



Season's Greetings



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

December, 2008

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Jody Heil

Student Associate

Melissa Askew

Music Director

Dayton Harris

Accompanist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Bruen Street Becomes Memory Lane



Like a trip to the attic that produces a hodgepodge of history, a December 7 journey into Midway Christian Church's past will turn up all sorts of memorable morsels. Some will even taste good.

On that Sunday, following worship, the congregation will gather outside for the unveiling of the much-anticipated historical marker. Rep. Carl Rollins and Mayor Tom Bozarth and will be on hand to lend an official air to the event.

After the unveiling we'll go inside for the tasty portion of the day. Ouita Michel and her elves will host an "Old-Fashioned Christmas Party" in Fellowship Hall. The menu, inspired by the church's legendary Thanksgiving Market, will indeed be cause for thanks: oyster stew, chicken salad, country ham and biscuit, and Christmas cookies, along with punch, iced tea and hot mulled cider (or, if the elves lose their way: hot tea, iced cider and mulled punch).

Ouita is encouraging everyone to share a memory of Christmases at Midway Christian Church, whether it's a photo, memento or story. (Keep it brief, please, my hot mulled cider is getting cold—and unmulled.) Shirley Eckels will be collecting your items for display, so be sure to give her yours well in advance.

If you wish to be one of Ouita's elves, she will provide more details during Sunday announcements and will litter the narthex with sign-up sheets. Do not pass them by.

You'll want to invite former MCC members to this special Sunday celebration, along with any backsliders you run into. It'll be a day of good memories. There will not be a charge at the door, but I know you'll support the effort by dropping a bill into the basket at your table.

For more information, go to www.HistoricalMarkerUnveiledBeforeOysterStewGetsSloshedAround.com. If that doesn't work, try www.midwaychristian.org.

-Bob Rouse

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

E-mail:

office@midwaychristian.org

Visit us on the web:

www.midwaychristian.org

Church Office Closed

The office will be closed December 24 thru 26.

The entire staff of Midway Christian would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$66,730.37
Received to date: \$65,791.78

Pastoral Word

It seems like only yesterday I was announcing to the congregation that Mike and I were expecting our first child and now here we are: zero hour! Where did the time go? Mike and I want to thank the church for the baby shower and for all the amazing gifts! Both of us were overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support from our church family!

And now everything is ready as we await the birth of our first child: Sarah Ann.

I wanted to take this opportunity to let everyone know that I will begin my maternity leave on Wednesday, December 24th and will be back in the office at the end of February. The Board generously voted to give me eight weeks of maternity leave for which I am truly thankful.

Just as motherhood and pregnancy is a new experience for me, this process has been a new experience for the congregation of Midway Christian Church. This is the first time in the history of Midway Christian Church that the questions about what do we need to do if the minister goes on maternity leave needed to be answered. My pastoral relations committee had to come up with a maternity policy and thanks to the leadership of Burnie Wall, it was passed at the November Board meeting.

While I am on maternity leave, the congregation will be in good hands. The pulpit will be filled with guest preachers, many who have at one point or another have been connected with Midway Christian Church and the elders have graciously offered to lead the congregation and to take care of the pastoral needs of the congregation. I am also thankful to have Jody with us during this time. My hope is that this becomes a learning opportunity for her and for her ministry.

The other interesting thing that will happen while I am on maternity leave is that in the November Board meeting, the board approved the new congregational structure and will begin to implement that for a six month trial basis, starting in January. The Visioning Team has worked really hard to come up with a structure that will free up the congregation to do ministry. This will be a great time for the congregation and its leadership to make the new structure work.

My hope is that this maternity leave will continue to challenge us as people of faith and a congregation that has embraced its mission of Welcome. My hope is that this maternity leave will continue to let us as a congregation take a look at our spiritual gifts and to use them wisely so that we can all live up to our Kingdom potential. My hope is that this maternity leave continues to be a growing experience for me and for the congregation of Midway Christian Church.

Heather

Member Spotlight: Shirley Eckels

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania. I came to Midway in 1971 as a student at Midway College. After graduation I went to Berea College and graduated from there in 1976. I came back to Midway to live in 1977. I worked for Bluegrass Head Start and Midway College. I have been working at Paul Sawyier Public Library since 1985.



I began attending Midway Christian Church as soon as I started Midway College. I started singing in the choir soon after. I have served as Deacon, Elder, and Board Secretary.

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**
Wednesday, December 24, 2008
10:00 pm

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



December 7

Second Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Mark 1: 1-8

Sermon: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

December 14

Third Sunday in Advent

Scripture: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Sermon: "The True Light"

December 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Sunday

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20

Sermon: "Glory to God"

December 28

First Sunday after Christmas

Lessons and Carols Service

Lessons and Carols

Service

It seems as though we never get around to singing all of our favorite Christmas hymns during this season so on Sunday, December 28 during our morning worship service, we will be having a Lessons and Carols Service. We will once again read the Christmas story and sing a few of our favorite Christmas hymns. Due to the special nature of the service, there will be no choir anthem or sermon this Sunday.

Serving This Month

Elders

Dan Roller

Adele Dickerson

Deacons

Jim Nance, John Askew, Virginia Ballenger, Jeanne Clark, Ouita Michel, Sue Roberts, Bob Rouse, Mary Beth Rouse, Bob Settlemire, Kit Walden

Junior Deacon

Steele Rouse

Worship Leaders:

December 7—Sheila Redmond

December 14—Teresa Hoppin

December 21—Sharon Buchell

December 28—Tom Arehart

Sunday School

For at least 1,700 years, Christians have observed a season of prayer and preparation leading up to Christmas. *Advent* is a word that means "to come, to show up," and in the chaos of the shopping and party frenzy, we Christians try to pull the shutters down on all that and do some soul searching, some praying, some repenting. Company is coming, and it's a baby—and not just any baby, but Mary's child, the Savior of the world. The question of Advent is "Will there be room?" Can we sweep out the clutter of our lives and leave a space into which God might become reality?

Advent is about waiting, and waiting is hard for us. We must be tutored in waiting. Wait for the Lord. To get at this, we will explore various characters in the biblical story, and even a few others out of the annals of history, to think through how to "prepare him room" during Advent. We will structure their stories around four themes, for our four weeks. These themes are repentance, faith, holiness, and love."

(www.thethoughtfuchristian.com)

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday December 28th!

Missions News & Notes

December Missions: Disciples Mission Fund

Disciples Mission Fund builds a foundation enabling Disciples to globally share the good news of Jesus Christ. This common fund allows the Disciples to pool their resources accomplishing a greater ministry. One congregation could not achieve this alone. Disciples Mission Fund allows a process of whole church stewardship supporting God-given missions at home and world-wide. They live their theological understanding of Christ's prayer "that they all may be one." As a faithful growing church, Disciples demonstrate true sense of community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

Shoebox Christmas for Northside Elementary School

Midway Christian Church's Shoebox Christmas for Northside Elementary students will help to bring joy to local needy children through gift filled shoe boxes. This mission project provides an opportunity for members of Midway Christian Church of all ages to become involved in a simple hands on mission project based upon the true meaning of Christmas – the greatest gift, the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Family Resource Counselor at Northside Elementary School has provided us with a list of several children who are in need of assistance. You can make a difference in the life of one or more of these children through a simple gift filled shoebox or your donation to the project. The shoe boxes filled with school supplies, small toys, and personal items will bring joy and much needed personal items a local child. God can use your gift to make a difference.

The shoe boxes with a gift tag indicating the gift is for a boy or girl; the child's age, size and suggested gift items will be in the narthex. We ask that you return your gift filled shoe boxes to the church anytime before Sunday, December 14. The shoe boxes will be delivered to Northside Elementary School for distribution before Christmas break.



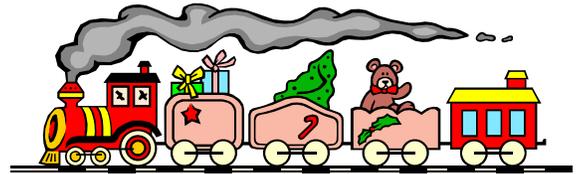
Christmas Family Adoption

Midway Christian Church is adopting a local family with two small children, so that they may experience the joy of the holidays.

The six year old girl is interested in Princess toys. Her pant size is 5 and shirt size 5/6.

The one year old girl can use any age appropriate toys, diapers-size 4 , wipes, sippy cups, and clothing size 12-18 months.

Please bring any unwrapped presents to the church office by Sunday, December 14.



Mission Night

December 17

The next mission night will be Wednesday, December 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 November 10: Phil & Sharon Burchell, Gloria Batts, Nancy Dare, Charlann Wombles

The next Meals on Wheels delivery will be the week of Dec. 8.

Fellowship News and Notes

Keenagers

Thursday, December 18

Gloria Batts will host a luncheon for Keenagers at her home on Thursday, December 18 at 11:30. We will meet at the church at 11:00 am to carpool. Please RSVP to Gloria by Dec. 14.

Disciples Women



The Disciples Women will go to Cleveland's in Versailles on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 pm for their Christmas outing. *Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, December 5.*

We will meet on December 14 at 12:15 pm to prepare Christmas "Gift Bags" for shut-ins.

Disciples Men

Saturday, December 13 @ 9 am

Disciples Men will meet Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 am for breakfast in Fellowship Hall.



Midway College Christmas Vespers Service

Monday, December 1 @ 7 pm

You are invited to Midway College on Monday, December 1st for a Christmas Vespers Service in the Ann Hart Raymond Center. The service will consist of scripture readings and music by the Midway College Chorale. Also the Handbell Choir of Midway Christian Church will perform as part of the service!

Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 6, 2008
2:00 pm—4:00 pm
Hosted by Mike & Heather McColl
Everyone is invited to attend!

Gift Wrap With A Smile

Help raise money for MCC by joining a team of gift wrappers for Amazon.com in Lexington. We will be wrapping on December 9 and 10 from 8 am to 1 pm. You can join us for one or both days! We will need 5 or 6 people each day. Last year we raised over \$500. Please call Nancy Dare, 846-5568, if you plan to attend.



Landscaping



The Grounds Committee would like to suggest the next time your out shopping to pick up some spring blooming bulbs and help beautify the re-vamped courtyard and church grounds. Now is the time to plant them plus you can find them for half price.

In the early spring you may bring in your favorite perennial to share and beautify the church grounds.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, the remaining concrete was poured for our ramp, completing Phase 1 of the ramp project.



Children's Ministry

What's coming up!

Dec. 7th – Caroling and Warm Drinks Afterwards

Dec. 14th at 6pm will be our Christmas Program. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Dec. 21st – we will be having a movie night with a Christmas Themed movie to be announced.



Also on November 15th and 16th I attended the Christian Worship and Wonder training at Lexington Theological Seminary. I would like to thank the church for making it possible for me to attend this training. Worship and Wonder is something that I have been interested in for a long time and I finally got the chance to learn about this fantastic program! Thank you again, I learned a lot that will help me be a better service to the congregation.

Grace and Peace,

Jody Heil

Worship & Wonder

A reminder for parents and children, Worship and Wonder meets every Sunday.

Acolyte Schedule

December 7—Betsy Schein & Jordan Batts

December 14—Nate & Jack Hill

December 21—J.T. Batts & Preston Lutter

December 28—Will Schein & Marcus Watson

2008 Christmas Offering

"GOD
Has Done
Great Things"
Luke 1:47-55



"To support, bless and encourage the ministry of your Region."

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

This offering will be received in most congregations on December 14 and 21

2008 Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering enables the 33 Disciples of Christ Regions across the country to perform the essential work of sustaining and enhancing ministry, programs, congregations, and clergy in their respective geographic regions. This offering will be collected on December 14 and 21. your gift truly makes a difference!



A large crowd enjoyed the music of the Cane Ridge Revival Band at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.



Ouita Michel carves the Thanksgiving turkey.

Community News and Notes

Election Day Pancake Breakfast a Big Success!

An estimated 345 people attended the All Day Election Day Pancake Breakfast. The following items were consumed between 7 am and 7 pm.

- 69 pounds of Old Folks Sausage
- 22 bottles of Log Cabin and Mrs. Butterworth's Syrup
- 10 gallons of Milk
- 8 bottles of Hosey Honey
- 5 gallons of Orange Juice
- Almost a 1000 of Jim Nance's sourdough pancakes made with Weisenberger Flour.
- Endless pots of Folger's Coffee.



“Disciples Men” would like to thank everyone who helped and supported the “Pancake Day”. We want to express our thanks to the young people and their friends who served our guests with great energy and enthusiasm. The Midway Ministerial Association will receive \$950 to use for our community.

Finance Committee 2008 Wrap-up

2008 has been quite the year for fundraisers and exterior beautification projects for MCC. Our building and grounds committee has been busy gathering bids for multiple projects. With the financial help from the Disciples Women rummage sale, and other sources of funding, the following projects have been finished or are in the works:

Exterior paint: After years of neglect, our beautiful church buildings are in the process of being scraped and painted. Fellowship Hall painting is finished, and the Sanctuary exterior will be finished in the spring. Thanks to Charlotte Morgan for moving us toward the stone-colored paint on the trim. It is wonderful!

Ramp between the buildings: We have concrete! We will soon have a completed project with hand-rails to help everyone access our buildings with ease. Phil Burchell has lovingly overseen this project as plants are moved, electric and plumbing needs met, and the courtyard begins its transformation into a wheel-chair accessible entrance.

Kentucky historical marker: Through the use of Kroger cards and a Disciples Women donation, we have paid for the 2-sided marker that will be unveiled on December 7. In the spring, the area around the marker will be landscaped with benches.

Our building and grounds committee has a list of other projects that need to be completed. There is always work to do on old buildings. The Sanctuary front steps need improving, the tuck-pointing job continues, landscaping, etc.

How can you help? Finish out 2008 with an extra donation toward a church project.

Currently we are looking for sponsors to donate toward the cost of the ramp railings and courtyard landscaping. If you are interested in giving toward these projects, please do so by writing “ramp railing” or “landscaping” on the memo line of your check. Any donations above the cost of this project will be applied to other capital improvement needs.

Thanks for your continued financial support during these trying times.

Midway Christian Church

Nonprofit Organization

US POSTAGE PAID

PO Box 4548

PERMIT No. 2

Midway, KY 40347

Midway, KY 40347

Return Service Requested

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____

I wish to purchase _____ Poinsettias @ \$10 each for a total of \$_____

In **Honor** of: _____

In **Memory** of: _____

Order deadline: Sunday, December 7, 2008

Please make checks payable to *Midway Christian Church*

