

THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

January, 2008

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Amanda Hatfield

Student Associate

Melissa Askew

Music Director

Ainsley Wagoner

Pianist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

The Backward Christmas Pageant A Hit!

The children and youth of Midway Christian Church did a fabulous job telling the Christmas story backwards! A big thank you to Jan Nance and Margaret Easton for narrating. Thank you to our stars—Juliet Bonci, Sarah Coomer, Luke Hill, Katelyn Lutter, Willa Michel, Alex Woodruff, Sam Hatfield, Marcus Watson, Jack Hill, Preston Lutter, J.T. Batts, Nate Hill, Gregory Watson, Franklin Watson, Clay Rouse, Jordan Batts, Noelle Gruzsky



and Steele Rouse. A special thank you to Ainsley Wagoner and Amanda Hatfield



Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

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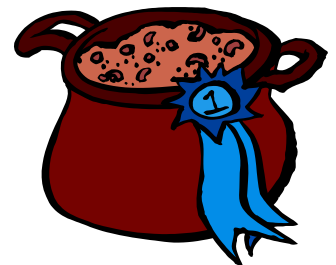
office@midwaychristian.org

Visit us on the web:

www.midwaychristian.org

Calling All Chili Cookers!

Midway Christian Church is hosting a Chili Cook-off on Wednesday, January 23rd at 6:30 p.m. 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 by Wednesday, January 16th. Prizes will be awarded for the best chili. Tums will also be made available!!



Thank You...

The staff of Midway Christian Church would like to thank everyone for the generous love offering. We wish everyone a happy, healthy new year!

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$73,206.63
Received to date: \$71,080.15

A Pastoral Word

Recently, I have become fascinated with a show that comes on the British Broadcast Channel called "Kitchen Nightmares." In the show, a famous chef travels to different restaurants that are in trouble and in danger of going out of business. The chef spends the first day observing the service and the kitchen and samples the food. And then, after a while, this chef will share his observations and then works with the owners, the servers, the cooks to help correct the problems that are plaguing the restaurant.

I don't know why I am fascinated by this show. I know it doesn't sound very exciting, but it is, especially when you get a very "colorful" chef telling it like it is to the owners of the restaurant. All I know is that on Thursday nights at 8:00 p.m., I am watching this show. I can't tear myself away from the television set or should I say, "telly" in true British style.

For most of these restaurants, their downfall comes down to just four things that are missing or overlooked. With these four key "ingredients" missing, the restaurants begin to suffer. The first item that is usually always missing in these dying restaurants is passion. No one cares! The owners have given up hope. The chefs have lost their creative drive in the kitchen and simply go through the motions of making the meals, usually using frozen or already prepared food. They just simply heat it up either by throwing the food in the microwave or the deep fryer! The servers don't care because they know that they will get all the blame for the miserable reputation of the restaurant. From the top to the bottom in these restaurants, no one cares and it shows, especially in the actual restaurant itself!! Usually the dining rooms are in need of repair or falling apart. The kitchens are gross and in need of a good cleaning. All because of lack of passion and enjoyment of what they are doing.

The second thing that seems to quicken the demise of the restaurants is a lack of knowing who they are and what are their "signature" dishes. It seems as if every one of the restaurants has an extensive 50 item or more menu. And the reason why is always: "Well, things started to go bad so we were trying everything just to get people into the door." So these restaurants have menus that include Chinese food, Italian food, "pub" items, Mediterranean items, all jumbled into one restaurant. And unfortunately, the food suffers. Nothing is prepared really well. The cooks just can't keep up with this extensive and elaborate menu. So these restaurants get caught up in the chaos, constantly trying new things and getting the same results: Empty tables and a dying restaurant.

The third thing that seems to help bring about the downfall of these restaurants is lack of proper equipment. It is hard to prepare meals when the ovens don't work. It is also hard to prepare meals when the cooks don't have enough bowls and cooking utensils to prepare meals for a large group. It is hard to be an actual restaurant that serves

food without the proper equipment.

And the last ingredient that seems to be missing in all these restaurants is communication. Owners don't talk to chefs. Managers don't talk to servers. Servers don't talk to the chefs. And no one knows what is going on! The communication break down hurts the restaurant and customers don't return.

As I watch this show each week, I find myself comparing these suffering restaurants with many churches nowadays. It is a new world for churches today. In the past, everything came pretty easy to churches because everyone went to church because that is what you did. And now, there are so many more choices for Sunday morning.

Many churches today try to be everything to everyone and have forgotten what makes them unique. Their "menu" is so extensive that it is sometimes hard to do their mission as the church really well. And so many people who attend churches lack the proper "tools" to help them grow on their journeys of faith. I have heard so many people say that they find it hard to talk about their faith because they just don't have the "right" language or terms for their faith. And it is hard to be creative about your "service" of sharing the Gospel without the right tools.

All of this leads to a lack of passion in the church. Members dread coming to church on Sunday mornings. Staff get burned out because they have lost their connection with God. Visitors don't want to return. Creative "juices" are squashed.

These lessons of key ingredients in a restaurant are a good reminder for us as a church as we continue to go through the visioning and transformation process. We have taken a look at our "menu" of ministry and realized that we do "welcoming" really well. It is our "signature" dish. It is the dish that has our visitors coming back for more.

We are still working on the other key ingredients as we continue to strengthen our church. We are working on "restocking our faith kitchen" with the right tools through Sunday School and other educational opportunities so that we can confidently share our signature dish of welcome. We are also working on communication as a church. How do we share our dish of "welcome" with our surrounding community? And all of this revamping of our "faith kitchens" has sparked our passions as people of faith.

We are a journey church. We are a searching church. We are church that is embracing our signature dish of Welcome. We are a church that is inviting people to come and eat at God's Table, the best "restaurant" in town!

Heather

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



January 6

Epiphany of our Lord

Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon: "Pay him Homage"

January 13

First Sunday after Epiphany

Baptism of our Lord

Scripture: Matthew 3: 13-17

Sermon: "I need to be baptized by you"

January 20

Amanda Hatfield Preaching

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 49: 1-7

Sermon: "Too light a think"

January 27

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Matthew 4: 12-23

Sermon: "Fishing for people"

Worship & Wonder Greeter Schedule

January 6— Adele Dickerson

January 13— Margaret Easton

January 20— Ouita Michel

January 27— Gretchen Arehart

Serving This Month

Elders

Jim Hoppin

Shirley Eckels

Deacons

John Batts, Gloria Batts, Sharon Burchell, Scott Congleton, Ella Drake, Teresa Hoppin, Jim McDaniel, Nancy Lu Prewitt, Pat Wilson

Junior Deacon

Franklin Watson

Worship Leaders:

January 6—Marjorie Evans

January 13—Tom Arehart

January 20—TBA

January 27—TBA

Sunday School

January 6—What is Epiphany?

Disciples of Christ Identity Survey

January 13—Martin Luther King, Jr. Video

January 20—What does the grace of God mean to you?

What spiritual gifts have you been given?

January 27—January 28 is L.L. Pinkerton's birthday. We will do a study on his life.

Acolyte Schedule

January 6— Gregory & Clay

January 13— Nate & Jack

January 20— Betsy & Jordan

January 27— Sam & J.T.



Children's Ministry

A special thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Christmas pageant a success. It was a great show and a good time for everyone connected to it. Remember: God's grace is timeless!

The first meeting of the Chi-Rho youth group will be Sunday, January 6th at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Parents are especially encouraged to attend this first meeting. We will be discussing our calendar for the upcoming year.

Additionally, all our Chi-Rho families are reminded of the regional Chi-Rho retreat that will be held at Camp Wakon' Da-Ho April 25-27. This is a great opportunity to meet with other Kentucky Chi-Rho and we would like as many of our youth as possible to attend.

All youth are invited to go bowling on Saturday, January 19th. We will meet at the church at 1:00 and go to Southland Bowling Lanes in Lexington. The costs for shoes are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.75 for kids. Participants should also bring spending money for snacks. We will return to the church by 5:00.

There will be a Children's Worship & Wonder training event February 15-17 at Lexington Theological Seminary. CW&W is a wonderful and unique ministry. Midway CC has a very active program and we are always looking for new volunteers. The training will be conducted by Cindy James, a student at the seminary. The cost is \$120 for registration before February 21st, and \$140 after. Participants must also purchase the book *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart. Members of Midway CC will not need to attend the first session on Friday evening; the other sessions are Saturday the 16th 9:00-5:00 and Sunday the 17th 2:00-5:00. If you are interested or would like more information please talk to Amanda or visit the Disciples Home Mission website <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org>

2008 Camp dates have been announced! Start thinking about making church camp a part of your summer!

Worship and Wonder Needs

Worship and Wonder is in need of the following items: Napkins, Drinks, Snacks, Markers, Pens & Pencils. Cash donations are also appreciated and may be given to Cindy Batts or the church office.

Usual snacks are crackers, pretzels, or cookies and do not have to be individually wrapped. Drinks are usually fruit juice or lemonade.

Summer Camp Dates Are Available!

Please mark your Calendars now! More information to come later! All dates are for Camp Wakon Da Ho.

Camp 101 (grades 1-2) plus a parent or guardian: May 31-June 1 or July 19-20

Mini Camp (grade 3): June 6-8

Junior Camp (grade 4-5): June 9-13 or July 14-18

Chi Rho Camp (grade 6-8): June 30-July 5 or July 7-12

CYF Camp (grade 9-12): June 16-21 or June 23-28

College Outreach Week (ages 19-29): August 7-10



Fellowship News and Notes

Board Meeting

The Board will meet Sunday, January 6, immediately following the service.

Keenagers

Friday, January 25 @ 11:30

The Keenagers will go to the Thoroughbred Theater on Friday, January 25th for lunch and a movie. Quirk's will cater the lunch for us while we watch "Robin Hood" starring Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland. Please call the church office by Wednesday, January 16th to RSVP.



day,

Disciples Women

Sunday, January 20 @ 12:30 pm

Disciples Women will meet on Sunday, January 20th immediately following the service for lunch and our study. Cost of the lunch is \$5. We will continue our study from "A Mile in Her Shoes: Lessons from the Lives of Old Testament Women" with the chapter on Hagar.

Disciples Men

Saturday, January 19 @ 8:30 am

Disciples Men will meet on Saturday, January 19th at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast in the fellowship hall. We will come together for food and fellowship. At this meeting, we will also decide when to wrap up the Ten Thousand Villages. Please see Dan Roller or Phil Burchell if you have any questions or would like more information

Ten Thousand Villages

The Ten Thousand Villages store has been moved to the former Depot Restaurant on Railroad Street in Midway and will continue to be open thru the end of January. To date we have sold \$5,000 worth of merchandise, which means \$500 for Future of the Faith. Thanks to everyone who has worked, shopped and supported this effort. If you would like to help in the store a few hours a week, please call the church office to schedule a time convenient for you.

Community Choir

There will be a community choir for the MLK service on January 21 at 7 pm. We will practice on Saturday, January 12 at 2 pm at Midway Christian Church.



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 3, 2008 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 2008 theme. "Our goal is to help Disciples churches raise \$150,000 through Souper Bowl of Caring 2008," added Gopp.

So after church on **Sunday, February 3rd**, we will host a soup luncheon to help the children and youth of Midway Christian Church collect an offering for Week of Compassion. **We will also be collecting cans of soup to donate to the local food pantry.** Please invite your friends and family to be a part of the Souper Bowl of Caring!

Mission News and Notes

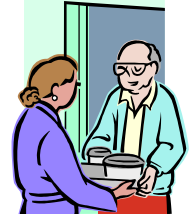
Mission Night

The next mission night will be Wednesday, January 16, 2008. The Cabinet will meet at 5:45 pm and the Committee's will meet at 6:30 pm.

Meals on Wheels

Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels team that served the week of December 10: Charlann Wombles, Pat Settlemire, Priscilla Crutcher, Pat Wilson, Buddy & Gertrude Johnson

The next Meal on Wheels delivery will be the week of January 7, 2008.



Amazon.Com Gift Wrap



The Amazon.com gift wrapping was a big success. Not only did they have a lot of fun and fellowship but they raised \$511, which will go toward Future of the Faith. A huge thank you goes to Amy Perry for organizing the event, Gretchen Arehart, Ouita Michel, Pat Wilson, June Mitchell, Mary Sayre, Carole Munson and Gloria Batts for their speedy wrapping skills! A great time was had by all. We would like to plan on making this an annual event.



Epiphany Feast

Sunday, January 6 @ 6:00 pm

Yesterday morning at 6:00am Kit Walden and I were doing our usual walk around the circle at Midway College. We both looked up at an unusually bright star and Kit said, "Can you imagine following that?" Caspar, Melichior and Balthasar looked up one dark morning, saw a star and jumped off the cliff of faith to follow it. They even brought gifts for the possible savior they felt they would find there. I answered Kit, "Are you crazy?" Even if the angel of the lord came to me, even if I had very strong feelings, visions or dreams of following yonder star, I would never trust my own self enough to take that risk. I would doubt and worry and tire and the Christ child would never receive my rare spices. I say this realizing I have jumped off my own cliff of faith at this church and have been following a metaphorical star of my own, at times wandering through the desert. So, clutching my spices tight, ready to cook, cook, cook, its time to stand at the stove and deliver and celebrate the Epiphany of Christ and his witnesses Caspar, Melichior and Balthasar.

Christians have been celebrating Epiphany since the year 361 AD and in that tradition; we at Midway Christian Church are going to host a Christian Feast during Three Kings Day on January 6, 2008. Our menu has been inspired by the feasting days of Christmastide during the Middle Ages—the 11th through the 14th centuries. It was during this feast that King Cake was first baked and devoured—so of course there will be king cake. Oh, and also whole roast hog- to simulate the traditional Christmas boar's head, and Wassail, honey roast chicken, olives, figs, dates, candied pine nuts, carrot pudding, confit of cabbage with lentils, saffron rice and other dishes representing the time period. A quartet of musicians is coming to play instruments and music of the time and season.

We are expecting a hundred guests. If you would like to help, there are a few different teams you can join: The Decorating Team, The Dish Washing Team, The Check-In Table Team, The Service Team, The Cooking Team, and The Break Down Team. All food stuffs are being donated and all proceeds will go to Midway Christian Church. There will be sign up sheets posted in the Narthex or you can just let me know. All volunteers are fed by the chef!

If you would like to attend rather than volunteer, the suggested donation is \$20.00 per person and reservations with Rhonda are required. Come eat or work and let us celebrate the revelation!

Ouita P. Michel

Community Notes

THE HOMEPLACE AT MIDWAY

Assisted Living ❖ Nursing Facility

December 18, 2007

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, we are delighted to share with you some significant and promising developments concerning our efforts to establish a nursing home and assisted living facility to serve local seniors and their families - "The Homeplace" is progressing toward reality!

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Christian Care Communities, the firm with which we are working to develop and operate the new facility, and which we expect to become its owner. Since 1884, Christian Care has provided older adult services, and it currently owns multiple facilities throughout Kentucky with services ranging from independent living homes to skilled nursing care. Based in Louisville, Christian Care is Kentucky's largest non-profit faith-based provider of senior housing and long term care, And it enjoys a sterling reputation among its peers, government officials, and consumer advocates as a premier provider elder care in our state. Initially, the Task Force approached Christian Care to be the project's management company. However, as the conversation evolved, it became clear that their capacity for making our facility an exceptional model of care far exceeded that limited role.

We are especially grateful to both Midway College and the City of Midway for their recent expressions of interest in conveying land to enable the complex to move closer to downtown than the previous site on Georgetown Road. The new proposed location brings walking access to the college's nursing students (for clinical training) and our residents (for life-long learning opportunities and downtown shops), as well as close proximity to Northside Elementary School (for inter-generational activities) and the new Woodford County Library. "The Homeplace" will be the first long term care facility in Kentucky to be located adjacent to a college campus. We are eager to see what other partnerships develop from this synergy of academic and community resources.

Perhaps as significant as its new location are the proposed facility's innovative building and programming designs ... the first facility in Kentucky to embrace the "Green House Model." This is a leading-edge approach to elder care aimed at de-institutionalizing residential care by offering more home-like settings, handicap-accessible outdoor spaces and gardens, pet therapy, ongoing interaction with the surrounding community, and specially trained staff. When completed, the Homeplace will have four adjacent homes (rather than wings) arranged as a small neighborhood: 12 Assisted Living apartments, a memory care cottage for 12 persons with dementia, and two homes for a total of 29 people needing 24-hour skilled nursing care.

NEXT STEPS: Pending state approvals of the proposed design and a successful capital campaign in the spring, our projected timeline is to break ground by mid-2008. Construction is estimated to take 14-16 months. If all goes well, we hope to have the first residents moving in before Christmas of 2009!

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to sharing more information as it develops.
We wish you and your family a blessed holiday season!

Sincerely yours,

Helen Rentch
President - Midway Nursing Home Task Force

Midway Christian Church

Nonprofit Organization

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