

# MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1850

# MESSENGER

*“Every member a STUDENT, a SERVANT, a SOWER, and a STEWARD”*

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Rev. David Hall, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Michael Brock, Assistant Pastor  
Rev. Marc Harrington, Assistant Pastor  
Rev. Joel Smit, Assistant Pastor

December 2009

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

Rev. David Hall

### What a Year!!

I believe the year 2009 will go down in our church's history as one of the most eventful ever. Surely we must pause to thank the Lord for his many blessings.

This time last year:

- The staff was housed in temporary trailers;
- Construction trailers and mud still abounded;
- We thought we would move into our new sanctuary for advent services, but didn't;
- We didn't know when we'd receive approval for all permits;
- Midway School had several classrooms in temporary trailers;
- We were making budget cuts of 15%;
- We had three relatively new ministers.

### Now a year has passed, and the Lord has given us great blessing. The Year 2009 saw:

- A building dedication weekend in late January, with Dr. Terry Johnson preaching and the Atlanta Boy Choir singing;
- We had our first wedding in the new sanctuary in April;
- Many new members and baptisms have been added and enjoyed;
- Hundreds of hours of biblical instruction have been provided;
- All our missionaries and benevolences have been supported this year;
- Over \$7 million dollars, in addition to our regular funds, have been received into the Building Fund;
- Our new organ was used in worship beginning Easter;
- A joint Presbytery worship service, including all the churches in our presbytery joined together in

August. We also honored Todd Allen on his retirement at a reception following that service;

- Midway was a sponsor of Calvin500;
- Our busy fall months saw conferences on worship and missions.

Guest preachers in our pulpit this year have been: Terry Johnson, Jon Payne, Paul Jones, Carl Robbins, and Blake McKinney. In the coming years, we are expecting Steven Lawson and Michael Horton. Guest organists have been Paul Jones, Chelsea Chen, and Todd Alexander.

Sure, the year has contained its challenges as well, but you have to look around and be encouraged that the Lord is doing his work here. Both in faith and in practice, it is a fine time to thank the Lord for his providence, for his guidance, for his work, for his plans, for his accomplishments, and for his grace. He does all things well!

It's been an incredible year. And we have wonderful services ahead. Do plan to join us and celebrate the Advent season. It's a great time to include an unchurched friend.

### Giving Update

Remember your church first, please, in your year-end giving. Our giving through November is below budget. Would you—if the Lord blesses you with a bonus, or with more income, or if you can give sacrificially—give a special gift to your church, or begin tithing, to help us cover all our expenses? It would help greatly.

We have another exciting year ahead of us; and we depend on your gifts to do so. *All of us giving to the Lord all that is His will accomplish all he has ordained.*

# ***Pastor cont. / Youth Calendar***

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## **Cutting Floor**

From a sermon by Derek Thomas on Acts 13, and to close out the Calvin year:

“The gospel is never meant to be kept and preserved like the crown jewels in the Tower of London. The gospel is to go forth, to spread. And what you see here is this enormously influential church of Antioch. It’s a bit like the church in Geneva, in the middle of the sixteenth century, when John Calvin was its pastor. You may have thought that Calvinism breeds stagnation as far as the gospel is concerned, but nothing could be further from the truth. Nothing could be further from the truth, because it is those who have seen the power and sovereignty of God who have been the most impelled to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

In 1555, there was reputed to have been only five underground churches in France. And in Geneva, in the official records in the archives of Geneva, there are hundreds of letters to and from Calvin and others to the underground church in France. In four years, by 1559, there are over 100 underground churches in France. In seven years, in 1562, there are over 2,150 underground churches in France. In seven years!”

## **A Christmas Meditation**

Pastor Joel Smit

*This Christmas season, the Smit family has extra anticipation as we wait upon the upcoming birth of our second child, a girl. As a parent you always wonder what this child yet to be born will be like – how they will look, what their temperament will be, will they ever sleep, etc... You have so many questions that you ponder upon and wonder as you wait for their birth*

*In many ways this is what Mary and Joseph must have sensed as they waited for the birth of Jesus. But for them they had the additional bewilderment of this upcoming child as they pondered the words of the Angel Gabriel, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Lk.1:31-33).*

In addition to all the normal questions that parents have of their child, Mary and Joseph had to

deal with the majestic reality that this child would be different than any other child. They must have thought - *How can this be? How can this one be both the Son of Man and the Son of God? How can we be entrusted with a child such as this? How are we going to explain this to others?* The list of questions must have been a mile long.

But the amazing truth about Mary and Joseph was that once they heard the message, they never seemed to doubt what they heard. They simply believed, and pressed forward with the will of God. Instead of doubting, “[Mary} treasured all these things in her heart” (Lk.2:51).

As you dwell upon the wonderful mystery of Christ’s incarnation this Christmas season, may you ponder upon this Christ child as well. Be overwhelmed with the awesome gift of our Lord and Savior to a lost and broken world, and through it all may your faith be strengthened and deepened as you too treasure this Immanuel – God with us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

*He, through whom time was made, was made in time; and He, older by eternity than the world itself, was younger in age than many of His servants in the world; He, who made man, was made man; He was given existence by a mother whom He brought into existence; He was carried in hands which He formed; He nursed at breasts which He filled; He cried like a babe in the manger in speechless infancy -- this Word without which human eloquence is speechless!*

-- Augustine of Hippo, *Sermon on Christmas*

## **Upcoming Youth Events:**

Dec. 6 (Sun.) Bible Study – 7:00-8:15PM in the Youth Assembly Room

Dec. 16 (Wed.) MS Christmas Party – 6:30-9PM in the Youth Assembly Room

Dec. 18 (Fri.) HS Progressive Christmas Dinner. Meet at church at 5:30PM

Jan. 3 (Sun.) Bible Study begins for the New Year.

Jan. 6 (Sun.) Wed. Night Starts for the New Year.

Please check the Youth Calendar on the Church web page for up to date calendar info:  
<http://www.midwaypca.org/youthcal.html>

# Missions

## MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES

Stanley and Donna Armes - MTW, South Africa  
Peter and Diane Bakelaar - MTW, Japan  
David and Stacy Bergmark MTW National Associate – Sweden  
Roy and Kristy – Restricted, Asia  
Benji & Ester Campbell  
David and Sue Cunningham - MTW, Australia  
Rob and Angie Edwards - RUF, University of Georgia  
Alan and Chinglien Fiol - MTW, Taiwan  
Dan and Rebecca Gregoire – MTW, Slovakia  
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Nigeria  
Gary and Linda Johnson – MTW, Sweden  
Scott and Tracy Ketrow - CCC, Italy  
Dale and Nancy Knudson - MTW, Cambodia  
Albert & Jennifer Kona – MTA, Albania  
Endi and Kati Kovacs - CRM, Hungary  
John and Kathy Lesondak - MTW, Slovakia  
Steve and Ann Lutz – SIM  
Tim and Nicole - Restricted, Europe  
David and Jill Martin - MTW, Ukraine  
Demetrios Marmaras - PEF, Greece  
Mike and Robin McMahan - MTW, Ecuador  
Bob and Patty Meredith - NAV, Kenya  
Harry and Julie Miller - PEF, Atlanta/Bulgaria  
Wayne and Amy Newsome - MTW, Japan  
Young and Soon Park - MTW, South Korea  
Andy and Sue Peck - WBT, Orlando  
Clay and Darlene Quarterman - MTW, Ukraine  
Palmer and Joanna Robertson - ABU, Uganda  
Guillermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico  
Chuck and Wyema - Restricted, Europe  
Roger and Dianne Smalling - MTW, Latin America  
John and Liz - Restricted, West Africa  
Jan – Restricted, Europe  
Linda Summer - PEF, The Agape Puppets  
Jim and Catalina Tate - MTW, Ecuador  
Johan and Stephanie Van Der Westhuizen, MTW  
Bruce and Barbara Wannemacher - MTW, South Africa  
Becky White - MTW, Taiwan  
Linda Wixon - MTW, Japan  
Steve and Kathy Womack – WBT, Waxhaw / Africa  
Pat Wood - PEF, Freedom Ministries

### Mission Organizations supported by Midway

ABU -- African Bible University  
CCC -- Campus Crusade for Christ  
CRM-- Church Resource Ministries  
MTW -- Mission To the World  
MIA - Missions to Albania  
NAV - The Navigators  
PEF - Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship  
Restricted – due to sensitive ministry  
RUF - Reformed University Fellowship  
SIM - Serving in Mission  
WBT -- Wycliffe Bible Translators

*“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”* David goes on in this psalm found in I Chronicles 15:8 – 36 to instruct us to sing, tell, seek, remember, ascribe, worship, proclaim, praise and *Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

Our recent Missions Conference is a fitting lead into the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The sermons from Pastor Carl Robbins reminded us to focus first on God and his attributes then our priorities will be in line with his will. Look for ways to use the holiday decor to bring the focus back to the real meaning of Christmas. Poinsettias’ red ‘flower’ is a reminder of Christ’s blood, the green leaves of eternal life his

blood purchased for us. Christmas trees and other greenery also symbolize eternal life. The words of our Christmas music are rich with the true meaning of the season.

The glory of plants is in the flower or the fruit. Christians are also known by their fruit. We are to bring glory to the Father by telling others about Him. In Romans 15: 30 – 31 the apostle Paul urges ... *“join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers ..... and that my service ..... may be acceptable.”* As Paul recognized his great need for prayer our missionaries also covet our prayers for their ministries. You have many tools available to help you pray more effectively: the Missionary Directory; the prayer guide in the conference brochure; and current letters are posted in the letter holders. Each week in your Sunday school class remember to pray for your classes’ missionaries. You can join the small but faithful group who pray through that week’s letters every Sunday afternoon at 5:15. We can get excited about God’s kingdom work when we read letters and pray. Linda Summer wants to double her email list receiving letters from the field – so I won’t be forwarding her letters any more. Please send your email address directly to her: [msummer05@gmail.com](mailto:msummer05@gmail.com)

Hearing field reports from our missionaries really helps me see the many different ways God calls us to serve. Here are a few highlights and prayer requests. The Agape Puppet Team was blessed with another fruitful year of international travel, child evangelism and equipping new puppet teams. Linda’s poor health keeps her leaning on Jesus. Jean Paul is being used of God in multiple ways in Haiti. They are caring for orphans, operating a school, and training men for the pastorate. They have a need for windows and doors to secure their church building from break-ins. Sebastian Heck has been called to bring the reformation back to Germany. Pray for the bible studies beginning now that will form the nucleus for a church plant in Heidelberg. Steve Womack shared pictures of a recent bible dedication in Africa. Pray that the thousands of Iffy believers there will use this translation to grow in their personal relationship to the Father. Kathy Womack has asked us to pray that she would follow the Holy Spirit’s leading for the many responsibilities and opportunities she has to serve in training new missionaries, prayer ministry and overseas missionary women’s retreats.

A new address list for sending Christmas greetings has been updated and is available on the missions table. Like the holidays here, Christmas can be very full of outreach programs for our missionaries. Plus they have the added stress of living in a different culture and away from family. An encouraging card, note or email is always appreciated.

Just as *the land itself must observe a Sabbath rest to the Lord* Jerry and I are taking a break from serving on the missions committee. Look for interesting articles from new folks in future Messengers.

-Becky Blades, for the Missions Committee

# Women in the Church / Good News Club



**POINSETTIA SIGN UP SHEETS:** there are sign-up sheets for poinsettia plants for the Christmas season. You may sign up in your Sunday School Class or at the WIC table. The cost is \$8 per plant. When you sign up we invite you to fill in the appropriate line if you would like to honor or memorialize a special person/loved one. After the Christmas Eve service you may take your plant home. For more information call Jane Warner at 678-402-1365

**LADIES OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED** to the Midway Women's Christmas Event on Tuesday evening, December 8 at 7:00 in the fellowship hall. Please join us for a catered dinner, a devotional led by Carol Combs, and a time of celebrating the birth of Christ through song and Scripture. Dinner is \$5 per person; nursery by reservation only. Sign up in S.S. or on the WIC table in the main corridor connecting the two buildings. Also, we will have the opportunity to support ministry in Uganda with proceeds from native hand-made jewelry.

**ANGEL TREE AND LITTLE LAMBS PROJECTS**  
– Each year at Christmas we have the opportunity to provide gifts for the children at Cobb Street Ministries (Little Lambs) and children of prisoners (Project “Angel Tree” sponsored by Prison Fellowship Ministries). You can pick up a “Lamb” or “Angel” in the rear lobby by the portico. The deadline for bringing gifts to the church is Sunday, December 13. If you can help deliver Angel Tree gifts, please call Alicia Bartlett at 770-428-4953. For more information on Little Lambs call Ann Kistner at 770-426-8874.

**CHRISTMAS BASKETS** We will be assembling and delivering baskets of goodies to people in our covenant family on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to donate fruit, baked goods, candy, etc. for these baskets. Sign-up sheets will be sent around in Bible Study groups as well as Sunday School classes. If you have questions or you know of anyone who should receive a basket please contact Barbara Bokhoven at 770-427-0712.

## WIC Happenings . . .

- Come and help decorate the church for Christmas on Tuesday morning, December 1. Mark your calendar and join us at 10:00 a.m.
- Save Friday night and Saturday, March 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> : MIDWAY WOMEN'S RETREAT at Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge in Dawsonville, GA. Watch for full details in the near future.

## GOOD NEWS CLUB

Did you know...

There is a group from your church going into a local elementary school every week to tell children the Good News about Jesus? Every Thursday afternoon, the Good News Club team sets up two classrooms at Still Elementary School in anticipation of 40 eager children from grades 2-5. We have a snack time, sing several songs, study and memorize scripture, learn about missionaries, and have a Bible lesson. What a blessing to be doing these things in a public school! Many of these children have heard about Jesus before, but many have not - they are soaking up all of the information we are giving them and asking some great questions.

Please pray for this ministry effort. Pray for the GNC team as they prepare for each week, for a good relationship with school administration and for continued teamwork and cooperation. Pray for the children, that their hearts would be tender to the Word of God. Pray for their families, that they would be changed because of their child's involvement with the Club and by our interaction with them.

This Club will continue through the end of the school year, and we could use more volunteers after the Christmas break. All volunteers will need to go through a training session and have a background check completed. The next one being offered is Saturday, February 6, 2010 at Smyrna First Baptist Church. If you would like to get involved, please contact Michael Brock. We would be glad to have you!

*Christmas Music at Midway*

**December 6**

**A Children's & Handbell Choirs Christmas Program**

*The Cherub Choir*

Midway Singers

One Accord

Midway Ringers

6:00 p.m.

**December 13**

**A Service of Lessons & Carols**

6:00 p.m.

**December 24**

**A Christmas Prelude Recital**

*Midway Young Musicians*

4:45 p.m.

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***DECEMBER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MIDWAY'S CHOIRS***

- Dec. 2*      *Dress Rehearsal for Cherubs, Midway Singers & One Accord, 5:30-7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This is the final rehearsal for children's choirs for 2009. Adult Choir rehearsal, 7:00-8:45*
- Dec. 3*      *Midway Ringers will rehearse in the Sanctuary, 6:30-8:30. This is the final handbell rehearsal for 2009.*
- Dec. 6*      *Cherubs, Midway Singers, One Accord & Midway Ringers Christmas Program, 6:00 p.m. Ringers, please arrive by 4:45 p.m. Singers please arrive by 5:00 p.m.*
- Dec. 9*      *Dress rehearsal for adult choirs, Sanctuary 7:00-9:30 p.m. No rehearsals for children's choirs.*
- Dec. 13*     *A Service of Lessons & Carols, 6:00 p.m. Choir, please arrive by 5:00 p.m.*
- Dec. 16*     *Adult Choir rehearsal, 7:00-8:15 No rehearsals for children's choirs.*
- Dec. 23*     *NO choir rehearsals, children or adults*
- Dec. 24*     *Christmas Eve Prelude Recital participants please arrive at 4:00 for dress rehearsal. The Prelude Recital will begin at 4:45.*
- Dec. 30*     *NO choir rehearsals, children or adults. Rehearsals will resume Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> for children's & adult choirs. Rehearsals will resume Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> for handbell choir.*

# ***Diaconate Report / Blood Drive***

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## **DIACONATE REPORT**

October-09

Year to Date

Undesignated Receipts	\$113,020.79	\$1,114,331.80
Over / (Under) Budget	(\$17,430.69)	(\$190,182.95)

Missions over and above	\$1,590.00	\$14,871.37
Ministries & Misc.	\$4,162.50	\$51,262.50

Expenses	\$128,128.04	\$1,319,052.34
(Over) / Under Budget	(\$15,581.40)	(\$25,182.01)

Cash on Hand \$16,431.00

Building Fund \$15,962.00 \$238,589.60

Building Fund Since Inception \$7,034,366.53

Daughter Church \$0.00 \$140.00

Daughter Church (Since April 2003) \$13,380.00



Give the Gift that  
Saves Lives every Day!

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## **Midway Blood Drive**

Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m.  
in the Midway Gymnasium

**Walk-ins Welcome but  
Appointments can be scheduled (even preferred!)**

**To schedule a donation time contact**  
Sherry Cowan in the church office at 770-422-4974 or  
[church.office@midwaypca.org](mailto:church.office@midwaypca.org)

# Nursery Ministry / MCCS

***In our Nursery*** ... our Sunday School classes are beginning the study of the birth of Jesus followed by His ministry and miracles. Teaching our two and three year olds to know that Jesus is God's Son, to thank Him for all our blessings, and to follow Jesus by loving Him are just some of our aims in the Nursery Ministry for the next few months.

Psalm 143:10a says, "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God." Serving the Lord in the Nursery Ministry is a wonderful example to our covenant children. They learn more from our actions than from our words. Be a volunteer and we will schedule you only one Sunday every 6 to 8 weeks. Your reward may come immediately from cuddly hugs and snuggly friends to read to and you will be rewarded knowing that you have touched a life for eternity! Please feel free to fill out a Nursery Volunteer Response Card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

We will have a Nursery Volunteer Training Session on the first Wednesday back in January, on the 6th at 5:30 to 6:30 in the Nursery Resource Room. Pizza, sodas and other refreshments will be served. If you are 10, almost 10, or older and need to attend our training class, please email or call Jennifer Nichols to reserve your place. Email: [Nursery@MidwayPCA.org](mailto:Nursery@MidwayPCA.org) 770 422-4974 ext 1114 or 404 643-3678.



**OUR EXPECTANT FAMILIES:** Stefanie & Joel Smit, Laura (Bursi) & Matt Cobb, Catie and James DeMar, Amber & David Stout, Emily (Jordan) & David Vreken, Anna & Tom Campbell, Allison (Walker) & Jonathan Ferro, Rebekah (Tippins) & Billy Resh, Nikki & Paul Allen

## MIDWAY COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

There are many people who are struggling with unemployment and pay cuts as well as inflation. The faster technology becomes the busier our lives become. In the midst of the tensions felt by our world, MCCS students and families were given the opportunity to reach out to our community by giving their change to help Clarkdale Elementary School. We were overwhelmed by the nickels, dimes and quarters that came in totaling over \$2000.00. Our PTF organized a global service project for Operation Christmas Child and set a goal of 75 boxes. This goal was reached by Tuesday of collection week and by the end of the week we had collected over 210 boxes. Our students are learning what it means to "Be devoted one to another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10

Christmas reminds us of the wondrous gift of Jesus and the redemption God provided for us. We all have memories of the smells and sounds of this time of year. Thanksgiving and Christmas are great opportunities for us to reflect on the bountiful provisions we have. Thank you to all who helped us move and get organized at the beginning of this year. Thank you for your prayers on behalf of your school. Our deacons, elders and school committee give of their time and talents with no expectations other than being obedient and faithful to what God has called them to do and we appreciate the work done and wisdom given.

The staff and families of Midway Covenant Christian School wish each of you a Merry Christmas and the blessing that a relationship with Christ brings.



# Nursery Volunteers

## Midway Nursery Ministry

*If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find someone on this list to swap nursery service with you so that our little ones are always well cared for.  
Thank you, Nursery Ministry Team*

### **DECEMBER 6**

**9:35** Caron Hobson, Joel & Sandy Kroese, Katie Edwards, Dan & Karen Widner

**10:50** Madison Braaksma, Chris Cowley, Rachel & Sarah Howard, Katy & Ryan Howell, Jonathan Jackson, Sarah Miles, Jennifer Nolan, Jean Ross, Allie & Katherine Peterson, Jennifer & Jackson Siewert

**5:50** Jerry & Becky Blades, Becky Lewis, Michael & Katherine Matthews, Sarah Combes

### **DECEMBER 13**

**9:35** Elizabeth Taylor, John Nichols, Celise Bell, Cheryl Marsh, Brittany Funk, Susan Brookins

**10:50** Grace & Greta Taylor, Leslie & Taylor Nichols, Becca Leslie, Laura & Lexi Keesee, Emily Keesee, Amy Griffith, Mattie, Mallory, Samuel Griffith, Whitney Brookins, Heather & Anna Kate Cartwright

**5:50** Angela Crouse, Charles & Kirt Moore, Breanna Robinson, Sarah Combes

### **DECEMBER 20**

**9:35** Melissa Klein, Janice Furlong, Dina Dropp, Carol DeMar, Ruth Dewhurst

**10:50** Jeffrey Baxter, Mary Burton, Luke, Will & Mary Grace Burton, Jocelyn Pharr, Courtney & Claire Pursley, Katie Wichterman, Richard & Polly Vogh, Ken Dewhurst

**5:50** Nancy, Phoebe & Calli Pritchett, Lindsay Moss

### **DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve volunteers needed**

#### **DECEMBER 27**

**9:35** Dan & Karen Widner, Bob Tango, Chris Spicer, Mary Katherine Keel, Gail Griffin

**10:50** Samantha Clapp, Christina Rodriguez, Christy, Maribeth, and Julia Wichterman, Lee Tebbens, Derek & Amy Spicer, Tammy Robertson, Nick & Noah Robertson, Ann Kistner, Anna & Libby Hankal, Julie & Leah Knox

**5:50** Laura, Austin, & Tyler Joseph

### **JANUARY 3**

**9:35** Alicia Bartlett, Tom & Anna Campbell, Ruth Dewhurst, Jeanne Fair

**10:50** Lori & Chris Cowley, Hanson Ellis Davenport, Ken Dewhurst, Anna & Sarah Dudd, Sue & Jessica Dudd, Sarah & Maggie Eller, Erin Fair, Keira & Trevor Hall,

**5:50** Julie Bell, Elizabeth & Joseph

### **JANUARY 10**

**9:35** Susan Brookins, Theresa & Jeremy Fix Liza Hendrix, Julie Dykstra

**10:50** Jeffrey Baxter, Nathan, Zach & Drew Bohannon, Whitney Brookins, Leila Chumley, Emily Keesee, Anne & Emily Hart Herbert, Kim, George & Emily Jones, Terri & Melody Kayler, Bobbi & Michelle Mitchell

**5:50** Barbara Bokhoven, Becky Lewis

### **JANUARY 17**

**9:35** Lisa Brock, Lance & Sonja Cooper, Cliff & Christie Cook

**10:50** Larry & Mary Judy, Connor & Kate Worley, Tabby, Priscilla, Charles & Bryant Brock, Kendall Butler

Sophia & Jeffrey Siewert, Rebekah & Michelle Cooper, Asa & Aaron Cooper, Jonathan Jackson, Kimberly Burton, Gabe Bostwick

**5:50** Barbara Kline, Paula Wilson, Kimberly Smith

### **JANUARY 24**

**9:35** Christopher Braaksma, Doug & Dena Clapp, Mary David, Katie Edwards, Caron Hobson

**10:50** Jean Ross, Jennifer Nolan, Madison Braaksma, Samantha Clapp, Sarah & Rachel Howard, Katy & Ryan Howell, Allie & Katherine Peterson, Jennifer & Jackson Siewert,

**5:50** Lindsay Moss, Julie & Leah Knox

### **JANUARY 31**

**9:35** Elizabeth Taylor, John Nichols, Cheryl Marsh, Joel & Sandy Kroese, Celise Bell

**10:50** Janice Furlong, Christina Rodriguez, Grace & Greta Taylor, Leslie & Taylor Nichols, Laura & Lexi Keesee, Amy Griffith, Mattie, Sam Jr, Mallory Griffith, Brittany Funk, Sara & Tracy Miller,

**5:50** Michael & Katherine Matthews, Angela Crouse

# *Library Info. / Sunday School Announcement*



MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!! As we plunge into December's hectic and stressful days, I hope we can all manage to put what is **truly** meaningful about the holidays at the forefront. We have some new books in the library that might help.

For adults:     Treasuring God in Our Traditions by Noel Piper and John Piper  
                  Preparing for Jesus: Meditations on the Coming of Christ by Walter Wangerin

For children:    God Gave Us Christmas by Lisa Bergren--"provides the perfect opportunity to help young children celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and to discover how very much God loves them."  
                  Mary's First Christmas by Walter Wangerin--Intended to be read over the course of four nights. Mary tells the five-year-old Jesus the story of his birth.

Look for the display of these and other Christmas books for children and adults.

Our library uses a self-checkout system. To check out a book, take it up to the desk and find a small basket containing a date stamp and ink pad, normally at the right end of the circulation desk. Just sign and stamp the book card found in the pocket in the inside of the back cover, stamp the date-due slip across from the card pocket, and put the card in the card holder next to the basket. Easy! ( If you have never filled out a patron application card, please do so. They will be found next to the small basket mentioned above.)

Library hours: I will be in the library every Wednesday afternoon from 4-6 PM. However, you may come in and enjoy your library any time. If it's after school hours and the library is empty, come on in. The light switches are located on the wall to the right, over the computer table. Just please remember to turn them off when you leave. Parents, please accompany your children on their library visits and teach them good library etiquette: quiet voices and courtesy toward other patrons, returning books to their proper places after you look at them, and no food or drink in the library, please. Thanks.

The Book of the Month Club will begin in January. The book selection for January is Amazing Grace by Eric Metaxas. This is a biography of William Wilberforce, the great Christian abolitionist, and was the basis for the award winning movie by the same name. As is frequently the case, the book is better than the movie! There will be a sign-up sheet on the circulation desk for those interested in participating in the Book Club. I can order the book for you. We will meet the last Monday of the month, January 25, from 7 to 8:30 PM, in the library. Join us for an interesting and inspiring look at the life of one Christianity's great men of faith.

We have a number of new titles in the library: books for children, teens and adults, fiction and non-fiction, serious books and fun books. Come and see them in the New Books Section against the back wall, on the left . I bet you find something you'll enjoy reading!

Merry Christmas and happy reading!  
Joyce Talley, librarian

## **FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

Do you think that life is hard? Have you lost your job or had income reduced? Have you or a loved one had illness that you really don't understand? You are not alone. We all go through such times of trial and testing. Long ago a man who was counted as "blameless and upright" experienced these heartaches and suffering and even more. Did God not love him? Did God abandon him? Sometime do you feel as if God has abandoned you? As commentator Francis I. Andersen said concerning the Book of Job: "The task of understanding it is as rewarding as it is strenuous." The task begins on December 6 in the Fellowship Sunday School Class and lasts through February 2010. You are welcomed to this study.

# ***Midway Presbyterian Church***

4635 Dallas Hwy

Powder Springs, GA 30127