



Season's Greetings



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

December, 2006

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Joan M. Schlesing

Student Associate

Melissa Langley

Music Director

Ainsley Wagoner

Pianist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Away **FROM** The Manger

Sunday, December 17 @ 6:30 pm

What kind of title is that?! Don't you mean, "Away in a Manger?" Get ready for the Midway Christian Church production of, yes, "Away **From** the Manger." We all know about the people and animals that visited the manger in Bethlehem. This play at those who DIDN'T such as: it wasn't in were too busy, or were good enough to lended to examine its from the manger" at your church family tuary for an evening and maybe a surprise or two! At 7:30 pm we will go to the Midway School Apartments for caroling. Hope you can join us!



gives us a humorous look go for various reasons their job description, they they just didn't think they go. The audience is chal-reasons for staying "away Christmas. Come join December 17 in the sanc-of laughter and singing

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

123 East Bruen Street

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

859-846-4102

Fax: 859-846-9542

office@midwaychristian.org

Visit us on the web:

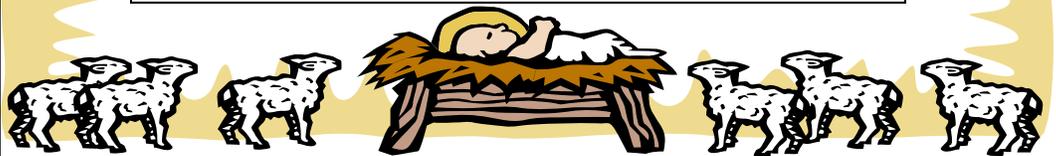
www.midwaychristian.org



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24 @ 10 pm



Church Office Closed

The office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26.

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$59,969.42
Received to date: \$52,919.00

A Pastoral Word

It is our first Advent season together as minister and church. And I am really looking forward to spending such an amazing and important season in the life of the church together with you.

There is just something about this time of year that gets me so excited. It is the waiting for the Christ child and the ritual of our Advent traditions that opens up possibilities of grace, peace, and joy. It is the unexpected glimpses of the Kingdom of God that fill our lives during this time of anticipation.

One of the traditions that I look forward to every year is the decorating of the Christmas tree in the McColl household. Each year, it is the same. We set the tree in the stand, turning it this way and that, just to make sure that it is straight. Once the tree is straight in the stand, it is time for the lights! We pull each strand of lights out of the box and plug them in to see if they work. Usually there are a few strands that are out and each year, we say we don't need them for the tree. We should be okay without them. And every year, we make the annual run to the store to buy more lights. So needless to say, we are a little frustrated with the tree. Once the lights are on the tree, the garland comes next.

At this point in the Christmas tree decorating, we are looking at each other in frustration and wondering why we do this every year! Why do we struggle with the lights and try to keep the cats away from chewing on the garland?

Then we start going through the ornaments. It seems that for each ornament, there is a story and a memory that has to be shared before it can go on the tree. The Ocracoke Island Lighthouse ornament that we picked up on our honeymoon. The palm tree ornament that we picked up in St. Thomas when we were there celebrating Mike's brother's wedding. The ornament from Buchart Gardens from our vacation to Vancouver.

And then I realize that our tree has become a celebration of our life together as a family. And I realize that our tree has become a small timeline of great memories. And I realize that our tree is filled with love and joy.

On Sunday, December 3rd, we will be having our

Hanging of the Greens service where we decorate our sanctuary for the Advent season. We will place the Advent wreath in its special spot and then place greenery in the windows. The crèche will be placed in front of the communion table and wreaths will be hung on the doors.

Then we will take a step back and realize that our sanctuary has become a celebration of our time together as a family. We will realize that our sanctuary is filled with love and joy. With each piece of greenery that we place in the windows or on our Advent wreath, we are preparing for the Christ child and opening up possibilities of grace, peace, and joy.

There is just something about this time of year!

Heather

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

You are encouraged to read the text for the day in advance



December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Greens

Scripture: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Sermon: "The Days Are Surely Coming"

December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1: 5-25

Sermon: "Disgraced Among My People"

December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

Sermon: "Nothing Is Impossible With God"

December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1: 39-56

Sermon: "My Soul Magnifies The Lord"

December 31

Christmas Sunday

Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52

Sermon: "Increased In Wisdom And Years"

Serving This Month

Elders

Adele Dickerson

Dan Roller

Deacons

Jim Nance, Etta Manor, Jeanne Sturgill, Wilda Caudill, Bob Settlemire, Virginia Ballenger, Bobby Riddle, Ouita Michel, Bob Rouse, Sue Roberts

Worship Leaders:

December 3: John Batts

December 10: Dick Murphy

December 17: Steele Rouse

December 24: Jim McDaniel

December 31: Jim Roach

Sunday School Classes for Advent



We have special Sunday School classes for Advent this year. There should be something for everyone and this would be a great time to come back to Sunday School.

December 3—Examining the Legends and Traditions of Advent, led by John Batts

December 10—The Chronology of the Birth Story, led by Jeannie Hill

December 17—The Chronology of the Birth Story Continued, led by Jeannie Hill

December 24—Mary Had a Baby-A look at American Spirituals and other music heard during Advent, led by John Batts

Children's Ministry

Christmas Program Rehearsal Schedule

December 3 (Sun.) 9:30-10:30 a.m.—Room outside of the Worship & Wonder room

December 10 (Sun.) 12:15-12:45 p.m.—Room outside of the Worship & Wonder room

December 17 (Sun.) 12:15—Dress rehearsal in sanctuary

Parents, please note that the production is about 20 minutes and rehearsals will be fairly brief. We will not be having lunch during the rehearsals, but will provide a snack and also offer a bigger “feast” during the Children Worship and Wonder program.

Though parts have already been assigned, there's always room for more actors/actresses. If you would like a part to play or if you have any questions, please email Joan at joan.schlesing@gmail.com. Look forward to seeing you as we celebrate the season of Christmas together.

Acolyte Schedule



December 3—Steele & Franklin
December 10—Gregory & Clay
December 17—Nate & Jack
December 24—Betsy & Jordan
December 31—Noelle & Faith

Children Worship & Wonder Greeter Schedule

December 3 & 10—DeeDee Roach
December 17 & 24—Pat Settlemire
January 7 & 14—Adele Dickerson
January 21 & 28—Sandy Gruzesky
February 4 & 11—Margaret Easton
February 18 & 25—Ouita Michel

Dear Church Family,

Doesn't it seem like some goodbyes come too soon? It seems that way to me – certainly it does when I think of YOU. My time with you has been wonderful and has flown by in a flash! I'll always remember the first time I saw my name on the sign out in front of the church building. It was a most humbling experience to think of being anyone's minister, whether Student Associate Minister, Senior Minister or any kind of “minister.” From the beginning (15 months ago) you made me feel welcome and were pleased with the gifts I brought to the congregation. Perhaps though, if you recall the Children's Sabbath of 2005, YOU wondered what the heck you were getting yourself into when you “called” ME! That was the day that the children and I loudly paraded into worship, transformed the communion table by draping it with the brightly colored parachute and used goldfish crackers for communion. That's a good memory for me, and there are so many others that I will cherish forever! I have enjoyed singing with you, doing some worship planning and leading, being with the children, planning and producing the Christmas Program(s) and being with you during times of transition. All of it has been good!

It's difficult when you hear God's call to change – a call to move away from what is familiar! It's hard for the one leaving, and it's hard for those being left. I've been on both sides of the equation many times in my lifetime, and I don't much like either position. But I also know that when we respond to that call from God, we are blessed beyond measure! After all, I wouldn't have met YOU or even known about a place called Midway had I not responded all those many months ago. So, I move on to experience new forms of ministry and I expect God's blessings as I begin my fourth semester at Lexington Theological Seminary.

I thank you for the opportunity to be your Student Associate Minister. Any other congregation or hospital for chaplaincy I may go to will have a hard time measuring up to the fine standard that has been set by Midway Christian Church. I will always consider myself a proud member of the Midway Christian Church “extended family.”

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with God's peace and promise,

With Love and Gratitude,

Joan

Mission News and Notes

Mission Night

Wednesday, December 13

The next mission night will be Wednesday, December 13, 2006. The Cabinet will meet at 5:45 pm and the Committee's will meet at 6:30 pm. Childcare is provided.

Everyone is encouraged to attend!



Christmas Bazaar

Midway Christian Church will be hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 2 from 10 am until 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be selling arts and crafts from Ten Thousand Villages which supports fair trade for artisans in many third world countries. Checks can be made out to Midway Christian Church and add 6% sales tax to the purchase. This is a great opportunity to find unique Christmas items for that hard to buy for person. We will also be offering a lunch menu of bean soup, cornbread, and drink for \$4.00. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Meals On Wheels

Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels team that served the week of November 13:



Pat & Charles Wilson, Gertrude and Buddy Johnson, Priscilla Crutcher, Marjorie Diamond, Pat Settemire.

Also many thanks to the team that served in October:

Jim McDaniel, Adelaine McDaniel, Charlotte Morgan, Marjorie Diamond, Charles & Pat Wilson, Pat Settemire

The next Meal on Wheels delivery will be the week of December 11.

Disciples Women

The Disciples Women will meet Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 pm at Jim's Seafood in Frankfort. Afterwards we will meet back at the church and prepare gift bags for shut-ins.



Food Pantry

The Hope Ministries Food Pantry is in need of several items: canned fruit, corn, ravioli, spaghetti o's, and cereal. Please remember those in our community who are in need by donating one or more of these items.

Christmas Family Adoption

Congregation is Invited to Provide Gifts for Local Family

We are adopting a local family again this year so that their children might experience the joy of the holidays.

The 2 year old girl is interested in anything from Dora the Explorer. Her clothing size is 3T and shoe size is 7. The 1 year old boy wears a size 12 mos. and shoe size is 3. We will be helping the mother also but her sizes were not available. Gift cards to Kroger, Wal-Mart, K Mart, etc. would be very helpful.



To contribute, bring any gifts to the church library. Monetary contributions may be made until December 19.

Fellowship News and Notes

We Have Met the Future!

Thanksgiving is in the rearview mirror, but let's take a collective moment to give thanks for this: *We reached our goal for the Future of the Faith campaign!*

Last summer, with a \$150,000 challenge gift dangling before us, we set out to raise \$100,000. Our aim has been to remedy the church building's problems: crumbling exterior, faltering HVAC systems, cumbersome debt and awkward access.

You responded to the challenge, and restoration is underway. Here is a summary of our fund-raising efforts to date:

Early gifts	\$12,000
Auction	\$11,500
Mailing (41 gifts)	\$92,640
<u>Lead gift</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>
Grand total	\$266,140

That was Thanksgiving. Now it's the Christmas season, and we've got a few more items on our wish list. If you are still considering making – or increasing – a campaign pledge, here are two areas of need:

One is a **maintenance endowment** – a fund that will generate a stream of revenue to pay for upkeep and repairs to our building. Our Building & Grounds Committee will conduct a yearly inspection to identify small problems before they become big ones.

The second area of need is **bathrooms**. You know, whenever two or more of us are gathered, we both might need to go at the same time. The B&G Committee has figured out a cost-effective way to install two new bathrooms – one in the office and another in Fellowship Hall (with heat!). We need additional funds for this project.

Midway Christian Church is blessed with a legacy of service and commitment, renewed in the Future of the Faith campaign. We can sit back and celebrate success – and then rise up to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

by Bob Rouse

Contribution Notes

- With the stock market surging upward, now is a good time to consider donating shares of stock to Midway Christian Church. One member did just that through an account handled by David Shaw, at Nancy Barron and Associates (254-4010). The tax write-off is for the current (higher) value, not the original purchase price. Check with your tax preparer.
- Speaking of taxes, many folks make charitable gifts in December as the tax year closes out. To count as a 2006 contribution, your check must be dated and mailed (or delivered) on or before Dec. 31.
- If you made a multi-year pledge for the Future of the Faith campaign, check with your tax preparer to get the most bang for your charitable buck. It may be better, tax-wise, to make your entire gift in December 2006 – or January 2007.

Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting on Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Steve Monhollen to visit Midway Christian Church

Steve Monhollen, Field Education Director at Lexington Theological Seminary, will be visiting Midway Christian Church on Sunday, December 3 to present the church with a plaque for its commitment as a teaching and learning congregation. Midway Christian Church has always supported seminary students in their ministry career and provided a safe and welcoming environment so that the students could explore their call to ministry more in depth.

Community News and Notes



Keenagers Christmas Party

Monday, December 11

The Keenagers will meet on Monday, December 11 at 11:30 am at Marjorie Diamond's home for lunch. Please RSVP to the church office by Dec. 8.

We Bid Farewell

Please join us for a reception in honor of Joan Schlesing, our Student Associate Minister, in Fellowship Hall, Sunday, December 17 following the Children's Christmas Program. This will be Joan's last Sunday with us. Join us as we say thank you for her service and offer her our best wishes for her future ventures.



Welcome New Members

Margaret Easton joined our congregation by transfer of membership on November 5. Notes may be sent to PO Box 4026, Midway, Kentucky.

Melissa Langley joined our congregation by transfer of membership on November 12. Notes may be sent to 178 Hickory Ridge Road, Waddy, Kentucky 40076

Let us welcome them to the Midway Christian Church family!



Christmas Open House

Hosted by Mike & Heather McColl
at the parsonage on Saturday, December 9
from 1-5 pm

Everyone is welcome!

New Directories Completed

The new church directory of members and friends is available. You may pick one up in the narthex or call the church office to have one mailed to you.



Newsletter Deadline

Information for the January newsletter must be in by noon on December 22, 2006.

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____

I wish to purchase _____ Poinsettias @ \$6.85 each for a total of \$ _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Order deadline: Noon, December 13, 2006

Please make checks payable to *Midway Christian Church*



Midway Christian Church

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Midway, KY 40347

Nonprofit Organization

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