jeffrey Siewert
9:35 Chris Spicer, Melissa Klein, Jennifer Pursley, Cheryl Marsh, Christopher Braaksma
10:50 Kevin & Betsy Kahle, Donna Way, Derek Spicer, Lori Peterson, Allie & Katherine Peterson, Keira Hall, Leila Chumley, Taylor Nichols
5:50 Karen Widner, Courtney Pursley

MAY 18

- 8:20** Lee Tebbens, Lauren Crumbley, Jerry & Becky Blades
9:35 Billy & Rebekah Resh, Janice Furlong, Kelly Stout, Chuck Duneheew
10:50 Kim & Charles Matthews, Jill & Lucy Barrett, Jeff & Jean Ross, Jennifer Nolan, Charles & Kim Matthews, Michael & Katherine Matthews,
5:50 Paula Wilson, Claire Pursley

MAY 25

- 8:20** George & Kim Jones, Tyler & Emily Jones, Anne & Emily Hart Herbert, Jeffrey Baxter
9:35 Larry & Abby Eller, Doug & Dena Clapp, Bob Tango
10:50 John & Brandi Marchant, Laura & Evan Keesee, Larry & Mary Judy, Scott & Samantha Clapp, Anna Hankal, Sarah & Maggie Eller
5:50 Dave & Sandra Westerfield

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, Church Office Trailer
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Study, Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

- 7:30 p.m. - Young Adults