

THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

January , 2007

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Melissa Langley

Music Director

Ainsley Wagoner

Pianist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

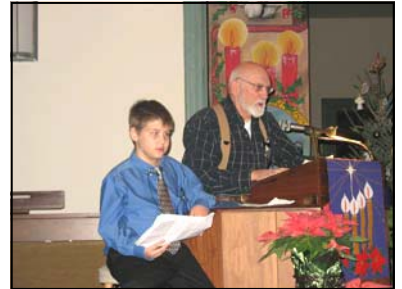
Custodian

Children's Christmas Program A Hit!



Wow! The children and youth of Midway Christian Church did a fabulous job of reminding the congregation of the true meaning of Christmas through their production of *Away From the Manger*. The narrators, Jack Morgan and Nate Hill, kept asking various characters such as shepherds played by Phil Burchell, Jordan

Batts, and Gregory Watson, wise men played by Franklin Watson, Clay Rouse, and Steele Rouse, why didn't they attend the birth of Christ. We were also introduced to some stars played by Will Schein, Jack Hill, J.T. Batts, and Virginia Ballenger, and some barnyard animals played by Marcus Watson, Betsy Schein, and Sam Hatfield who gave their reasons for not attending the birth. Noelle Gruzesky, who played the Innkeeper's



Wife, also helped remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.



Following the Christmas program, the audience was asked to join in some singing and a special production of "The Little Drummer Boy" accompanied on drums by our very own Jim Roach, Joan Schlesing, and Barb Pfeifle.

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

123 East Bruen Street

PO Box 4548

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office@midwaychristian.org

Visit us on the web:



Welcome New Members

Sheila Redmond joined our congregation by transfer of membership on December 24. Notes may be sent to 225 W. Stephens Street, Midway.. Her phone # is 846-9782

Mary Sayre joined our congregation by transfer of membership on December 24. Notes may be sent to 337 S. Winter St., PO Box 4550, Midway. Her phone # is 312-8159. Please add this information to your church directory.

Please welcome them to the Midway Christian Church family.

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$70,872.95
Received to date: \$66,003.97

A Pastoral Word

Happy New Year!

Every year when the clock strikes midnight on December 31st/January 1st, we get a new beginning and another try have a great year. All of our previous hardships and mishaps seem to be brushed away with each strike of the clock and we start out the new year with a clean slate. Then we all start making our new year resolutions and we are confident that we are going to live out to these resolutions. "My new year resolution is to work out more. My new year resolution is to try new things." "My new year resolution is to start a new hobby." "My new year resolution is to watch what I eat."

We know that the whole point of the new year resolutions are to reflect on our lives, take a look at our growing areas, and try to better ourselves through the help of friends, family, and willpower. Every year, people around the world stop and reflect on becoming a better person and on just how they are going to achieve this goal. And that is exactly what Midway Christian Church is doing also.

As we start out this new year, the board is developing a strategic plan that comes out of the notes and comments from the board retreat and will lead us in the process of re-visioning and restructure. I have looked over resources to help us vision our future and to help us develop a mission statement, and all the resources seem to say the same thing. "Know the community around your church." So I checked out a suggested website that helps churches get a good picture of their communities and I was excited about the results that this website gave me. I simply typed in our zip code and after a few moments of tabulating here is what it says about the faith preferences for Midway, KY.

49% of the population who live in the 40347 zip code have a strong faith involvement and 89% of the population have a preference for "Historic Christian" tradition. And based upon worship, music, and architectural style preference in the area, the overall church style preference can be described as very traditional. When asked, the population who lives in the 40347 zip code is looking for a church who provides opportunity for bible study and prayer, social programs and most importantly, spiritual development.

My first thought was Wow! That describes Midway Christian Church! We know that we are a place that opens its doors to all of God's children and provides a safe environment to explore and to be challenged on the faith journey. We know that we are a place that has a deep rooted tradition that has shaped us and formed us into who we are today. We also celebrate our phenomenal music program that enriches and enhances our worship experience.

We as a church are always looking for new opportunities to learn and develop a deeper relationship with God and with one another. We have a deep compassion for helping to bring about the Kingdom of God through mission projects. And most importantly, we like each other and want to spend time with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, especially when it involves food!

Each week, we are getting more and more visitors! What a wonderful sight to look out into the congregation and see a sea of faces! And the people are coming to Midway Christian Church because someone shared the gift of our church. I have heard so many comments about how someone invited a visitor to Midway Christian and they are glad that they came.

So as I look toward this new year with Midway Christian Church, I am challenging all of us to try out another new year resolution. "Our church's new year resolution is to invite people to come to church with us." Invite your friends who are searching for a place to ask those difficult faith questions in a safe environment. Invite your co-workers who are looking for a church home where all are welcome to the table. Invite your neighbors who may be wondering where God is calling them. Invite your family whose passion is mission work and is looking for a church home who has embraced its vocation to shine the light of God into all the dark places in the world and to share God's grace and hope with all.

May we celebrate the new year with new vision and new life.

Heather

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



January 7

First Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-17

Sermon: "The Star at its Rising"

January 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Sermon: "Baptism by Water and by the Spirit"

January 21

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Luke 4: 14-30

Sermon: "Run out of town"

January 28

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: John 2: 1-11

Sermon: "Do whatever he tells you"

Serving This Month

Elders

Shirley Eckels

Anne Burford

Deacons

Cindy Batts, Sandy Gruzesky, Gloria Batts, Pat Wilson, Ella Drake, Pat Wilson, Dottie Pollard, Sharon Burchell, Nancy Lu Prewitt

Worship Leaders:

January 7: TBA

January 14: TBA

January 21: TBA

January 28: TBA

Sunday School Classes

January 7th—Breakfast

We will be discussing and learning more about the season of Epiphany.

January 14th

We will discussing and learning more about the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK Service

Monday, January 15 at 7 pm

You are invited to attend a Community MLK service on Monday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Second Christian Church. The community choir will once again join us as we lift up our voices and celebrate our community's unity in our call to be God's people. Valerie Johnson, the minister at Midway United Methodist Church will be preaching that night. Please invite your friends and family.

Children's Ministry



A reception was held for Joan after the children's program. She received many nice gifts of appreciation!



The children (and adults) did a wonderful job on their Christmas program "Away FROM the Manger"!



Acolyte Schedule

January 7—J.T. & Will
January 14—Steele & Franklin
January 21—Gregory & Clay
January 28—Nate & Jack

Children Worship & Wonder Greeter Schedule

January 7 & 14—Adele Dickerson
 January 21 & 28—Sandy Gruzesky
 February 4 & 11—Margaret Easton
 February 18 & 25—Ouita Michel



Ice Skating



Hey Kids! It is time to go ice-skating! We will go to the Lexington Ice Center on **Saturday, January 27th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.** We will meet at the church at 3:00 and carpool to the center. We will be back at the church at 6:00 p.m. **Please bring \$ 10 for ice-skating (\$5.00 for general admission for children 10 and under, \$1.50 for skate rental, and snack money).** Adults or older brothers and sisters who are interested in going ice-skating with us the cost is \$6.00 for general admission and \$ 1.50 for skate rental. Please contact Heather McColl or Sandy Gruzesky if you have any questions.

Mission News and Notes

Mission Night

Wednesday, January 17

The next mission night will be Wednesday, January 17, 2007. The Cabinet will meet at 5:45 pm and the Committee's will meet at 6:30 pm. Child-care is provided.

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

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.



Meals On Wheels

Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels team that served the week of December 11:

Charles Wilson, Marjorie Diamond, Buddy and Gertrude Johnson, Priscilla Crutcher, Pat Settlemerie



The next Meal on Wheels delivery will be the week of January 8, 2007.

Disciples Women

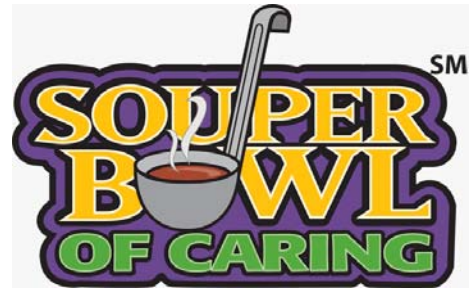
Tuesday, January 9 at 7 pm

The Disciples Women will meet Tuesday, January 9 at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

All ladies of the church are invited!



Souper Bowl of Caring



Midway Christian Church has registered to be a part of the national Souper Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring is an effort to touch lives and teach youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities.

"We are called by Jesus to feed the hungry people we see," said Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) "I encourage Disciples youth to participate in this ecumenical grassroots movement to transform the largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring."

Over 300 Disciples youth groups have already registered to participate in the February 4, 2007 Souper Bowl of Caring. "We're encouraging Disciples youth to 'Stir it Up,'" said Rev. Amy Gopp, Week of Compassion Associate, referring to the Souper Bowl of Caring 2007 theme. "Our goal is to help Disciples churches raise \$150,000 through Souper Bowl of Caring 2007," added Gopp.

So after church on **Sunday, February 4th**, we will host a soup luncheon and help the children and youth of Midway Christian Church collect an offering for Week of Compassion. Please invite your friends and family to be a part of the Souper Bowl of Caring!

Fellowship News and Notes

Follow Up from Board Retreat

One of the things that Bennie Braddick, our guest speaker, stressed at our Board Retreat is that before we can develop new committee structures, we as a church need to discern where God is calling us in our vision and what our mission that will develop out of that vision will be for MCC. So starting the month of January, the board officers will be looking at forming a Strategic Planning Group that will lead our congregation in this process. We have ordered a few resources from our general office in Indianapolis and will begin the process of discerning our congregational identity in the New Year with this planning group made up of a core group from the board. This is a very exciting time for Midway Christian Church! Please keep the board and our congregation in your prayers as we discern where God is leading us.

Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 5 pm .

Elders Meeting

The elders will be meeting on Sunday, January 28th at 6:00 p.m. Location will be announced later.

Calling All Chili Cookers!



Midway Christian Church is hosting a Chili Cook-off on Wednesday, January 31st at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your best chili for all to sample. The church will provide the cornbread, crackers, noodles and drinks! Please contact Heather McColl if you would like to enter your chili. Prizes will be awarded for the best chili.

Community Choir Practice



Those who are interested in joining the community choir are invited to attend practice on Saturday, January 6th from 10 a.m. until noon. Melissa has picked out pieces of music for the MLK service. All choir members from Midway churches are invited to attend.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 20 at 8:30 am

All men who attend Midway Christian are invited to Wallace Station on **Saturday, January 20th at 8:30 a.m.** Please invite your friends! We are looking to start a men's fellowship group at Midway Christian Church. This will be the first of many breakfasts to come! Please contact Dan Roller or Phil Burchell if you have any questions.

Community News and Notes

Keenagers

Monday, January 8 at 11:30 am

The Keenagers will meet for lunch on Monday, January 8 at 11:30 am at Wallace Station. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, January 5. All retired persons, regardless of age, are invited!

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the February newsletter must be in by noon on January 25, 2007.

Church Work Day

It is time for a little winter cleaning at Midway Christian Church. We have been so busy that things are "set down" all over the church. Please come on **Saturday, January 27th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** to help us organize and pick up items in the church. We are also hoping to move the nursery from its present location to across the hall so that it has better access for parents and visitors. So we are need of some good cleaners who can help us wipe down shelves and prepare our new nursery.



Taylor Manor

Worship Service

Sunday, January 7 @ 2 pm

Midway Christian church will be providing the Sunday worship service at Taylor Manor Nursing Home in Versailles on Sunday, January 7. We need folks to assist the residents, sit with them during worship, and join in the congregational singing. If you would like to car-pool, meet at the church at 1:15 pm.

Prayer Concerns

Our Men and Women of the Armed Forces

Mary Lee Curtis (Taylor Manor, room #50)

Hap Horn (VA Center in Wilmore)

Ann Horn (Ashwood Place in Frankfort-cell #859-270-7123)

Jane Reynolds (cancer, Phil Burchell's niece)

Kathy Marshall (Crohn's Disease, sister of Karen Murphy)

Bob Hardin (cancer, son-in-law of Nancy Jefferson)

Jules Delambre (cancer)

Mary Ann Rainey (lymphoma, sister of Phil Burchell)

Carolyn Varner

Tempa Endicott

The Family of Dick Starks

The Family of Nancy Jefferson

Mayme Wall (Taylor Manor)

Elsah Boyles

Maxine Wilson

Pam Sparks

Dorothy Gordon

Sherman Columbia

Anne Burford

Nell Creamer

Richard Devers

Roselyn Jones

Justin Sorensen

Otha Wethington

Update on Search for New Student Associate

We have received a few applications through the Field Education office at Lexington Theological Seminary and are in the beginning stages of reviewing the applications. The search committee will be chaired by Sandy Gruzek. Those who have agreed to be on the committee are: Cindy Batts, Noelle Gruzek, Jim Hoppin, Shirley Eckels, Margaret Easton and Steele Rouse. Please keep these people in your prayers as we discern and search for the next Student Associate for Midway Christian Church.

Midway Christian Church

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

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