



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

March, 2009

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Jody Heil

Student Associate

Melissa Askew

Music Director

Dayton Harris

Accompanist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Lenten Breakfast Series

Our speaker for the Lenten Breakfast Series will be Dr. Lisa Davison, Professor of First Testament at Lexington Theological Seminary. She will be leading us in a discussion on "Hot Topics and the Bible." The breakfasts start at 9 a.m. with a meal and music. The program follows the meal and usually lasts for about 30-45 minutes.



Saturday, March 14th: Flock 1 provides the meal

Saturday, March 21st: Flock 2 provides the meal

Saturday, March 28th: Flock 3 provides the meal

Saturday, April 4th: Flock 4 provides the meal

Elders and Diaconate Workshop

March 6-7, 2009

Keynote speaker: Dr. Jerry Sumney

Newly elected elders, deacons and "veterans" alike can join those from many churches to share an educational experience. Through lectures, "skill shops," worship, and fellowship, participants will share ideas, learn more about these two spiritual offices in the church, and discuss with seminary professors and ministers the meaning of being an elder or member of the diaconate in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Workshops by clergy and leading educators will produce insightful discussions concerning Disciples' history, theology, and practices and traditions regarding the ministry of serving as an elder or a member of the diaconate.

The retreat is co-sponsored by Lexington Theological Seminary and Christmount Christian Assembly and is held at Christmount in Black Mountain, NC.

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$107,940.64
Received to date: \$108,442.28

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

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www.midwaychristian.org

Pastoral Word

Member Spotlight:

Adele Dickerson and Dan Roller



Dan and Adele have been involved with Midway Christian Church for approximately twenty-three years. During that time, each has served as deacon, elder, Chair of Elders and Board at various times in addition to being on various committees through the years. Dan and Adele currently serve as elders and Adele also is a Trustee. In addition to attending the General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA, Cincinnati, OH, Kansas City, MO, Charlotte, NC, they have participated in Regional and District events. Dan is on the Regional Men's Cabinet and Adele serves on the Regional Board.

Dan grew up in Danville, KY and after graduating from Danville High School, attended the University of Cincinnati where he graduated in 1971 with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration. In 2005, he retired from Kentucky State Government after working there thirty-one years. Since his retirement he has been involved with various church and community activities, including Midway Renaissance Board, Midway Lions Club, Francisco's Farm Arts Festival and Greenspace committee. He enjoys photography, nature, historic architectural and agricultural sites and travel.

Adele grew up on a farm in Salisbury, MO where she gained her appreciation of nature and the importance of the environment. In 1973, she graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelors degree in Education. She retired from Kentucky State Government in 1999 and has enjoyed volunteer work since then. In addition to church activities, she volunteers with the Hospice for the Bluegrass, Francisco's Farm Arts Festival, and is a member of the Midway Woman's Club, Nursing Home Task Force and Greenspace committee.

Dan and Adele enjoy living in Midway and value the friendships of the church and the community. They appreciate the beauty and rich history of the central Kentucky area. They enjoy traveling with family and visiting friends. When traveling, they most enjoy small, river front and coastal towns, rural and natural areas, wildlife viewing, train rides and local historic and farm tours.

Pastoral Word

There are so many people that I need to thank for their leadership, their prayers, and their support while I was on maternity leave. First, I want to thank you, as a congregation, for allowing me to have the opportunity to spend the first two months with my daughter and Mike as a family. It was such a blessing!

I also want to thank the leadership of the church for filling in for me while I was on maternity leave. I am so fortunate and thankful to be surrounded by wonderful church leaders who love this church and who were willing to watch over the flock of Midway Christian Church. I especially want to thank the elders who bravely were "on-call" during my maternity leave. Midway CC is blessed to have such amazing leaders.

And how can I not thank the staff! Midway Christian Church is privileged to have an amazing staff! One of the reasons that I was able to enjoy my maternity leave was knowing that Jody, Rhonda, Melissa, Dayton, and Jistine had everything under control! I want to thank them for everything that they did during my maternity leave!

It is hard to believe that it has been 8 weeks since I have been with you! A lot can happen in 8 weeks! The new church leadership structure is taking shape. The new ramp outside of fellowship hall is complete. And we are entering a new season in the life of the church, Lent.

I am excited to be back at work and to be back as your minister. The funny thing about being away for these past 8 weeks is that I realized how much I missed being a part of Midway Christian Church. Each night, as I was trying to get a sleepy baby to bed, I would look out my back window and see the church, and I would feel in my heart, that this is where God has called me to be. I would think about how much we have achieved over the last couple of years and I would think about where God is calling us in the future. As I looked at the church building, I would see your faces and know that the work of God's kingdom was being done right here in Midway. It was a great comfort to see the church each night and to know that this community of faith is using their gifts and talents to help bring about the Kingdom of God. And that I am blessed to be a part of such a loving and supportive family like Midway Christian Church!

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



March 1

First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Mark 1: 9-15

Sermon: "Into the Wilderness"

March 8

Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Mark 8: 31-38

Sermon: "Setting Your Mind"

March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 2: 13-22

Sermon: "Driven out of the Temple"

March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Baby Dedication of Sarah McColl

Scripture: John 3: 14-21

Sermon: "Come to the Light"

March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 66, Matthew 3:1-17

Sermon: "Rhythm and You"

Serving This Month

Elders

Phil Burchell

Jim Leer

Deacons

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

Junior Deacon

Franklin Watson

Worship Leaders:

March 1—Charlann Wombles

March 8—Barbara Jo Columbia

March 15—Scott Congleton

March 22—Betsy Schein

March 29—Jordan Batts

Sunday School

Bible 101: The Gospels

During the month of March and April, we will be taking a look at the four Gospels that are found in our Bible. We will be studying how the Gospels were put together, how they are different, how they are alike, and what message each Gospel wants to bring to the reader. We will also take a look at who Jesus is and his message to the world in each of the Gospels. So come and join us on Sunday mornings. Sunday School begins at **9:30 a.m.** with sharing of joys and concerns.

Daylight Savings Time



Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday, March 7.

Missions News & Notes

March Mission: Midway College

“Midway College, Kentucky's only women's college, provides a living, learning environment that enables students to assume roles of responsibility and leadership as contemporary women. The college assists each student in the development of personal integration and self sufficiency through a strong liberal arts education and through career studies, both at the associate and baccalaureate degree levels”. (taken from www.midway.edu)

Meals on Wheels

Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels team that served the week of February 2: Charlann Wombles, Nancy & Phil Dare, Sharon & Phil Burchell, Pat Wilson, Pat Settlemire.



The next Meals on Wheels delivery will be the week of March 2, 2009.

Food Pantry

The Midway Food Pantry and the Hope Ministries Food Pantry in Versailles is in need of all canned vegetables, fruits, soups, and meats, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, and cereal. You may drop off any items in the tub located in the narthex.



Stewardship of Creation

History of the Alverna Covenant

The Alverna Covenant was written by members of the Task Force on Christian Lifestyle and Ecology of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) while meeting at Alverna Retreat Center, a Franciscan retreat in Indianapolis, Ind. The name has added significance. Alverna is named for Mt. Alverna in Italy, the mountain retreat given to Francis of Assisi. Francis is honored for his concern for the care of and relatedness of all creation. The 800th anniversary of Francis' birth was celebrated in 1981, the year the Alverna Covenant was first introduced at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Alverna Covenant

Whereas:

- God has created the world with finite resources;
- God has given to us the stewardship of the earth;
- God has established order through many natural cycles.

And it is evident that:

- We are consuming resources at a rate that cannot be maintained;
- We are interrupting many natural cycles;
- We are irresponsibly modifying the environment through consumption and pollution;
- We are populating the earth at a rate that cannot be maintained;

As a member of the human family and a follower of Jesus Christ, I hereby covenant that:

- I will change my lifestyle to reduce my contribution to pollution;
- I will support recycling efforts;
- I will search for sustainable lifestyles;
- I will work for public policies which lead to a just and sustainable society;
- I will share these concerns with others and urge them to make this Covenant.

Fellowship News and Notes

Keenagers

Thursday, March 19th at 11:30 a.m.

The Keenagers will meet for lunch on Thursday, March 19th at 11:30 to go to The Pub in Lexington to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Please call the church office by Sunday, March 8th to RSVP. Keenagers is a group for people who are retired or are practicing retirement.

Disciples Women

Sunday, March 15

Disciples Women will meet to continue our study at 12:15 pm in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 15. Our Student Associate, Jody Heil, will share her mission trip to the Holy land with us.

Let's have a great turnout and please bring your own sack lunch with drink!



Ky Disciples Women's Spring Conference

The Kentucky Disciples Women's Spring Conference will be held April 18 at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington, Ky. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Verity Jones. Registration form and \$25 fee is due by April 6. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board outside the church office or on the regional website—www.ccinky.net.

You're Invited...

to a lunch on **Sunday, March 22nd** following the church service to celebrate the dedication of Sarah Ann McColl. Please come and join us that day as we dedicate the newest member of Midway Christian Church.

Community Garden Meeting

Monday, March 2, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Last year, Midway Presbyterian Church hosted a Community Garden and they are doing it again this year. You are invited to join in this great opportunity to grow our own food and to make connections with our neighbors.



Week of Wonder: May 31 - June 5, 2009

Join adults from all over to help Christmount get ready for the summer! Raking, weeding, painting, light construction, trail work, and other things need to get done to get Christmount ready for a summer of ministry to youth and adults. After a long winter, there are so many things you can do to help out maintenance crew and transform Christmount into a wondrous place for our campers and conferees!

Housing will be in the Guest Houses (hotel-style rooms). Cost covers meals from Monday breakfast through Friday breakfast.

We will work in the mornings and afternoons; evenings will include vespers services and time for relaxing on the deck or in your room.

The cost is \$125 per person. For more information, please go to www.christmount.org/Weekofwonder.htm

Children's Ministry

Greetings Parents and Youth!

First of all I would like to thank everyone that helped out with and/or supported the Chili Cook Off and Souper Bowl for caring. During the Chili Cook Off we raised a grand total of \$361 for youth attending the Heifer project experience and camps. During the Souper Bowl for Caring we raised a grand total of \$150 for the Midway Food Pantry. In these hard economic times we appreciate your generosity!

Congratulations to our Chili Cook-Off Winners: Gregory Watkins—first place, Phil Dare—second place, and Sharon Burchell—third place.

We have a lot of exciting events coming up this month!

On **March 1st** we will be having a movie night. The movie is to be announced but the movie will be appropriate for all ages and snacks will be provided!



On **March 8th** we will be playing the ever popular Romans and Christians!

I am currently working out the details of an event on **March 15th**. Please stay tuned to your messenger for more information regarding March 15th.

On **March 22nd** we will explore the great outdoors and play in God's beautiful creation. Bring your imagination and teach us a new outdoor game!

On **March 29th** we will be having a youth lock-in. All you need to bring is your favorite snacks, a change of pajamas and something to sleep on!



As always youth and children are welcome to bring friends to our youth group activities!

Dates to Remember

June 9-14: Summer mission trip to Heifer Ranch in Arkansas.

Summer camps are coming up and children from first through twelfth grades are invited. Please visit the website for dates at www.ccinky.net/outdoor.

Acolyte Schedule

March 1—Nate & Jack Hill

March 8—Will Schein & Marcus Watson

March 15—Betsy Schein & Jordan Batts

March 22—J.T. Batts & Preston Lutter

March 29—Clay Rouse & Sam Hatfield

Thank You

Midway Christian Church would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to members of Troop 40 for cleaning up all the limbs around the church property left behind by the ice storm and wind!



Community News and Notes

Christmount Initiative Will Use Donations For Relief Program

Disciples who visit Christmount next year will have a chance to bring along items that will either help the medically underserved abroad or those who are hungry in this country. The Christmount Board of Directors has announced a new outreach initiative that will apply to Disciples who spend time in retreat or other activities at Christmount, the camp and conference center for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

For the overseas mission projects, Disciples are being asked to bring gauze pads, children medicines or tape to include in the International Medical Assistance (IMA) medicine boxes. The donated materials will be assembled during events at the center beginning in January. The items will be dedicated and sent to Week of Compassion's partner agency, IMA World Health for distribution.

Disciples also can participate in the outreach activities by bringing food for the local ecumenical crisis ministry, Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry. Christmount is located in Black Mountain, N.C. ministry, Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry. Christmount is located in Black Mountain, N.C. see: To find out more, see: www.disciples.org/tabid/58/itemid/150/Christmount-Begins-New-Outreach.aspx.

Lexington Theological Seminary to Reinvent in Face of Economic Turmoil

Trustees of Lexington Theological Seminary have declared the school is in a state of financial emergency and will use this as an opportunity to boldly reinvent itself by developing a curriculum that stresses effective parish ministry as its primary focus.

While these changes are very painful in the short term, LTS President James P. Johnson said the Seminary will focus on creating a new curriculum that will better prepare divinity students for careers as parish pastors. Faculty will develop courses that will merge theological thinking with practical skills in such areas as money management, use of technology and conflict resolution. Many course offerings will be available online and taught at remote locations.

The school's financial situation has been compounded by "a tsunami of economic disasters that we have not seen in our lifetimes," Johnson told trustees. An endowment that once stood at about \$25 million in July 2007 is about \$16 million today, Johnson said.

Johnson said the Seminary's \$4 million budget will be cut, meaning reducing faculty and staff positions.

Steve Monhollen, faculty representative to the trustees, said faculty learned of the pending decisions several weeks ago and have already begun discussing ways to redesign and enhance the curriculum and the learning process. "The faculty has been energized by the possibilities of being on the forefront of a totally new seminary curriculum."

"The Seminary will look different, act differently and be better positioned to serve students and congregations when we come out of this," Johnson said.

The Seminary continues to meet all its financial obligations, Johnson said; however, the draw on the endowment must be reduced immediately, forcing the staff cuts. It costs LTS \$10,000 per year in tuition to educate a master of divinity student; almost all master of divinity students receive scholarships for tuition, only having to pay outright for room and board.

Midway Christian Church

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