

THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

February, 2010

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Jody Heil

Student Associate

Stephanie Brown

Music Director

Jessica Hartman

Accompanist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Epiphany Dinner

More than 200 people from Woodford County and surrounding counties gathered at Midway College for the third annual Epiphany Christmastide Feast. The Epiphany Feast is the oldest Christian celebration of the Christ child. It's also the last day of the twelve days of Christmas.

Rev. Heather McColl, minister of Midway Christian Church, shared with the gathering the history and meaning behind the celebration of Epiphany. The S.O.W.E.R.S under the guidance of Stephanie Brown shared their gift of song to start off the festivities. Leading the parade was the Magi, portrayed by Nate Hill, John Batts, and Jack Morgan. Musick's Company from the Center for Old Music in the New World in Lexington performed with its medieval-style instruments.

A Note for Ouita Michel...

Thursday, January 7th I gave thanks to God for our Epiphany Feast. The whole process filled me with enormous thanksgiving for our fellowship at Midway Christian Church. There is no doubt that I can get a little testy in the thick of the moment-and part of my quest in life is to recognize the moment I am living, to relish it, to rejoice in it. Cooking for the church puts me in that place, even when we're at crunch time. It is such joy to be able to work together-and I am deeply grateful for the hard work of so many. Standing in that cafeteria dining room, watching our team get that room ready filled my heart. It is a crazy idea-what have I gotten these good people into? Watching the dishwashing effort, the scraping, bussing, and serving, it was overwhelming to witness the work and support of all who helped. God's gift to me from all of you is a life lesson about how we support each other and help each other, how we can trust and rely upon each other. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Countless members helped this effort in large and small ways-every part counts, especially those who came and opened their hearts and arms in Welcome to all that attended that night. And I thank each and every one of you!

A Special Thank You:

Dottie Pollard-without you Dottie-and your tireless work this would not have been possible.

Jim Nance: Your bread that night is a special communion for me and I know for everyone who breaks it together.

The Children and Youth of Midway Christian Church: You shared your love for others and your gift of welcoming with all of our guests. You did an amazing job serving, welcoming, clearing plates, and cleaning up. All your ef-

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

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Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$83,594.64

Received to date: \$81,341.08

Lent: A Spiritual and Artistic Journey to the Cross

As I prepared for our Lenten journey, I kept being drawn to the writer Henri Nouwen and his claim that we are all wounded healers. We all have our wounds and as people of faith, we can let these wounds pull us away from the community or let God use our wounds as a way to find healing and wholeness for us and for others.

“If we listen to the voice and believe that ministry is a sign of hope, because it makes visible the first sign of light of the coming Messiah, we can make ourselves and others understand that we already carry in us the source of our own search. Thus ministry can indeed be a witness to the living truth that the wound, which causes us to suffer now, will be revealed to us later as the place where God intimated the new creation.” (Henri Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer*)

As Nouwen moved through his ministry, he was fascinated by Van Gogh’s art and how Van Gogh, through his paintings and letters to his brother, Theo, came to embody this idea of a “wounded healer”. In fact, Van Gogh was a minister for part of his career, following in his father’s footsteps, loving to serve the least of these and sharing the message about God’s amazing love. What fascinated Nouwen was the fact that throughout Van Gogh’s ministry and his life, Van Gogh was fascinated by finding the sacred in the ordinary events of life and as he strived to share these experiences with everyone. And as he continued on his journey and as he struggled with faith, struggled with the church, and struggled with personal demons, he painted; painted pictures of peasants breaking bread, painted the stars at night, and painted portraits of “wounded healers”: ordinary people whose life and work had wounded them emotionally and physically but who still celebrated LIFE and HOPE, two key elements to the Gospel message.

And that is what I invite us to do as Midway Christian Church, to find the sacred in the ordinary events of our lives and allow God to use our wounds as signs of hope and healing, just as God did with the cross. The cross was just ordinary wood fashioned to form an instrument of suffering and to inflict wounds. God took what was ugly, scarred and turned it into something beautiful, turned it into a sign of hope and used the wounds that it inflicted to reflect healing and new life.

So each week along our Lenten journey, we will use paintings by Van Gogh and words by Henri Nouwen to meet God in the ordinary sacred moments and to embrace our wounds and their wounds to bring healing and hope to a world that is crying out for Good News.

Lenten Breakfast Series: “Healing our Wounds”

Saturday, March 6th: “Healing our Wounds from Racism”	Speaker: Dr. Reed, St. Matthew’s AME Church
Saturday, March 13th: “Healing our Wounds from Pollution”	Speaker: Greg Alexander, Regional Minister
Saturday, March 20th: “Healing our Wounds from Poverty”	Speaker: Ginny Ramsey, Catholic Action Center
Saturday, March 27th: “Healing our Wounds from War”	Speaker: Steve Wilson, Ensign, Naval Reserves

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



February 7

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Boy Scout Sunday*

Scripture: Luke 5: 1-11

Sermon: "At the Shore of the Lake"

February 14

*Last Sunday after Epiphany
Transfiguration Sunday*

Scripture: 1Corinthians 13

Sermon: "Real Love"

February 21

First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: "Preparing a Place for God"

February 28

Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 27:1

Sermon: "Heart of Courage"

Acolyte Schedule

February 7—J.T. Batts & Sam Hatfield

February 14—Nate & Jack Hill

February 21—Willa Michel & Jordan Batts

February 28—Luke Hill & Will Schein

Serving This Month

Elders

Shirley Eckels

Wilda Caudle

Deacons

Virginia Ballenger, Jeanne Clark, Ray Clark, Bobbie Dare, Phil Dare, Mary Beth Rouse, Mary Sayre, Kit Walden

Junior Deacon

Steele Rouse, Betsy Schein, Will Schein

Worship Leaders:

February 7—Boy Scouts

February 14—Carole Munson

February 21—Phil Burchell

February 28—Dick Murphy

Sunday School



Through the months of February and March, John Batts will be leading our lesson based on the book, "Disciples: Reclaiming our Identity Reforming our Practices".

Description of Book from Chalice Press: "*Respected Disciples Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn propose reclaiming Disciples movement's identity in a way that encourages reform of worship, relationships, and mission.*"

With praise for the founding leaders' willingness "to follow their vision of what it meant to be a church in their own time in history", the authors call on the denomination to do the same today, not in order to survive as an institution but in order to enhance the church's participation in God's mission of peace-making and compassionate service.

Kinnamon and Linn explore the Disciples' historic commitment to covenant and claim that heritage as a tool for addressing current issues such as money, minister licensing, homosexuality, the future of seminaries, and more."

Youth News and Notes

Greetings Parents, Youth and Children!

I hope this finds everyone doing well! January was a pretty low-key month for MCC's youth and children. I wanted to thank everyone with their help with the Epiphany feast and Chili Cook off. The Epiphany feast is always something the youth and children enjoy participating in and they did a fantastic job both entertaining and serving! We had the chili cook off on January 17th. How much fun was that! We had a wonderful time feasting and sampling the cuisine of our fine congregation!

Here's what's coming up for February:

February 7th is Souper Bowl Sunday. The youth and children will be collecting both food and monetary donations for the Hope Ministries Food Pantry. Later that afternoon the youth and children will meet at **3:30pm** to prepare a Mediterranean feast for **Kids in the Kitchen**. The congregation and community are welcome to join us at **5:30pm** to feast with us! This is a great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship, learning and fun.

THERE WILL BE NO YOUTH GROUP ON FEB. 14TH, ENJOY TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY AND SWEETIES!

On **February 21st**, the youth and children will be meeting immediately after church to travel to Lexington to see the UK Lady Wildcats play. Ouita Michel has graciously offered to provide lunch in fellowship hall for those children and youth joining us. The cost for the game is \$5. We will need help transporting youth and children so come along and join us!

On **February 28th** we will be having a game night at 6:00pm in fellowship hall of the church. Bring your favorite board or card game and we'll have a blast!

Thank you again for all your help with the youth and children's ministry at Midway Christian Church. If you have any questions please feel free to call me or the church office.

Breathe in Jesus, Breathe out Peace,

Jody

Thank You...from Dan Roller and Adele Dickerson

We thank everyone for all acts of kindness, including words, cards, thoughts and prayers we have received during the past month with the deaths of my uncle, Ed Dickerson and of our infant granddaughter, Elizabeth Joy Roller. We have shared these expressions with our families and friends.

We wish to share the following from Ben and Sheena Roller:

Words cannot fully express how much the love and care that we have felt from our church family and friends has meant to us over the past month. Thank you so much for all of the cards, food, special gifts, thoughts and prayers that you have shared with us as we mourn the loss of our baby girl, Elizabeth Joy Roller. We were amazed to see that over 150 people stood with us to honor her short life at the memorial service on January 9th, and continue to be comforted by the hugs, kind wishes, and shared concern that we feel from our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have good days and bad days right now when we think about Elizabeth, but we have also felt the strong blessing of much prayer and love from so many. We thank God for the time that we had with our baby and for the outpouring of love that we feel. We will certainly need and cherish your thoughts and prayers in the weeks and months to come. We thank God for you!

Ben and Sheena Roller

Mission News and Notes

Meals on Wheels

Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels team that served the week of January 4 : Nancy & Phil Dare, Buddy & Gertrude Johnson, Pat Settlemyre, Phil Burchell. The next delivery is February 1, 2010.

February Mission Payments

Midway College: Midway College, formerly the Kentucky Female Orphan School, was the dream of Dr. Lewis Letig Pinkerton, a young physician and minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Together with James Ware Parrish, the Midway Christian Church elder who raised the funds necessary to open the school, they joined with other progressive thinkers to launch a revolutionary educational experiment.

The few girls who received formal education were taught to read only because it was considered necessary for their role as mothers. When they reached adulthood, they would read the Bible to their children.

The college's affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) remains strong and many members of the student body are active members of Christian Church congregations.

Week of Compassion Special Offering

We live in a world of strangers and it is our responsibility, as God's children, to "welcome" them; to show them hospitality, care, and concern. Matthew 25: 38-40 asks, "When was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it we saw you sick and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Whether we realize it or not, our gifts to Week of Compassion give us a way to respond to the needs of strangers. Please give generously toward this offering.

We will be collecting this offering February 21 & 28.



Christmas Food Boxes

Under the name of Midway Ministerial Association, we served 35 households, both families and individuals, in either Midway or the Midway school district. The district includes families living on the north side of Versailles. Those in or near Versailles, included in the names provided by, were families with children at Northside Elementary School and not otherwise being served. Our donations also come in part from outside Midway. Of cash purchases of fresh meats, fruits and potatoes (\$906.41), 62 % were paid for with donations and 38% paid for with Midway Lions Club funds. Of the 6 cases of peanut butter donated by the Smuckers Plant (Jiff) in Lexington, 1/2 were immediately passed on to the Midway Food Pantry at the Midway Baptist Church in response to an urgent request. The Midway Food Pantry later received 1400 pounds of food immediately before Christmas from God's Pantry. 4 to 6 boxes of mostly canned goods previously designated to families that we could no longer locate, are being held for delivery to the Midway Food Pantry when they again have the storage space. Cash donations for the Christmas Food boxes were down several hundred dollars from annual donations directly to the Midway Lions Club for 2008 and 2007. ~ Dan Roller

Fellowship News and Notes

Disciple Women

Sunday, February 21 @ 12:30 pm

Disciple Women will meet Sunday, February 21 at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will review and discuss the book "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Motenson.

Each person is asked bring a salad to share for lunch.

All women are members and welcome to attend, so please join us!

Keenagers

Thursday, February 18th

Keenagers will travel to Ricardo's in Versailles for lunch on Thursday, February 18th. Please call the church office to RSVP by Monday, February 15th.

Elders' Meeting

The Elders will meet on Sunday, February 28th at 6 p.m. at the fellowship hall.

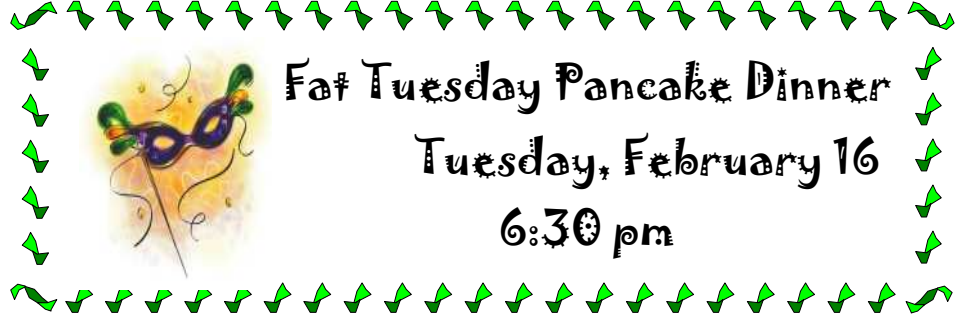
Board Meeting

The Board will meet Sunday, February 7 at 12:15 pm in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided.

Kroger Cards



Don't forget to keep using those Kroger cards every time you make a purchase! If you need a new card, please see Amy Perry.



Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 16

6:30 pm

Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 7th



Following worship service on Sunday, February 7th, the youth will be standing out in the narthex with soup pans, collecting an offering for Week of Compassion. We will also be collecting cans of soup for the Hope Ministries Food Pantry.

"Souper Bowl of Caring equips and mobilizes congregations, schools, and business to positively impact their communities by collecting money or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the charity of each group's choice."
(www.souperbowl.org)

Congregational Potluck: Surfing the Edge: Missional Conversation Event

Sunday, February 28th

For the past year, the Region of KY has been meeting and discussing how our region might embrace the challenges facing the church today. And now it is our turn as a congregation to join into the conversation. On Sunday, February 28th, we will host a potluck immediately after church and invite someone from the regional staff to lead us in a 2-hour event to inform us of the re-invention process and to identify challenges and strategies for engaging transformation for our region.



Please bring a side dish or dessert to share with everyone. The church will provide the meat and drinks.

God is moving and doing some amazing things in our region. Please come join the conversation and see how Midway Christian Church can be a part of the process!

Community News and Notes

We Need Your Family Recipes!

Midway Christian Church is putting a cookbook together and not just any cookbook, but a cookbook that tells "our story". It will include our history as a church .

We are looking for recipes that share memories. They can be either Midway memories or family memories. So if you have a copy of Momma Wilson's Apple Cake or Francis Leer's Lemon Cake or any of your family recipes, we want to include them in the cookbook. There is a form on our website for recipe collection or you can write it out and send it to the church office.

We are also holding a contest to "name" this cookbook. If you have a title suggestion, please give it to Sharon Burchell, Mary Sayre, or call the church office.

All recipes are due by February 28.



Boy Scout News

Congratulations to Zack Weber for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout ceremony was held Saturday, January 23rd at MCC.

Just a reminder that **Boy Scout Sunday** is Sunday, February 7th.



Community Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 17 @ 7 pm

Midway Christian Church will host a Community Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 17 at 7 pm.

Dayton Harris

If anyone would like to send Dayton a card or letter, his address is:

Dayton Harris
c/o Campus pour Christ
B.P. 5413 Fann, Dakar, Senegal
Email: Dayton.Harris@uscm.org

Green Ministry

"What we do to the Land-- We do to the People" is a quote from Rev. Randy Wilson, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister from eastern Kentucky who spoke at the recent Green Retreat sponsored by the CCK Creation Care Team. One of his main topics was the subject of mountaintop removal and his personal experiences with the people of eastern Kentucky, the encounters with the coal industry and the direct, destructive affects of mountaintop removal to life at all levels. On **Thursday, February 11, 2010**, citizens will gather at the Capital Avenue bridge in Frankfort for "I Love Mountains Day", in support of the "Stream Saver Bill" to prevent the dumping of toxic mine waste into Kentucky streams. The group will be joined by country musician Kathy Mattea. This is an opportunity to show support for care of God's Creation.



There will be a **Green Chalice meeting** on **Monday, February 22 at 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall of Midway Christian Church. Everyone is invited to attend!

Midway Christian Church

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Return Service Requested

