

SEPTEMBER



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

September, 2008

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Jody Heil

Student Associate

Melissa Askew

Music Director

Ainsley Wagoner

Pianist/Organist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

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MCC Welcomes New Student Associate

On Sunday, August 24th, the board approved the motion to call Jody Heil as our new student associate. Jody is originally from Akron, Ohio and graduated from Bethany College with a BA in Religious Studies. She is entering her third year at Lexington Theological Seminary and worked previously at FCC, Maysville as their student youth minister. Jody has also worked as a Disciples Peace Intern where during one summer, she traveled and participated in camps in Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, Nova Scotia and Ohio. When asked about her concept of ministry, she summed that up in one word: service: service to the community, service to the congregation, and service to self. Please help us welcome Jody as she begins her ministry at Midway Christian Church on Sunday September 7th.

Member Spotlight

We continue our member profile this month with a look at MCC Board Vice-Chair, Amy Perry. As a member of Midway Christian Church for thirty-four years, Amy has been there—done that. She is currently a choir member, substitute pianist/choir

director, chair of the MCC Finance Committee, active in the Disciples Women, and helps with a variety of church fund-raisers. In the past, Amy was a deacon, elder, Sunday School teacher, church secretary, and chair of the Worship Committee. Several years ago, she worked with Midway Treasures Auction, a fundraiser that contributed over \$11,000 to the Future of the Faith capitol campaign.

Outside of church, Amy works part-time for Non-Profit Partners, a local company that provides services to nonprofit organizations. The Sewing Machine, her 20+ year-old wedding/prom sewing business, recently expanded to include personalized "Memory Bears". Several years ago, Amy began working as a "Day-Of Coordinator" for frantic brides. This in addition to keeping books for the family farm keeps her busy!

Amy has been married to Mike Perry, for 27 years. They share in supporting daughters Lauren (22, attending Murray State University) and Liz (20, attending Georgetown College.) Mike manages Twin springs Farm, a family farm on Moores Mill Road. He enjoys hunting for arrowheads, fishing, and being one of Midway's many characters. Lauren plans to return to Midway and start a boarding operation on the family farm while working as a vet tech. Liz, an active Kappa Delta, is majoring in communications as she contemplates her fantastic future. Mike and Amy, dog Sasha, and cats Beau and Little Girl, live behind Holly Hill Inn in Midway.



Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$25,903.13
Received to date: \$20,453.60

A Pastoral Word

Pastoral Letter about the War in Iraq from General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins.

Dear Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Resolution 0728 adopted at the Fort Worth General Assembly asked that I write a pastoral letter to the congregations about the pain to the nation and to the church related to the war in Iraq. As we surpass the 4000th American death in that war, as at least one of those deaths is a Disciples young man from one of our churches in the Northeast Region, as we pass the unnumbered tens of thousands of Iraqi deaths, I write out of deep sorrow. The families and congregations of those who have died are living with a depth of loss that is unimaginable for those who have not traveled that road. And yet, there is also a depth of pride for the courage displayed by men and women who serve their country through military duty.

As General Minister and President, I have the privilege of participating in conversations with a broad range of persons and partners in mission. Recently I convened a table of persons to reflect on issues raised by the war in Iraq. There were military chaplains present, as well as retired military officers now involved in the church. There were peace and justice activists, representatives of Global Ministries, and two Iraqi refugees – a doctor and a chemist. There were local congregations represented, including a congregation that has been outspoken in its opposition to the General Assembly resolution on Iraq. Personal stories were shared, tears shed, anger expressed and connections made among individuals who ordinarily expect to find themselves on opposite sides of a cavern of divergent opinion. The meeting ended with a strong sense of hope growing out of the oneness in Christ that flows deeper than human opinion.

The meeting also revealed the breadth of the pain that comes with war – any war and this one in particular.

There is the pain of separation from loved ones during deployment – and the deep grief when the service member does not come home. There is the pain of re-entry, including the often unmentioned reality of tens of thousands wounded physically and spiritually through their military service. Their families and congregations bear the load of helping them put the pieces of a civilian life back together. The church and the nation will have to address the needs of these brave persons and their families for many years to come.

There is the pain of chaplains who minister to service men and women and their families. Who see, in the flash of an eye, “the difference between a human being and a human body” (as one of the chaplains present phrased it) not once but many, many times. Who counsel with officers and enlisted alike about their fears, their faith, their doubts. Who remain strong and comforting in the face of danger and uncertainty. And some of whom, after three, four, five rotations are beginning themselves to wear down and experience compassion fatigue. Chaplains are often the unsung heroes of any war.

There is the pain of the Iraqi people. More than a million have had to leave their country. Two million more are internally displaced. Middle class people who were building a life in peace with neighbors of all religions are now homeless or moved into ethnic enclaves, living in fear of the next wave of terror. Christian leaders have been brutally assassinated. People wonder out loud if Christian presence in the birthplace of Abraham, Ezra and Nehemiah is finished. Islam, a religion of peace and discipline, is now associated in the eyes of the Western world with the fanaticism of a few and finds within it, differing communities of practice hardening into enemy camps.

There is the pain of those among us who view peace not only as a point on a distant horizon, but who insist that non-violent interaction is a way of life to be lived right now. Who believe that the Kingdom of God is among us. Who take seriously Jesus’ admonitions against violence and call us to live already as though God’s commandments to love our enemy actually apply in our own time. Their pain is multiplied as their faithful insistence on waging peace causes their love of country and patriotism to be questioned.

There is the pain, as well, of those who absolutely believe it was and is right to have entered Iraq – that the cost is an acceptable cost – though difficult in human terms. There is pain for those who have served in conflict and watched a fellow soldier die or to live in fear of the unknown while hidden in a fox hole reciting the Lord’s Prayer or the 23rd Psalm. For those who believe at the core of their faith that we must defend liberty and justice in all places and times, there is the pain of being labeled warmongers or lovers of hatred.

There is the painful ambiguity in which we all live right now. While a majority of Disciples attending General Assembly voted their conscientious objection to the war, we’re there now, and in spite of the good that many of our compatriots have tried to do, the place is a mess. Do we leave it that way? A Christian has to grapple with the ambiguity of what we do from here. As citizens we need to engage the political process, participate in the conversation about how to reconstruct the nation, about how to promote reconciliation, how to care for our returning soldiers with their enormous medical and physical and spiritual challenges, how to care for their families. As Christians we need to advocate for peace and justice from all across the political and theological spectrum – to address the immediate humanitarian concerns of Iraqis – to hold our own government accountable to established rules of international conduct in times of war. These are American values, but more importantly they are Christian values.

As your general minister and president, I am working with David Vargas and Peter Makari of Global Ministries and our counterparts with the United Church of Christ, to review resources and information as to how we can actively support our troops and their families as they serve and when they return. I am well aware of the trauma and suffering endured by countless men and women who struggle to reintegrate into lives that have been abruptly halted by their call to active duty. In my own office, we have recently amended our personnel policies to comply with the new Family Medical Leave Act related specifically to military personnel and their effected family members during times of active duty and return.

During the next year, I am calling each of us to continue our prayers for those whose lives have been disrupted or lost, to continue our prayers for peace and understanding, and to continue to be engaged in meaningful dialogue that seeks first to understand those who differ from us, before we seek to be understood. Disciples’ earliest witness was to reach across the divides of human opinion and find a deeper unity in Christ. The pain of division over this war will continue – even in the church – but the challenge of finding a respectful way to speak to each other through our differences will bring out the best in us. Engaging each other respectfully, lovingly, as brothers and sisters in Christ, is in itself a witness. It is a place to begin as we seek to acknowledge our pain and to seek together the things that make for a just and lasting peace.

In Christ,

Sharon E. Watkins

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



September 7

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 18: 15-20

Sermon: "Listening and Regaining"

September 14

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 18: 21-35

Sermon: "Forgiveness and Mercy"

September 21

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 20: 1-16

Sermon: "The Last Will Be First..."

September 28

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 21: 23-32

Sermon: "Actions Instead of Empty Words"

Serving This Month

Elders

Adele Dickerson

Dan Roller

Deacons

Tom Arehart, Gloria Batts, Sharon Burchell, Scott Congleton, Teresa Hoppin, Jim McDaniel, Dottie Pollard, Pat Wilson, Gretchen Portwood, Charlann Wombles, Jim Wombles

Junior Deacon

Franklin Watson

Worship Leaders:

September 7—Marvin Glover

September 14—Betty Harrod

September 21—Ben & Priscilla Crutcher

September 28—TBA

Sunday School

Through the month of September, we will be taking a look at Paul, his writings and his journeys. Paul is probably one, if not the most influential apostles, but is often misunderstood. We will begin by taking a look at Paul's background and then will take a look at where he traveled and the churches that he helped found.



Passing of the Peace and Children's Moment will switch on Sunday mornings

As a response to several requests from parents, the Worship Committee has decided that starting on Sunday, September 7th, passing of the peace and children's moment will switch places during the Sunday morning worship service. Worship and Wonder has been well received by the children and parents of our church, but unfortunately it starts a little later than our service which means that there is about a 10 minute time where parents are still waiting for their children after the worship service is over. The Worship Committee felt that this would be a good compromise for both the parents, children and other church members who have children that participate in Worship and Wonder.

Missions News & Notes

September Missions: Cane Ridge, Midway Library, & Transylvania University

During the month of September, Midway Christian Church has chosen to support Cane Ridge, Midway Library and Transylvania University. Cane Ridge continues to be a living church. Prayer, singing, and preaching occur in the Meeting House, a place of worship for many congregations and religious groups who come as welcome guests each year. Since the late 18th century and now, in the 21st century, worship services, weddings, celebrations, lectures, and other gatherings have taken place in the church and on its grounds. Each year thousands of travelers visiting Cane Ridge receive talks and tours from the curators. (from Cane Ridge website)

Midway Free Public Library has been around for years on Winter Street as opportunity for people in Midway to go find a good book. This year, we are fortunate enough as a community to be having a branch of the Woodford County Library coming to Midway. Construction has begun on the new library that will be in an area located near the Northside Elementary School.

Transylvania University is a distinguished liberal arts college, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), of approximately 1,100 students that is consistently ranked and praised in the leading national college guides. Transylvania offers 34 majors plus the option of designing an individual major. Students gain a strong grounding in liberal education, however the University also emphasizes career planning. (from Transylvania University website).

Food Pantry

The Hope Ministries Food Pantry is in need of the following canned items: canned mixed vegetables, potatoes, carrots, fruit, spaghetti sauce, and juices.



Mission Night

The next mission night will be Wednesday, September 17 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 August 18: Charlann Wombles, Pat Wilson, Buddy & Gertrude Johnson, Priscilla Crutcher, Nancy Dare



The next Meal on Wheels delivery will be the week of September 15.

Disciples Coffee Project

The Disciples of Christ Coffee Project, a partnership between Disciples Home Missions, Week of Compassion, and Equal Exchange, is a way for your congregation to join hands with small farmer communities across the world. You can put your faith into action by using fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks in your congregation and by learning about how our consumer choices impact the global community. Through the project, farmers receive fair prices for their crops, affordable credit and long term trade relationships with a trading partner they can trust, Equal Exchange. In addition, for every pound of fairly traded products Disciples order through the project, Equal Exchange makes a donation to the Disciples Hunger Relief and Food Security Fund. For more information and to order your coffee, please go to www.equalexchange.com/doc.



Kroger Cards

Update

To date we have earned \$1,987.26, which surpassed our goal of \$1850 for our historical marker. All future money will go towards the Future of the Faith. Please keep using your Kroger cards! This will be an ongoing fundraiser for the church!

Fellowship News and Notes

Keenagers

Thursday, September 25th

We will be going to Midway College for lunch on Thursday, September 25th at 11:30 a.m. Keenagers is a small group ministry for people who are retired or are practicing for retirement.

Board Meeting

Sunday, September 7

The Board will meet Sunday, September 7, immediately following the worship service.

Elders' Meeting

Elders will meet Sunday, September 28 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

All Church Retreat

October 3-4

Midway Christian Church is hosting an All-Church Retreat for the weekend of October 3-4 at Camp Wakon' Da- Ho. We will spend the night on Friday night and do some mission work around the camp on Saturday. If you do not feel like sleeping in cabins, you are invited to join us just for Saturday activities. The cost is \$20. And yes, there is indoor plumbing! *Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, September 14th.*

Taylor Manor Worship Service

Sunday, September 14

Midway Christian Church will host the Taylor Manor Worship Service on Sunday, September 14 at 2:00 pm. Volunteers are need to assist the residents and join in singing. If you would like to carpool, please meet at the church by 1:30pm.

Disciples U Classes Available On-line!

Classes begin September 2008

Celtic Spirituality: Touchstone to the Divine **Dr. Barbara Murray, Instructor**

Our Christian tradition is filled with variety, creativity, grace, and even a bit of serendipity. Celtic spirituality is one way we can come to know more of God and of God's activity in our lives. Steeped in ancient traditions that have been called "pre-Christian", Celtic spirituality offers one way to enter into the journey that leads us to union with God. This course offers an opportunity to discover answers to the following questions: What is spirituality? What do we mean by "Celtic"? What is Celtic spirituality? Why a Celtic spiritual journey? Our responses to these questions will inform our experience of prayer, our call to discipleship, and our understanding of community. Along with the learning that takes place with our online "conversations", we will also use Timothy Joyce's, *Celtic Christianity: A Sacred Tradition, A Vision of Hope*.

Our Story: The History and Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) **Rev. Dr. Ron Buck, Instructor**

The course will examine the origins of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the early 19th century and trace its development through growth and conflict. Students will read *Joined in Discipleship* by Mark Toulouse, as well as a variety of other articles, documents, and primary sources. Students will also examine the history of a particular congregation in order to examine how it responded to changes that occurred throughout the denomination. The course will conclude with a discussion of the current shape of the church and what lies ahead.

If you would like more information, please go to www.ccinky.net/disciplesu/disciplesu.htm

Children's Ministry

Greetings!

Hey my name is Jody and I'm your new Student Associate Minister! I thought you all might want to know a little about me, considering we're going to be exploring the wonders of God together! I am a 3rd year student at Lexington Theological Seminary. I live with my roommate, her dog Theo and my dog Iore, and our hamster Ariel (sometimes I wonder if it's really a zoo and not an apartment)! I'm super excited to be starting at Midway Christian.

To get things started I will be hosting an ICE CREAM SOCIAL for you and your parents in Fellowship Hall immediately after church on **September 14th**! I'll bring the ice cream you bring the questions! Again I'm very excited to meet everyone and I'll see you on my first Sunday, September 7th!



Breathe in Jesus, Breathe out Peace,

Jody Heil

Jody Heil: Student Associate Minister

Acolyte Schedule

September 7—Clay Rouse & Will Schein

September 14—J.T. Batts & Preston Lutter

September 21—Sam Hatfield & Marcus Watson

September 28—Noelle & Faith Gruzesky

Choir News and Notes

Handbell Choir

It is hard to believe but it is already that time of the year to start thinking about Christmas! From a music director's point of view that is. Towards the middle to end of August the Handbell choir will resume practice to work on Advent/Christmas music. Anyone who is interested in playing please let me know! The more players we have means the fewer songs everyone has to play, so even if you will be out of town on Christmas Eve you could still play for Advent. The music is not difficult, and I will work with anyone who feels uncomfortable reading music. Practices are on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 except on Mission/Committee night.



Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will resume practice starting on September 7th from 5:00-5:45, and we will continue to practice the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. This year in addition to singing, the youth will be learning to play the Handchimes, so the more we have involved the better! Please contact Melissa if you have any questions.



Community News and Notes

Disciples Men Prepare for Fall Festival

Midway Christian Church will be hosting at booth at the annual Midway Fall Festival for the weekend of September 20-21. We will once again be selling items for Ten Thousand Villages. The church will also keep 10% of profits from the sell which will go towards our Future of the Faith Campaign. This is a great time to pick up unique Christmas items or a present for that hard to shop for person. Ten Thousand Villages is a not for profit organization that enables third world artisans to sell their arts and crafts for a fair price.

We will also need help "manning" the booth downtown. If you are interested in signing up for a two hour shift either on Saturday or Sunday, please call the church office.

Disciples Women Annual Rummage Sale

The annual Rummage Sale, sponsored by Disciples Women, will take place during this year's Fall Festival, September 19-21. Hours are Friday and Saturday, September 19 & 20, 8am to 5 pm and Sunday, September 21, noon to 5 pm.

Now is the time to clean out those closets, attics, and garages. All donations are greatly appreciated. Items may be dropped off in the middle room of the basement of fellowship hall. If you have items to donate but are unable to drop them off, contact Phil Burchell at 312-5887 or Jim Leer at 509-0501 to make arrangements for someone to pick them up.

A work day for setting up has been scheduled for Monday, September 15 at 9 am. We will also be working each night at 6 pm.

Disciples Women will donate any proceeds over \$1500 to go towards the outside painting of the church.

Fall 2008 Lay School of Theology At Lexington Theological Seminary

Each course meets from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Fellowship Hall at Lexington Theological Seminary. Registration is \$40 for each course or \$110 for all three courses in a semester. For more information, contact Bill Turner, 859-280-1253, or e-mail: bturner@lextheo.edu, or [Register On-line](#).

Registration deadlines

Fall Session One or all three courses – September 5

Fall Session Two – September 25

Fall Session Three – October 31

Session I: September 13, 20, & 27—*Biblical and Contemporary Prophets*

Dr. Lisa Davison, Professor of First Testament

Session II: October 11, 18, & 25—*Conflict and Congregation*

Dr. Steve Monhollen, Professor of Pastoral Leadership and

Mr. Mike Troop, Adjunct Professor of Negotiation at the University of Kentucky College of law

Session III: November 8, 15, & 22—*Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Dr. Jimmy Kirby, Professor of Church and Society

Water Weekend for Young Adults at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya

October 3-5



Young Adults are

invited to enjoy a weekend, October 3 through October 5, of playing on the Lake with Speed Boats, Wave Runners, Sail Boats, with a time of devotion and worship on the side. The cost is \$65.00 which includes meals, lodging, tee-shirt and fun. To register call the Regional office at 233-1391.

Midway Christian Church

PO Box 4548

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Nonprofit Organization

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Return Service Requested

