

THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

December, 2010

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Stephanie Brown

Music Director

Jessica Hartman

Accompanist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian



Christmas Eve Service
Candlelight Service

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
on Friday, December 24, 2010 at 10:00 pm.

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

123 East Bruen Street

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

859-846-4102

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E-mail:

office@midwaychristian.org

Visit us on the web:

www.midwaychristian.org

Heifer Ark Project

Last year, we raised about \$6,000 for a gift ark through the Heifer Project and now we have been challenged to do it again! This year once again, instead of buying gifts for people who don't need them or instead of wandering the malls looking for that last minute gift, how about we give animals in honor or in memory of our loved ones such as ... goats for Honduras, llamas for Ecuador, water buffalo for Thailand to become ongoing sources of sustenance and support.



Heifer's ark project sails into thousands of communities worldwide, bringing hope and healing and the joy of Passing on the Gift to families around the world. Every family who receives livestock agrees to pass on one or more of its animal's offspring to a neighbor in need. The family also passes on new skills in growing crops and caring for the environment.

What better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to take care of God's very own, our brothers and sisters in faith!

Checks can be made out to Midway Christian Church with Heifer Ark in the memo line. We will announce our amount at our Epiphany Dinner!

Budget Update as of 11/18/2010

Budgeted to date: \$67,080.40

Received to date: \$56,668.00

A Pastoral Word

It seems like we were just matched with our birth mom and now December is here! Both Mike and I are preparing and organizing. It has been a long process! After Sarah's passing, we kept the nursery the same, mainly because I couldn't face breaking it down and partly because we didn't want to get rid of the stuff because we knew we were in the adoption process. So it sat until Sarah's angel day in August. On that day, Mike's mom, my mom, and I began the process of reclaiming the nursery. It was a beautiful day, full of Sarah stories, tears, and laughter, and it was a wonderful healing step in my journey.

And now that we have begun making our preparations for Gabriel Thomas, the nursery seems to have new life again! It seems as if it is also expectantly waiting the birth of a child, just like the rest of us! The shadows and darkness that filled the room are gone and have been replaced with joyous thoughts and hope!

And as I go through the preparations for Gabe, I am living the lessons of faith that fill the Advent season that I honestly never really understood or appreciated until this moment. I understand Jeremiah's promise now when he says that their days of mourning will become days of joy. I understand it now when the prophets share with God's people the promise of recovery and healing. I understand it now when Isaiah talks about a burst of new life in the desert. I understand it now when I hear the promises of the resurrection that echo in the strains of the angels' chorus. During the season of Advent, we prepare for a child because God is bringing new life to all of us, because God is moving us from despair to hope, because God is fulfilling God's promises of healing and joy. I get it now!

The wonderful thing about all of our journeys of faith is just when we think we know the answers, God surprises us! And the wonderful thing about Advent and the Christmas season is that God is there, through it all, from the promises of the prophets, to the manager holding a child, constantly surprising us and pushing us to open our eyes to the promises of peace and hope.

Mike and I are still waiting for that phone call to let us know Gabe is on his way. We are still cautiously optimistic while we wait until we can bring him home. We know that lots of things still can happen on our adoption journey but now...I get it! It is about the promises of healing, of joy and hope that are the greatest gifts that God has ever given to us as God's own beloved children.



Heather

PS-Where did we come up with Gabriel? Well, it means "able-bodied one of God" or "hero of God". And it was the angel Gabriel who came to tell Mary about the promise of new life! So we thought what better name was there than Gabriel (Gabe) for our messenger of hope and new life!

Who's on Call?

The adoption agency has told Mike and Heather to plan on being gone for about 10 days following the birth of the baby and to also plan on getting a call two weeks before or after the due date. The following is a list of which elder is on call during this time. If emergencies or concerns arise while Heather is gone, please call the Elder on Call.



Sunday, December 19th- Saturday, December 25th: Jim Wombles

Sunday, December 26th-Saturday, January 1st: Jim Wombles

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

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



December 5

Second Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

Sermon: "The Perfect Star: Creation"

December 12

Third Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18

Sermon: "The Promised Star: Christians"

December 19

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Sunday

Scripture: Revelation 22:16-17, Luke 2:1-20

Sermon: "The Morning Star: Jesus"

December 26

First Sunday after Christmas

Lessons and Carols Service

Serving This Month

Elders: Jim Wombles

Anne Burford

Deacons: Bobbie Dare, Phil Dare, Ella Drake, Virginia Glass, Jim Hoppin, Teresa Hoppin, Mary Beth Rouse, Mary Sayre, Bob Settlemire

Junior Deacon: Steele Rouse, Betsy Schein, Will Schein

Worship Leaders:

December 5—Dan Roller

December 12—Tom Arehart

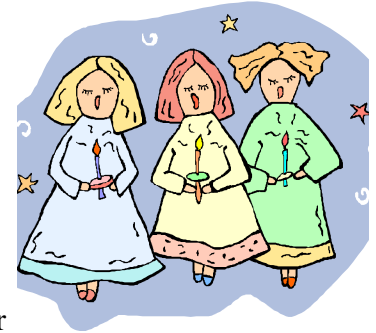
December 19—Sue Roberts

December 26—Charlann Wombles

Lessons and Carols Service

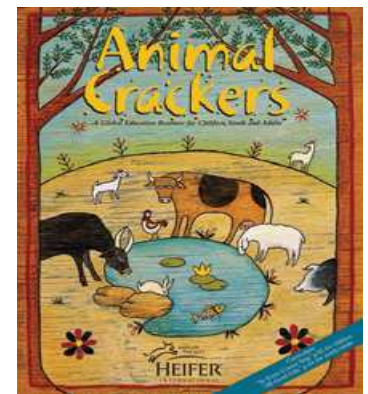
Sunday, December 26th

On Sunday, December 26, 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. There will be no choir anthem or sermon on this Sunday.



Sunday School

Through the month of December, we will continue our intergenerational Sunday School time. We will be talking and learning about Heifer International and the work that they do across the world with "Animal Crackers" which is a way for us to see ourselves "as part of the global family and gain a deeper appreciation of the ways Heifer helps people, animals and plants live in harmony with God's good Earth". (heifer.org)



Interpreting Midway Christian Church's Financial Statements

Part 2: The Income and Expense Statement

		<i>Midway Christian Church</i> Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED) Consolidated - September 2010			Page: 1
09/27/2010 06:17 PM		Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Bud	Annual Budget
INCOME					
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	\$12,232.00	\$36,783.00	\$40,248.24	\$160,992.90	General Fund
RESTRICTED INCOME	5,974.96	12,468.12	0.00	0.00	Restricted Fund
Subtotal Contribution Income	18,206.96	49,251.12	40,248.24	160,992.90	Fund
INTEREST INCOME	0.00	2.42	0.00	0.00	
Subtotal Income	18,206.96	49,253.54	40,248.24	160,992.90	
TOTAL INCOME	18,206.96	49,253.54	40,248.24	160,992.90	
EXPENSES					
FIXED EXPENSES					
SALARIES	\$7,238.06	\$22,509.96	\$23,847.48	\$95,389.90	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	1,020.23	3,350.45	2,521.26	10,085.00	
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	8,258.29	25,860.41	26,368.74	105,474.90	
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS					
UTILITIES	1,963.86	7,063.35	6,816.99	27,268.00	
GROUNDS	0.00	10.64	375.00	1,500.00	
Subtotal Buildings And Grounds	1,963.86	7,073.99	7,191.99	28,768.00	Details of General Fund Expenses
DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES					
MISSIONS DEPARTMENT	1,275.00	3,975.00	3,650.01	14,600.00	
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	192.39	578.60	225.00	900.00	
MUSIC	125.00	385.00	249.99	1,000.00	
CARE AND CONCERNS	0.00	0.00	174.99	700.00	
SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES	106.25	121.00	150.00	600.00	
FELLOWSHIP EVENTS	299.16	451.82	500.01	2,000.00	
CHURCH SUPPLIES	66.00	505.86	500.01	2,000.00	
WORSHIP	77.19	232.10	500.01	2,000.00	
Subtotal Departments/committees	2,140.99	6,249.38	5,950.02	23,800.00	
OTHER EXPENSES					
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	0.00	675.07	249.99	1,000.00	
MISC OTHER EXPENSES	125.00	375.00	487.50	1,950.00	General Fund
Subtotal Other Expenses	125.00	1,050.07	737.49	2,950.00	
Subtotal Expenses	12,488.14	40,233.85	40,248.24	160,992.90	General Fund
RESTRICTED PAID OUTS	3,582.93	6,455.77	0.00	0.00	Restricted Fund
TOTAL EXPENSES	16,071.07	46,689.62	40,248.24	160,992.90	Fund
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	\$2,135.89	\$2,853.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	

Interpreting Midway Christian Church's Financial Statements (continued)...

The Income and Expense Statement shows the activity in our church's various fund accounts. On the preceding page is the Income and Expense statement that was presented at the October 3, 2010 Board Meeting. Let's start by looking at the 4 columns of numbers:

Current Period – These numbers show activity for the current month; from the 1st of the month through the date the report was generated. In this example, this is the activity from 9/1/2010 – 9/27/2010.

Year to Date – These numbers show activity from the start of our fiscal year through the date the report was generated. In this example, this is the activity from 7/1/2010 – 9/27/2010.

Year to Date Bud(get) – These numbers indicate what was budgeted from the start of our fiscal year through the end of the month the report was generated. In this example, these are the budgeted amounts from 7/1/2010 – 9/30/2010. The budgeted amounts are calculated by simply dividing the yearly budget amounts by 12 and then multiplying by what month we are in the fiscal year. July = 1, August = 2, September = 3, etc. Note that any report generated on any day in September would have the same values. Therefore it makes sense to compare Year to Date and Year to Date Bud(get) columns only on reports done near the end of a month.

Annual Budget – These numbers come from the budget adopted at the congregational meeting on June 20, 2010. Unless the budget is amended, these values will be identical on all reports generated this fiscal year.

Important numbers to compare on this report are the Year to Date and Year to Date Bud(get) values for CONTRIBUTION INCOME and Subtotal Expenses. From last month's discussion of the Balance Sheet, we learned that our General Fund has a negative balance of -\$3,728.21. The CONTRIBUTION INCOME row shows that we have received approximately \$3500.00 less than what was budgeted, while the Subtotal Expenses row shows that we are spending very close to our budget. Thus the deficit in the General Fund is almost entirely due to insufficient giving to the General Fund, not overspending the budget. The large block of highlighted data just above the Subtotal Expenses row can be used to compare spending in individual budget categories.

We do not have an Annual Budget for our Restricted Funds, thus we can only see how much was deposited in those funds (the RESTRICTED INCOME row) and how much was paid out of those funds (the RESTRICTED PAID OUTS row). In this example, RESTRICTED INCOME includes direct contributions to the Capital and Sound System funds, deposits to Capital from fundraisers such as parking cars at Equus Run, deposits from the Disciples Women Rummage Sale, the Youth Bake Sale, 10,000 Villages, and Cookbook Sales, and MMA contributions from MCC and other Midway Churches. It is not a direct indicator of giving by our church members. RESTRICTED PAID OUTS indicates how much has been paid from Restricted Funds.

Since the Restricted Funds do not have an Annual Budget, while the General Fund does, it does not make sense to do comparisons where the numbers have been combined. All such values have been crossed-out in the example report.

Youth News and Notes

All Children and Youth:

Kids in the Kitchen: Our December Kids in the Kitchen will be a little different. We will be having an Advent Festival on **Sunday December 12th** as part of our Heifer Ark Celebration. We will be making dishes from the country of Nepal and then will have traditional arts, crafts, and games from the country following the meal.



Guys/Girls Night Out: On **Sunday, December 19th**, we will gather, guys and girls, for a night of fellowship, fun, and Christmas caroling. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. for soup and making Christmas cookies and then we will travel to the Midway School Apartments for some Christmas caroling. We need parents help with this event. Please see Ouita if you can help out.



Weekly Youth Groups:

Our JYF (1st-5th grade) continue to meet on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. There is a snack served as part of our group time together.

There will not be JYF on Wednesday, December 22nd due to the Christmas holiday.

Our Chi Rho (6th grade through 12th grade) continues to meet on Sunday night at 6 p.m. in the youth room upstairs in the sanctuary building. It is a time of fellowship, games, conversations about faith.

There will not be Chi Rho on Sunday, December 26th due to the Christmas holiday.

Acolyte Schedule

December 5—Sam Hatfield & Marcus Watson
December 12—Luke Hill & Betsy Schein
December 19—J.T. Batts & Will Schein
December 26—Faith Gruzsky & Willa Michel

Youth Group Help Needed

While Heather is on adoption leave during the month of January, we need parents and other adults to help out with leading youth groups on Sunday nights. If you are able to help out, please contact either Cindy Batts or Heather McColl.



Fellowship News and Notes

Disciples Women

Saturday, December 11th

Disciples Women will go to Holly Hill Inn on Saturday, December 11 for lunch at 11:00 am. After lunch we will return to Fellowship Hall to prepare the "Holiday Treat Bags" for seniors and shut-ins.

ALL RESERVATIONS FOR LUNCH MUST BE IN BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8. Please call Sharon Burchell, 846-4153 to make your reservations.

Keenagers

Thursday, December 16th at 11:15 a.m.

On Thursday, December 16th, the Keenagers will travel to Shelbyville, KY to eat at Science Hill Dining Room for lunch at 11:15 a.m. We will leave the church around 10:30 a.m. for those who wish to carpool. Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, December 13th.



Elders' Meeting

No Elders' meeting in December.

Board Meeting

The Board will meet Sunday, December 5, immediately following the worship service.

Guys' Night/Girls' Night:

Sunday December 19th

On Sunday, December 19th, we are inviting all guys and girls to gather in the Fellowship Hall for a night of Christmas fun. We will meet at 6 p.m. for a soup dinner and then we will make Christmas cookies. Then we will travel to the Midway School Apartments for some Christmas caroling. Please RSVP to the church office.

This is not just for the youth of our church. This event is for all members. It is a wonderful time for fellowship and for getting to know each other.



Advent Festival: Nepal

Sunday, December 12th

On Sunday, December 12th, we will be having an Advent Festival as part of our Kids in the Kitchen event. Since we have been learning about Heifer International, we thought what's a better way to learn more about Heifer International than by learning about one of the countries that it supports. Everyone is invited to come for dinner which will consist of traditional food from Nepal and then after dinner, we will experience traditional arts, crafts and games. Please RSVP to the church office.



Upcoming Events

Epiphany Feast 2011

Thursday, January 6, 2011 @ 6:30 pm

Midway Christian Church is celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany with a medieval menu prepared by Chef Ouita Michel and her staff. The feast will be served at the Midway College Piper Dining Hall. The feast will begin with the traditional parade of the boar's head. The festive buffet will feature the roast hog stuffed with sausages; roasted onions with balsamic vinegar and honey; honey-roasted chicken; saffron rice pilaf; carrot pudding with currants and dates; sweet-and-sour cabbage and lentils; salad of lettuces, fennel, mint, parsley, flowers and egg; king cake; poached pears; and candied pine nuts. Appetizers include ancient Turkish flat-bread, cheese and walnut dip, spiced toasted almonds, spelt bread and olives. Entertainment will be provided by Muzik, a medieval music group that plays authentic replicas of ancient instruments and St. Leo's choir.

Reservations are required. Please call the church office to RSVP. The cost is \$ 30 for adults, \$15 for children ages 11-18, and children under age 10 eat free. Reservations are not confirmed until payment is received by the church office. We are asking that at the time, our guests make their reservations, to please let us know of any special table requests such as other guests that they would like to be seated with for the dinner. We will try our best to accommodate all of these table requests. Our goal is to have 150 guests for this event, not including MCC workers. Spots go quickly so please make your reservations soon. **We are accepting reservations until Thursday, December 30th, 2010.**

Due to the popularity of this event, we are instating a no refund policy so that we can better serve our guests. However, we are aware that bad weather may happen so we are working on a plan regarding rescheduling this event if bad weather happens.

We are also trying something new this year. We are adding a way so that our guests can purchase tickets online. **We have added a "button" for PayPal to our website, www.midwaychristian.org.** This way, our guests can use their credit cards to purchase tickets. PayPal accepts all major credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

How can Midway Christian members help out?

This feast is a way for us to showcase our Midway welcome and hospitality so we need everyone's support by signing up for various jobs to help everything go smoothly that night.

We are asking our members to sign up for various jobs with this feast. Here are descriptions of the various jobs for the event:

Serving Crew:

Duties:

- Serve drinks
- Serve dessert
- Play host/hostess to the tables



Decorating Crew:

*Need Decorating Crew to be at Midway College by 2:30 p.m.

Duties:

- Put linens on table *Set table with silverware
- Put candles on table *Set Table with glasses
- Put greenery on table *Set table with programs
- Fold napkins
- Set table with napkins

**Kitchen Crew:**

- Scrape Plates
- Wash Dishes

Break Down Crew:

- * Vacuum
- * Sweep
- * Pack up decorations

Mission News and Notes

Christmas Family Adoption

We are adopting a Family for Christmas. Please have items here by **Sunday, December 12th.**

Destiny, age 1, Female

Clothes: 18-24 months

Any kind of toys, loves ones that make music

Derek, age 7, male

Jeans 12 husky, shirts 14/16

Legos, wrestling toys

Thank You...

Laura Riddle was able to put together 22 hygiene kits for the incoming residents of the Hope Center in Lexington. "These kits were our mission project in October. Each kit included shower soap, shampoo, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, wash cloth, towel, hand sanitizer and a comb. Someone also donated a large number of moisturizer samples, so each kit also included a large number of these special items. Twenty-two kits is tremendous. The generosity of the members of Midway Christian Church is a blessing that will touch these men's lives. This outpouring of love for those in need is what it meant by living the Christ-like faith. Many, many, thanks!"

Laura Riddle

Christmas Offering

Our generous God is reaching new persons with the good news of Jesus Christ through new churches being formed and nurtured within Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Help support the development of faith, the creation of community, and the strengthening of the congregations in our Region of KY by giving to the Christmas offering this year. We will collect this offering December 12th and 19th.



Mission News and Notes (Continued)...

Meals on Wheels

Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels team that served the week of November 8: Buddy & Gertrude Johnson, Pat Settlemire, Phil Burchell, Pat Wilson, Phillip & Nancy Dare . Our next delivery will be December 6. Those who will be scheduled to deliver meals that week are: Buddy and Gertrude Johnson, Pat Settlemire, Jim and Charlann Wombles, Pat Wilson, and Phil and Nancy Dare.

December Mission Payment

Disciple Mission Fund: The Disciple Mission Fund allows the Disciples to pool their resources accomplishing a greater ministry. The Disciple Mission Fund allows a process of whole church stewardship supporting God-given missions at home and world-wide.

Christmas Shoeboxes for Northside Elementary

Midway Christian Church's Shoebox Christmas for Northside Elementary students has been a huge success. We invite you to take part in this unique outreach project again this year. 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.

We have been given a list of local children who are in need of assistance. Several of these children are siblings of another child on the list. In order to ensure that one child in the same family doesn't receive more than another we will give you the name of the person(s) who have adopted another child in the same family. Suggested gift ideas include school supplies, small toys, clothing and personal hygiene items. God can use your gift to make a difference in the life of a local child.

Each year people ask us... "My shoebox is too small to hold all of the goodies I want to donate for the child... what do I do now?" Well, we have a solution. When you adopt a child you will receive a shopping bag with a gift tag indicating whether the gifts are for a boy or girl; the child's age, grade and suggested gift items.

If you are not a "shopper" one of our MCC Shopping Angels will gladly assist with the purchase of gifts for a child or supplies for the gift wrapping party using your financial donation. If you have any questions please contact the church office, Wilda Caudle or June Mitchell.

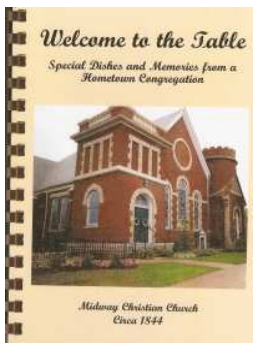
We ask that you return your unwrapped items in the shopping bag to the church anytime before noon, Sunday, December 12, 2010.

There will be a Shoebox Wrapping Party in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6 p.m. Feel free to join in the fun of wrapping the gifts for our local children. Each box will be individually wrapped and placed into a holiday shopping bag designated for the child. The gifts will be delivered to Northside Elementary School for distribution before Christmas break.



Community News and Notes

Cookbooks for Sale



The Cookbooks are on sale now. And they are not just any cookbook. The committee included pictures from the past and present. The cookbook also tells our history as Midway Christian such as the story behind the Thanksgiving Market and the Epiphany Dinner as well as how Midway Christian got its start. The cost is \$20.

If you would like to have one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Year End Donations

As you are making year-end donations, please remember Midway Christian Church. For your donation to be included on your 2010 contribution statement, we must receive your donation by December 31, 2010.



Thank You...

To the Midway Christian Church Community:

Thank you for your outpouring of kindness and support during these recent weeks. It has been a very difficult time and your cards, calls, visits, prayers and other memorials have been a source of strength and comfort.

The Family of Spencer Wall

Office Closed

The Church office will be closed Thursday, December 23rd, Friday, December 24th and Friday, December 31st for Christmas and New Year Holidays. If you need anything, please call the elder on duty.



Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____

I wish to purchase _____ Poinsettia(s) @ \$10 each for a total of \$ _____

In HONOR of: _____

In MEMORY of: _____

Order deadline: Sunday, December 5, 2010

Please make checks payable to Midway Christian Church

Midway Christian Church

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

Return Service Requested

