

# MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1850

# MESSENGER

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Rev. David Hall, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Marc Harrington, Assistant Pastor  
Rev. Joel Smit, Assistant Pastor  
Rev. Todd Allen, Pastor Emeritus

November 2011

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## FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR PRAYER, WORSHIP, AND THANKSGIVING

The Lord did not intend for the Christian life to be so difficult or obscure as to require great expertise, stunning ability, or higher education. He gave Christians fairly simple tools and commands. Things like prayer, worship, and thanksgiving are staples of the normal Christian life. These three activities have been front and center for our church this fall.

It was a privilege to devote much of October to prayer and worship. I want to thank Scott Keesee for organizing our week of prayer and fasting (Oct 11-15). Such a simple and affordable ministry is hard to beat. Then at our October Session meeting, James Scott organized a time of prayer for our upcoming worship conference. Don't you sense that the Lord is calling us to great prayer? I think our sung prayers in congregational worship are deepening as well. Do join us for every opportunity to pray including the Wednesday night prayer group led by Rev. Joe York and the Sunday afternoon time for prayer for missions.

I particularly enjoyed several things at this year's Reformation Worship Conference (Oct 20-23). Below are things for which I'm very grateful:

- **Missionaries;** our missions committee had the foresight and care to bring over several missionaries (Bertie Kona from Albania, Jean Paul from Haiti, Sebastian Heck from Germany, Terry Clarke from Australia) for a time of teaching, nurture, and refreshment. This added a nice dimension to our conference and also encouraged these who are serving the Lord. Through this farsighted planning, our conference reaches many nations.
- **Young pastors;** we had a young pastors luncheon on Friday, with 35-40 young pastors from a variety of reformed denominations attending. Sometimes a solo pastorate or work in a small parish

can seem unrewarding and discouraging. Yet, such pastors are every bit as valuable as any other pastor. We were glad to encourage these servants and confirm them in their views of biblical worship. Most of these have already become regular participants in this conference.

- **Great expositors;** we were privileged to have two of the finest expository preachers in our land—Bob Godfrey and Steve Lawson. These models for preaching helped reinforce the best in preaching.
- **Expert seminars,** led by the likes of Paul Jones, Terry Johnson, Jon Payne, Mark Ross, Hughes Old, and T. David Gordon, provided a feast for those wishing to learn more about grace-filled, God-centered, biblical worship.

Most of all, it has been a pleasure working with such a **gifted and cohesive staff**. Judy Dodd did an amazing job providing for all the musical tracks and helping in so many other areas. Marc Harrington and Joel Smit (besides leading a well-attended seminar on Teaching Children and Youth to Love Worship) helped minister to many. All the snacks (thank you so much Joyce Talley and Susan Richardson, along with so many others), the Pizza dinner (sponsored by our youth, with Pastor Smit making salad for 200!), and the beautifully decorated and served WIC Covered Dish supper on Saturday night made the surroundings as pleasant as could be.

Not only is our church fueling a growing movement back toward reverential worship, but you are having a fine witness to folks from 20 states in the process.

Now, our calendars flip to November, and Advent begins the last Sunday of November. Please plan to join us for our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** in the 1905 sanctuary on Wednesday November 23 at 7:00 PM. Do plan to join us as we give thanks.

# Good News Club / Report from the Diaconate

## GOOD NEWS CLUB - NEWS

This begins our third year as the Midway Good News Club for Still Elementary School. We have 12 full time team leaders: Bobbi, Michelle, and Tyler Mitchell, Nancy, Heidi, and Calli Pritchett, Tammy, Camala, and Meredith Netzley, Marye and Wesley Pherson, Jennifer Nichols, and one part-time leader, Patricia Hall. We invited over 500 second, third, fourth and fifth graders to register and join our club, 72 children's parents filled out the forms for their kids to join. That is the most we have ever had. It is common for about a quarter of those who register to drop out after about a month of meetings, once they find out that its not all games and candy, but actual learning, memorizing & studying of Holy Scripture. We had our first meeting on September 8, 2011 and every Thursday thereafter.

Still Elementary has bent over backward for us to be welcomed and many of the Still faculty and staff have made it a point to stop by our club to say: "Thank you for bringing the Good News Club here to Still", "We wish ALL STILL STUDENTS would join your club!", and "How wonderful that you have so many young people (teens) that come and help out." It is so much fun to pull up to the front door of the school in our church van, We all pile out with our posters, balloons, baskets of nametags, games, snacks, CD player, lessons, devotional books, and bibles. Each of us is ready with our part of the club meeting. Child Evangelism Fellowship has it all scheduled in the curriculum with the lesson, the memory verse, games, the missionary story, certain songs, a gospel moment that pulls the whole meeting together and we each have a part to prepare and teach to the kids, so its not prepared by only one or two people but a shared responsibility of many.

This year we decided not to split the children by grade or by gender but instead to make teams equal of all ages and genders, designated by team colors. We have 6 teams with 2 team leaders assigned all year to that team. Each team has between 10 to 12 children and their team name tags along with team leader's name tags are laminated in their team color. This fosters some friendly competition between the teams by getting points for their team for each person's: attendance, reciting the memory verse, and doing the pages in their devotion book, called the WONDERBOOK. Michelle Mitchell has designed a blog page for the children to keep up with the new memory verse and to find out who is ahead in our team competition. The link is: [www.midwaygnc.blogspot.com](http://www.midwaygnc.blogspot.com)

We are praising God for all the opportunities He has given Midway Good News Club at Still ES. We are also praising God for the Leadership team this year, it is the best we have ever started with, each leader is so committed to our club. We are eager to get to know the children on our teams, to pray for them, to encourage them and to communicate with the parents also. You can tell we feel more comfortable as a leadership team this year because of the enthusiasm and creativity everyone brings to the table during our early planning meetings. Anyone who would like to visit one of our Good News Club meetings at Still is always welcome to come and observe, just meet us at the Midway conference room by 1:30 on any Thursday.

We always have our challenges, this year we have some autistic children that have joined. We are excited that some of our past challenging children have joined again this year too. It is amazing to see what God has planned for their lives. Please pray for God to continue to give us our enthusiasm, wisdom and love that He has for these children. Pray they seek Him to be their Lord and Savior.

*Jennifer Nichols*

### Report from the Diaconate

	September-11	Year to Date Feb 11 - Jan 12
Undesignated Receipts	\$118,597.25	\$1,022,173.66
Over / (Under) Budget	(\$20,802.75)	(\$93,026.34)
Missions over and above	\$740.00	\$11,718.00
Ministries & Misc.	(\$745.00)	(\$980.90)
Expenses	\$182,370.57	\$1,334,663.85
(Over) / Under Budget	(\$42,928.90)	(\$219,130.52)
		Includes \$200,000 into a contingency fund
Cash on Hand (less restricted funds)	\$154,352.10	
Building Fund	\$3,064.00	\$65,655.00
Building Fund Since Inception	\$8,120,840.00	
Daughter Church	\$67.00	\$146.00
Daughter Church (Since April 2003)	\$13,523.44	

# ***Missions / Announcements***

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## **MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES**

Stanley and Donna Armes - MTW, South Africa  
Peter and Diane Bakelaar - MTW, Japan  
David and Stacy Bergmark MTW National Associate – Sweden  
Chris and Jen Bowen – RUF Kennesaw State University  
Roy and Kristy – Restricted, Asia  
David and Sue Cunningham - MTW, Australia  
Dan and Rebecca Gregoire – MTW, Slovakia  
Sebastian and Isabel Heck – R2G, Germany  
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Orlando/Nigeria  
Scott and Tracy Ketrow - CCC, Italy  
Dale and Nancy Knudson - MTW, Cambodia  
Albert & Jennifer Kona – MTA, Albania  
Endi and Kati Kovacs - CRM, Hungary  
John and Kathy Lesondak - MTW, Slovakia  
Steve and Ann Lutz – SIM, USA  
Tim and Nicole - Restricted, Europe  
David and Jill Martin - MTW, Ukraine  
Demetrios Marmaras - PEF, Greece  
Mike and Robin McMahan - MTW, Ecuador  
Bob and Patty Meredith - NAV, Kenya  
Harry and Julie Miller - PEF, Atlanta/Bulgaria  
Wayne and Amy Newsome - MTW, Japan  
Young and Soon Park - MTW, South Korea  
Jean Paul – RHI, Haiti  
Andy and Sue Peck - WBT, Orlando  
Chuck and Wyema - Restricted, Europe  
Clay and Darlene Quarterman - MTW, Ukraine  
Nathan and Clare Richardson – HCCF, Panama  
Palmer and Joanna Robertson - ABU, Uganda  
Guillermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico  
Roger and Dianne Smalling - MTW, Latin America  
John and Liz - Restricted, West Africa  
Jan – Restricted, Europe  
Linda Summer - PEF, The Agape Puppets  
Jim and Catalina Tate - MTW, Ecuador  
Johan and Stephanie van der Westhuizen, MTW, Chile  
Bruce and Barbara Wannemacher - MTW, South Africa  
Becky White - MTW, Taiwan  
Linda Wixon - MTW, Japan  
Steve and Kathy Womack – WBT, Waxhaw / Africa  
Pat Wood - PEF, Freedom Ministries

## **Mission Organizations supported by Midway**

ABU -- African Bible University  
CCC -- Campus Crusade for Christ  
CRM-- Church Resource Ministries  
MTA -- Missions to Albania  
MTW -- Mission to the World  
NAV - The Navigators  
PEF - Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship  
Restricted – due to sensitive ministry  
RHI -- Reformation Hope, Inc.  
R2G - Reformation 2 Germany  
RUF - Reformed University Fellowship  
SIM - Serving in Mission  
WBT -- Wycliffe Bible Translators

## **Missions Prayer Time**

To be involved with God's work around the world you are invited to come and pray any Sunday afternoon at 5:15 in the Berean classroom. It is a great way to get to know our Midway missionaries as we pray through their recent letters.

## **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**

November 13, 2011

## **NEW CHURCH WEBSITE**

Visit our new church web site [www.midwaypca.org](http://www.midwaypca.org). There you will find recorded sermons and an updated calendar of events. Please share it with others as well.

## **UPWARD BOYS BASKETBALL & GIRLS CHEERLEADING**

Registration has begun and brochures are available throughout church. For more information or if you're interested in coaching, contact Lyle at [Lyle.Cartwright@MidwaySchool.org](mailto:Lyle.Cartwright@MidwaySchool.org) or 404-348-6415.

## **MIDWAY COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Will be having the annual Veteran's Day Chapel on Friday, November 11th at 8:45 a.m. All Veterans are invited to attend. Please meet in the church narthex at 8:30 a.m. and you will be seated as a group. We are looking forward to sharing this memorable time.

## **PARENTS OF YOUTH**

And anyone else interested, are invited to a prayer time for the Midway youth each Wednesday evening at 6:30. We meet in the library (across from the fellowship hall), and conclude by 6:45 in order to attend our respective activities. Please join us when you can!



Dear Friends of Midway Covenant Christian School:

The Georgia Legislature has approved a bill that allows individual taxpayers and corporations to direct a portion of their state income tax to private schools including Midway Covenant Christian School. This money is used to fund scholarships for eligible students. The donation is made to a qualified student scholarship organization (SSO) and then designated to a specific private school by the donor. This is a state tax credit, not a deduction. In essence, you are able to redirect a portion of your state tax to MCCS. You will get a credit for the amount donated when you file your state income tax return (\$2500 maximum for a married couple or \$1000 maximum for single filer). A federal charitable deduction may also be taken for the amount of your contribution.

Here is how you do this:

1. Complete both pages of the preapproval form (IT-QEE-TP1) available at the **church or school office**. (Be sure to use the form provided by MCCS or the Georgia Christian School Scholarship Fund )
2. Send the completed form to: The Georgia Department of Revenue, 1800 Century Blvd, Suite 8301, Atlanta, GA 30345.
3. Within 30 days, the Department of Revenue will send you an approval letter.
4. Send a copy of the approval letter along with a check to Georgia Christian Schools Scholarship Fund, Inc, 1000 Whitlock Avenue, Suite 320, PMB 345, Marietta, Georgia 30064. Be sure to write Midway or MCCS in the memo field of the check.
5. Complete the MCCS Designation Form and either mail to or drop off at the school. You may designate your donation to be used for eligible Midway Presbyterian Covenant Children, Northwest Georgia Presbytery Covenant Children, or make it available to any eligible MCCS student.

This provides a tremendous opportunity for Midway to significantly increase the amount of financial aid we are able to offer students. The Legislature has limited the credit to \$50 million per year, so you must act quickly! Donations may be made annually. If you have any questions or would like any assistance with the forms, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Crouse at 678-481-6852 or email him at [dan@crousesystems.com](mailto:dan@crousesystems.com).

Sincerely,

Warren Jackson, Chairman, School Committee Board

# ***Midway Presbyterian Church***

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