

Happy **Mother's Day**



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

May, 2008

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Amanda Hatfield

Student Associate

Melissa Askew

Music Director

Ainsley Wagoner

Pianist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

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Pentecost Celebration

Sunday, May 11 at 10:55 am

On Sunday, May 11, members of Second Christian Church will worship with us for our annual Pentecost celebration. Each year we worship together on Pentecost to celebrate our beginnings as brothers and sisters in faith. Edgar Wallace will be preaching. Midway Christian Church will host a breakfast at 9 am and everyone is invited to stay for Sunday school. Please bring a breakfast item such as breakfast casseroles, bread, fruit, etc. Drinks will be provided.



Member Spotlight

Buddy (a life long resident of Midway) met Gertrude (a student at Midway Jr. College) in 1948 while attending Christian Youth Fellowship. Buddy joined the U.S. Air Force in 1950 and Gertrude took a position at the University of Kentucky. In July 1952, Buddy and Gertrude were married at Midway Christian Church by the Rev. Charles Bare. They lived in Victorville, California where Buddy was stationed at George Air Force base.



Gertrude & Buddy Johnson

After returning from service, Buddy completed his AB degree at UK and then accepted a job with the Scott County school system until he retired in 1991. Buddy has served as a deacon, elder, trustee, and elder emeritus, and chairman of the board.

Gertrude served as church secretary for 23 years, for ministers William F. Taylor, Roy Roberson, and William McDonald.

Midway Christian Church has been a meaningful part of our life through marriage and children. There would be emptiness in our life without our church. Now our 2 year old great grand daughter, Sara, loves to attend children's church and is the 6th generation of our family in this church.

Budget Update

Budget to date: \$125,915.40
Received to date: \$135,264.65

A Pastoral Word

Update from Visioning Team:

The Visioning Team continues to meet and continues to discern a structure of ministry for our church. It has been a long and frustrating process. I mentioned at this past board meeting that it felt like we were “spinning our wheels” and nothing that we came up with seemed right or seemed to fit our needs. And then a member of the Visioning Team spoke. She said, “We can’t seem to let go of our by-laws or to see beyond them. Whenever we come up with an idea, we always “check it” against our constitution. We want a structure of church leadership that will work but it is a scary thing, letting go of a way that has worked in the past.”

And that is the key. Our by-laws worked in the past. They have helped us function as a church for years and years and now we have come to the point where they just aren’t working anymore for our church. According to our by-laws, we need about 77 people to fill all the church leadership positions for this church. And we usually have about that number in church on Sunday. So now, members are having to do “double-duty” and serve on several committees. And I think it is safe to say that maybe we all feel that as a church we are all spinning our wheels and are burning out quickly.

So what is the answer?

At our last Visioning Team Meeting, we took a moment and named the items and feelings that are preventing us from moving forward in this process. We took a moment and named our fears. We had an open and honest discussion with each other about this Visioning Process and our frustrations and then went to God in prayer. We asked God to give us the strength for the journey. We asked God to give us the energy for the journey. We asked God to help us put aside our fears, to put aside our frustrations, to open our hearts and our minds to God’s word for us as God’s people.

And at the end of the meeting, one of our team members reminded us again why we were doing this Visioning Process. “We aren’t changing simply for the sake of change. We are changing and transforming because what we are doing isn’t working anymore.” We aren’t able to live out our mission of WELCOME fully in our current structure. We aren’t able to live out our calling as people of faith fully because we are using up a lot of our energy just trying to figure out how to function as a church.

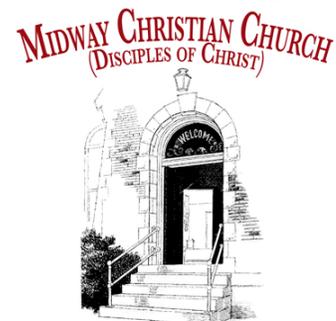
We are going through this Visioning and Transformation Process so that we can be God’s church, God’s hands and heart here in the Midway community, here in the Woodford County community, here in the Bluegrass, here in KY, here in the US and here on God’s earth. We are going through this frustrating and long process so that our focus shifts from an inward focus to an outward Kingdom focus.

As I write this article, I am reminded of a pottery class that I took in college. On the very first day of class, we were warned “Don’t let your clay get dried out. You can’t use it then until you go through the rewetting process.” I should have paid attention to my professor because not long into the class, I let my clay get too dry and had to begin the rewetting process. First, you have to take the pieces of dried clay and place them in a bucket of water and they have to stay for several days, maybe weeks. Then you have to pull out the clay and work with it, make it pliable and then cut it into a block for reusing. It is a long, frustrating process when you have the deadline of throwing so many pots to pass the class!

As our church goes through this Visioning and Transformation process, we are also going through a rewetting process. The waters of our baptisms have renewed us and refreshed us as we embrace our mission of Welcome. And now, the Potter’s hands are working with us and making us pliable once more. The Potter is stretching us and transforming us. The Potter is preparing us to become a great vessel of love, of grace, of mercy, and of hope for this community. The Potter has in mind a beautiful container, filled with peace and welcome that will be called Midway Christian Church.

So the answer is that the Visioning Team has decided to step away from the process of “getting something on paper” and to begin a process of intentional prayer and reading of Scripture. We ask that you please keep this team in your thought and prayers as we discern God’s vision and wisdom for us as Midway Christian Church.

Heather



Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



May 4

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 1: 6-14

Sermon: "Is This the Time?"

May 11—Mother's Day

Pentecost

Second Christian Church Worshiping with us

Dr. Edgar Wallace preaching

Scripture: 1 Kings 17: 7-24

May 18

First Sunday after Pentecost

Consecration Day

Scripture: Genesis 1: 1-2:4a

Sermon: "I Have Given You Everything"

May 25

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 6: 24-34

Sermon: "Continually in the Temple"

Worship & Wonder Greeters

May 4—Nancy Dare

May 11—Jordan Batts & Nate Hill

May 18—Margaret Easton

May 18 will be the last Sunday for W & W for the summer

Serving This Month

Elders

Dan Roller

Adele Dickerson

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:

May 4—Matt Warfield

May 11—Tom Arehart

May 18—Jim McDaniel

May 25—Sharon Burchell

Sunday School



Beginning Sunday, May 4 and through the month of May, Jim Wombles will be leading the Sunday School in Bible study, using a resource brought to the church by Burnie Wall. Each week, we will be answering questions about the Bible using "Six Hundred Questions about the Bible" and discussing stories from the Bible. All members of Midway Christian Church are invited to attend!

Acolyte Schedule

May 4— Betsy & Jordan

May 11— Nate & Jack

May 18— J.T. & Preston

May 25— Noelle & Faith

June 1—J.T. & Preston

June 8—Sam & Will

June 15—Gregory & Clay

June 22—Betsy & Jordan

June 29—Nate & Jack

Children's Ministry

Upcoming Youth Events

On Saturday, May 17th we will see the return of the popular 'Games in the Park.' Youth of all ages and their families are welcome. Bring a lawn chair, bring your yard games, bring sunscreen, bring a friend, and gather at Walter Bradley Park at 10:00. Lunch will be provided. Come celebrate the start of summer vacation with kickball, softball, Frisbee, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and anything else we can think of.

Cane Ridge Day 2008 is Saturday, June 28th. The youth have been invited to sell drinks during the festivities as a church fundraiser, so save the date!

Chi-Rho

Regular meetings for this month will be held May 4th and May 18th at 6:00 in the youth room.

On May 25th the Chi-Rho will be going together to worship at Midway Presbyterian Church. Meet in our sanctuary at 10:30; we will return to MCC after the service for pick-up.

Sunday School

Who wrote the Bible, anyway? And what is actually in there, and how do you find what you are looking for? We are starting a new curriculum in the youth Sunday school class that will teach us the basics of what the Bible is all about and how we use it. We begin in the fellowship hall with the adult class and go to the youth room after the opening prayer. Come and join us!

Vacation Bible School

We are still forming the 'teams' that will make this year's VBS (June 23-25) another huge success. We are anticipating around 50 children and 25 adult volunteers participating from MCC, Midway Presbyterian, Pilgrim Baptist, and Second Christian. Where do your talents lie? Crafts or snacks? Decorating or teaching? Small group leader or kitchen crew? Whatever you like to do, there is a place for you at this year's "Beach Party."

Also, we are in need of people who can donate beach-related items to be used for decorating the church for VBS. These may be things such as: tents, umbrellas, beach and life-guard chairs, fishing nets and poles, seashells, sand toys, surfboards, beach towels, etc.



Fellowship News and Notes

Disciples Women

Thursday, May 22 @ 6:30 pm

Disciples Women will have their end of the year dinner at the home of Margie Evans on Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 pm. We will be revealing our Prayer Partners and discussing our plans for next year. Please call the church office to RSVP by Wednesday, May 14.



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 22 @ Noon

We will have our annual congregational meeting and potluck on Sunday, June 22 at noon. All members of the church are encouraged to attend. There will be a short but very important meeting after lunch to vote on Elders, Deacons, Church Officers, and the budget for the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Board & Elders' Meeting

There will **not** be a Board or Elders' meeting in May.

Taylor Manor Worship Service

Sunday, May 11 @ 2:00 pm

Midway Christian Church will host the Taylor Manor Worship Service on Sunday, May 11 at 2 pm. If you would like to carpool, please meet at the church by 1:30 pm.

Disciples Men

Sunday, May 18 @ Noon

Disciples men will meet on Sunday, May 18, immediately following the service. Location to be announced later. All men of Midway Christian Church are invited and encouraged to attend!



Keenagers

Monday, May 19

Keenagers will travel to Railheads on Monday, May 19 at 11:30 am for lunch. Please call the church office to RSVP by Wednesday, May 14.

Disciples Women Retreat!!

The Disciples Women will travel to Christmount the weekend of June 6-8, 2008 for Discovery Weekend. Discovery Weekend Women's Retreat is an annual event co-sponsored with Women for Christmount. It is a weekend of relaxation, spiritual renewal, fellowship, worship, and recreation.

Rev. Amy Gopp will lead this year's retreat. Her theme will discuss ways to put life back into individual and church efforts in helping people, from mission projects in other places to working in local mission through the Church and other agencies. Participants will be challenged to find their place in the work of Christ for "the least of these."

The weekend includes keynotes, discussion, lively music and meaningful worship. In addition to times of sharing, there will be free time for shopping and sightseeing on Saturday afternoon. From rocking on the deck to hiking and swimming, and especially being with friends from other places, there is plenty to experience deeply for every person at Discovery Weekend.

Cost - Early Bird Special: includes lodging, conference fee, & meals (Friday dinner -Sunday breakfast):

Single occupancy \$229.00, Double occupancy (per person) \$169.00, Triple occupancy (per person) \$149.00, Quad occupancy (per person) \$139.00

Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, May 4th.

Mission News and Notes

Mission Night

May 21, 2008

The next mission night will be Wednesday, May 21, 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 April 28: Adele Dickerson, Pat Settlemire, Nancy Dare, Gloria Batts, Pat Wilson, Buddy & Gertrude Johnson.

The next Meals on Wheels delivery week will be May 26.



Food Pantry

The Hope Ministries Food Pantry is in need of the following: canned tuna, mixed vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes, and pork and beans. Please place these items in the box located in the narthex.



Midway Christian Church Becomes a Storm Shelter

At the April Board meeting, Midway Christian Church was approved to become a temporary storm shelter for all citizens of Midway. Anytime there is a watch or warning in our area, the basement of fellowship hall will be open for anyone in the community to seek shelter. Heather McColl attended the Midway City Council meeting in April to let them know this is available immediately. We will need volunteers to open the church whenever there is a watch or warning. We will also need a few supplies such as flashlights, batteries, radio, etc. If you would like to assist in this ministry, please call the church office.

Fellowship News and Notes

Consecration Day

Sunday, May 18

As we continue to live out our vision of becoming a more Christ Centered, welcoming community of faith, we realized that part of achieving this vision is becoming better stewards of the generous and plentiful gifts and resources that God blesses us with as people of faith.

The Finance Committee is asking that you place your pledge and talent cards in the offering plate on Consecration Day, May 18, as a sign of your commitment and your response to God's grace that has been shown to you as a child of God.



You are invited to a
Wedding Shower for
Jeanne Sturgill and Ray Clark
Sunday, June 8
At Noon
In Fellowship Hall

Please bring a finger-food luncheon item (veggies, dip, sandwiches, chips, brownies, cookies, etc.).

Jeanne and Ray are registered at Macy's, Bed, Bath & Beyond, & Avant Travel (honeymoon donations, Frances Woollam, agent).

In lieu of gifts, please feel free to make a donation in our name to God's Pantry.

Community Notes

Thank You

On behalf of my family I would like to thank the church and its members for all of the outpouring of love and support for our new daughter Laney. We were honored that the congregation hosted a baby shower for her. The fellowship, food, presents and goodwill were all sincerely appreciated. We also appreciate the members supporting her at the beginning of her relationship with God with her baby dedication. We are blessed to have found this wonderful new church home at Midway Christian Church. Thank You.

Karoline Munson and Family

Monopoly Houses and Other Things...by Jeannie Hill



It has occurred to me recently as I was showing off the local real estate anomaly, “The Castle”, to a visitor that our perception of our own shortcomings, faults and secret sins are so huge, they would not even fit inside The Castle gate.

We so over- magnify what we are not, instead of what God sees; the real us, the spiritual us, that He made perfect inside of us (Colossians 1:27). Not only that, I can say that I have spent a great number of years, decades (!) standing in front of my Castle of Crud and tried to hide it from God, arms out, pretending He could not see it. ‘Well, it is July of 1972 so I’ll move my arms the other direction and for sure He won’t see anything back there now”. By 1997 my arms were getting tired I was still standing out there.

Not today. I went home and pulled out one of those little green Monopoly pieces and put it in my pocket. It is to remind me that God thinks our ‘Stuff’ has as much significance as the comparison between the little green house, and The Castle. Neither its significance nor capacity has any bearing on who God made me. God has enabled me, God has given me a ministry of reconciliation, God has given me His Word, He has given me courage, endurance and He has given me a purpose of serving right where I am in the body. In addition, He put me in the ministry and counted me faithful. Doesn’t matter whose building I am sitting in, God Almighty put me in His ministry, His purpose, His place in the body. Those verses are in I Corinthians 13 are written to each one of us personally. Read that out loud and put your own name in there. See if that doesn’t send chills down your arms. If it didn’t ‘work’ when you did it, keep reading scriptures and anywhere it has the word ‘you’ or ‘ye’, put your own name in the verse. When your brain interrupts (and its bossy, it will, it’s had free reign for a long time) and says “but you are not, you will not, you cannot”, just read those scriptures to yourself. (Faith cometh by hearing and by hearing the Word of God).

Praise God, He knew we needed a Savior from ourselves, mostly . We are not perfect and we will never be able to earn God’s grace. We certainly don’t deserve the deliverance that Jesus wrought when He literally rose from the dead and took captivity captive, and triumphed over them in it; all those things that hold us back, make us feel unworthy, unlovable and unable. He did the dance people! Do we have an Alleluia?! As it says in the Aramaic when He was on the cross, “For this purpose was I spared”! He gave his life, the beatings, scourges, and things to ghastly to mention did not kill our Lord Jesus. He gave his life to become The Christ. The risen Christ. Jesus was a name, Christ is a title. He earned it, we did not.

When we start to actually believe who we are in Christ it is a glorious day in heaven. We just speak or do what we know we can do. Fold those bulletins, prepare communion, hug that child, steward those finances, take soup to your neighbor, forgive your spouse or your friend when they are ugly to you. Hey, you are serving and God is thankful for each little thing and every person doing it.

Look at your Monopoly piece. Know what God has done for you then give one to someone else so they can know God has taken their Castle also.

Midway Christian Church

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