

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
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Rev. Greg Doty, Assistant Pastor

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FROM OUR PASTOR

Highlights of a Fine Year: 2006

Much activity and planning related to our church's building program consumed the early months of 2006. Architects and builders visited the site, committee members devoted many hours to good stewardship and planning, and a new sewer system was installed as part of the preparatory work. Temporary trailers that will house the church staff and other functions began to arrive, and our church readied herself for an ambitious and challenging building campaign.

I want to express my thanks on behalf of all our church to all of those who have served so well on the Building Committee and Finance Committee. For the hundreds of man hours invested in 2006, we are deeply grateful for James Scott, Jeff Talley, Charles Joseph, Reggie Harris, and Clay David (members of the Building Committee), as well as for the Finance Committee, comprised of Bob Matthews, Mel Bokhoven, Dean Wardlaw, Todd Versteeg, and Matt Burton. Their service, and that by many others, will support the coming decades of ministry in this location. We thank the Lord that so many of you give so much of your time so generously.

Worship services were well attended through the year, and sermon series were presented on the following in 2006: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Jonah, Malachi, and Genesis 12-31. Our congregation is growing in its love for sequential, expository teaching. After a mild winter in January and February of 2006, we hosted missionaries who are going back to their native Albania and Austria for our Spring Enrichment Series, April 1-2. They, too, modelled the kind of preaching that we desire to see in other countries.

Our Easter Services were joyous and well attended, and the growth in the Maundy Thursday service promises to make this a meaningful part of our church year. Easter, complete with tympani and trumpet, was a glorious celebration.

The First Sunday of May was the 91st consecutive observance of the deep roots of Midway, and despite the threatened rain, we had a great day. Midway Covenant Christian School completed another successful year, and 14 graduating seniors from our youth group were recognized at our May 20th Youth Sunday service.

Vacation Bible School, in anticipation of demolition and building plans, met off site for most of the week and concluded with a church-wide supper, featuring games and a welcome home to the Scott Ketrow family, missionaries to Italy.

The 34th General Assembly of the PCA met in Atlanta June 20-23. Midway was represented by ruling elders Wes Richardson and Jeff Talley, along with its ministers. Elder Richardson served on the committee which reviewed the work of RUF. The Lord's Day before General Assembly, our guest Preacher was Dr. Robert Godfrey, President of Westminster Theological Seminary in California. The Saturday and Sunday following General Assembly, Midway hosted a conference and the preaching of Dr. Peter Jones of Christians Witness to a Pagan Planet.

Midway had our hearts moved by the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. In addition to caring for some displaced persons at the Lost Mountain shelter in late 2005, we sent 3 teams to the Gulf Coast in 2006. Also our regular mission group to the Palmer Home in Mississippi had another very successful trip. Short term medical missions trips and others were manned by Midway members.

From the Pastor cont.

A new regional governing unit of the PCA, Northwest Georgia Presbytery, came into existence on August 27th at Smyrna Presbyterian Church. Midway had been one of the prime movers in proposing a new presbytery that spans the northwest quadrant of the state. Each of your ministers now serves on a presbytery committee, and many of your ruling elders are involved as well (Gene Hunt, Wes Richardson and Rodney Pritchett serve on the Christian Education Committee. Charlie Bursi and Greg Doty are on the Examining and Credentials Committee. Jeff Talley and David Hall serve on the Missions Committee). Don Barnett is the Treasurer of the Presbytery (and serves on the Administrative Committee), and former member Dwight Allen serves as Stated Clerk. Please pray for us as 13 churches seek to honor the Lord and cultivate this part of His kingdom for his glory.

Our Wednesday night studies and meals resumed in the Fall, with a study of Parables by Gene Hunt and Warren Jackson. The childrens' ministry also studied the parables, and both the Titus 2 groups and the Masculine Spiritual Leadership 101 groups met. A Men's Bible study, started primarily by Paco Combes and other young men, met weekly at Starbuck's at 6:00 AM on Fridays.

We had a very successful Missions Conference November 3-5, with the Rev. Richard Phillips as our speaker. He preached four messages from the gospels on the theme: "Jesus as Missionary." In addition, the conference provided a great chance to renew acquaintances with other missionaries and hear reports from their fields. Moreover, 4 Sunday evening services are devoted to missions throughout the year.

Another accomplishment that we celebrated together in 2006 was the establishment of RUF at Kennesaw State University. For over 5 years, our elders had been hoping to see a Reformed campus ministry at the school nearest us. On December 3rd, our congregation hosted the Ordination Service for the Rev. Chris Bowen, the first RUF campus minister at KSU, with a hearty reception afterwards. The Rev. Mark Davis from Dallas, TX preached.

Our Music Ministry continues to grow and provide consistent excellence. In addition to their weekly ministry, two Advent programs were presented in December, one by the childrens' choirs and a Lessons and Carols service on Dec. 17th. We are grateful for the contribution of those who volunteer to work, plan, and sing each week.

Building plans for our major expansion are now completely drawn, and Midway will soon begin constructing new facilities. A conscientious effort has been made to retain as many of the beautiful trees on our lot as possible, and the committees have exemplified the best stewardship possible. Throughout, an eye toward excellence and the glory of God has been maintained.

Approximately \$1.5 million dollars have been contributed to this effort since Nov 13, 2005, which puts us ahead of schedule. Thanks to you, your prayers, your faithfulness in giving, and your vision to grow in ministry, I expect that a very successful and wonderful building program will be launched very soon.

I am deeply thankful for all of you who serve so often and so well. For those who teach in our weekly classes, for those who volunteer to work with our children and youth, for those who serve, and for all of you, we thank the Lord. Midway is a church that is blessed with many gifted people who serve with zeal and passion. We would not be the church we are without you!!

It's been another great year for Midway. Let us praise the Lord together for that and for all his blessings.

Coming Events

Get ready for a fast-moving new year. After our building committee signs its contract with our builder, plans for groundbreaking and construction will move ahead rapidly. During the temporary inconveniences, we will pull together as a family and look forward to how God continues his blessings.

In January, I plan to begin a sermon series on the Book of Ephesians in the mornings, and resume our study of Genesis in the evenings.

More than ever, we depend on the Lord to do his work in our midst. We surely realize that God is the One who leads and makes things happen. I, for one, plan to regularly remind us that, despite any obstacles or challenges, each of us is called to serve the Lord with joy and give him our best gifts. We need each of you involved in that high calling and look forward to another great year.

I and my family join in thanking God for you, your prayers, your many kindnesses, and your desire to see God exalted among us. God bless you, and Happy New Year!

Christian Education

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Gene Hunt

Chairman of the Christian Education Ministry

I can think of no better way to begin the New Year than by calling us to meditate on Romans 12:1-3.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

These verses are loaded and this is not an attempt to exegete them. My purpose is for us to see that this call to apply the gospel to all of life gives a pattern for the Christian Education ministry of the church.

In chapters 1-11 Paul methodically teaches the doctrines of grace. This is the sermon.

Then, in chapter 12 he says, "Therefore . . . " i.e. because of the glorious grace of God in Christ, this is what you are to do. Applying the sermon to all of life—for children, teens and adults--is the task of Christian Education. Our discipleship ministry from the nursery to the adults includes the following:

- Teach all ages to think biblically (renew our minds) about all of life.
- Teach people to live covenantally as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Teach transformationally—challenge people to die to self and live unto Christ in every relationship and situation so that our lives are an act of worship, a sacrifice offered up to the Lord in our families, at work/school, in our neighborhoods and in our recreation.

When our corporate worship flows out into lives of worship which flow back in to our corporate worship it is holy and pleasing to God. Corporate worship will be a celebration of the greatness of the Triune God who is transforming us into His image.

I urge you to resolve to be faithful in worship this year—in the glorious privilege of Sunday worship and in the act of worship every minute of every day. And let us help disciple you and your children to think biblically and live covenantally and transformationally.

The following are excerpts from a letter the elders recently received. We were encouraged. We pray that you will be too.

In October, I attended the parent teacher conferences at M CCS. The teachers initiated the conferences with prayer for our conversations and for my children . . . It reminded me of the words of Don Barnett [chairman of the school committee] at our first PTF meeting this year when asked about his vision for the school. He said that he hoped that any student leaving M CCS would be able to step into whatever academic setting his family chose for him and be competitive or accelerated in that setting. He also said that he hoped each child would leave with a biblical worldview . . . In the conference with the teacher, she commented about my child's knowledge of Scripture. She said that each week as she begins the history lessons which consist of creation, the fall of man, Cain and Abel, Middle Egypt and the slavery of Joseph to name a few, she was shocked that the students that attend Midway Church already know the material. They know the Scripture references and the facts, but also they know where to "see Jesus" in each lesson. She was very impressed with whatever Midway is doing. They also rarely have to memorize the catechism questions that the class is to recite each week because they already know them. I am so thankful for the rich education our children are receiving at M CCS and at Midway Church and thank you for your dedication to it. The most important ministry my husband and I have right now is the nurture of our children, to be good stewards of the gift of these children. We do not take lightly the partnership that our church has made with us in that area and thank God for it daily.

Youth / Children's Ministry

Midway Youth Ministry

By Rev. Greg Doty

"After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel." Judges 2:10

My mind has been dwelling on this passage recently because it gives historical credence as for the need to, "train up a child in the way that he should go." It is astonishing that after everything that God had done for Israel, bringing them out of slavery, providing for their needs for forty years in the wilderness, and driving out the nations from the land that God had promised, with all of that, it only took one generation before God's people turned from Him. As I have pondered this verse the question I have asked over and over again is, "Why?" Why did the next generation not, "know the Lord nor what he had done for Israel?" We see part of the answer within the verse itself, that being the next generation did not know what God had done for their parents and grandparents and great-grandparents. No one taught them about God! With that being the case it is no surprise to us then that God's word tells us that they did not even know the Lord. As parents, we have the calling to teach our children about the Lord, and what He has done for us, and our calling as the church is to come along side of you, and assist you in training up your children. We have taken that vow as a church each time we baptize an infant in the final question that is asked of the congregation: "Do you the congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?" My hope and prayer is that we as a church, and as the youth ministry of the church, will be a support and encouragement to you as we seek to point the next generation towards the cross of Christ. "Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob." Psalm 24:6

Youth Events for January

Youth Group – 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Discipleship Group – 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Middle school and High school Ice Skating – Jan. 26th

High school service day – Jan. 27th

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Richie Hunt

I was thrilled when I was told to start writing newsletter articles again. When I thought about what I'd like to say in my venture back into the newsletter scene, I decided that I'd like to write about you guys. The congregation of Midway is what makes this church special. The staff is okay, the building is decent, but the congregation is outstanding.

We are blessed to be a church with families in the beginning stages of having children, some families with children that will be leaving soon (sometimes not soon enough, I hear), and some with empty nests. We also have singles and a lot of elderly people. This is unusual, but what's more unusual is how we all blend together and act like a family. Sandra Westerfield is an example of this for me. She doesn't have kids in the Children's Ministry, but has always been eager to be involved. For Sandra, family is not just biological--she understands her responsibility and biblical mandate to disciple the next generation of her covenant kids. And she's not the only one. I can't begin to name all the men and women who have given of themselves over the years who didn't even have any biological kids in the Children's Ministry at that time. This shows that the vows we make in the baptism sacrament are taken seriously at Midway, and I am blessed to lead a ministry that you are committed to.

Another area that stands out at Midway is male leadership in the Children's Ministry. The men at Midway see the need and importance for strong male examples. George Taylor has been teaching the 3rd grade Sunday School class for as long as I can remember. It's a calling for him. Whenever I ask if he needs a break, he looks at me sternly and makes it clear that this is a long-term commitment. Another example is Matt Burton. Matt teaches the kindergarten Sunday School class, and he is on a mission. This lively group brought more than one woman to tears, but Matt stepped up and grabbed their attention. He is exactly the influence and example this rowdy group of kindergartners needs. And then there is Bob Whitaker who partners with Sandra Westerfield to teach the 4th – 5th grade girl's class. I thought it over a lot before asking Bob to teach this group, but he is great. The dynamic of a male and female teacher is great for these girls. David Meyer teaches our 1st graders. Whenever I look in the window of his class I see a man who looks like there's no place he'd rather be. This is the same with Sammy Mitchell in the 2nd grade and John Marchant in the Pre-K class. This is what I want our kids to see. Every Sunday School class has a man helping with the teaching. It's not just women who care about the instruction of the kids. Our covenant kids need strong male examples right along with the loving female examples. Speaking of strong, I ran out of strong male leaders and had to recruit Keith Spicer to teach the 4th-5th grade boys - just kidding Keith. (If you don't know Keith, he's ex-military.) He also is showing these boys, at a critical time in their lives, what a godly Christian man acts like.

There are so many who give so much to the Children's Ministry every week in Sunday School, Children's Church, on Wednesday nights and in Upward Basketball. Laura Boggs, Connie Jennings, Ann Hall, and many others teach our kids what it means to live covenantally as they show and tell them about Christ and His kingdom.

Special People/Special Announcements

Happy Birthday Senior Saints



JANUARY

11 J.C. Cook
13 Katie Nichols
15 Catherine Chandler
15 Louise Lovinggood
16 Jack Haddox

FEBRUARY

2 Loran Wills
4 Jim Jacobs
11 Keller Whitener
12 Frances Cook
19 Willis Nelson



PRAY FOR OUR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Kim Washington	Havilah Kline
Lori Trottier	Clare Richardson
Amy Blalack	Robin Curtis
Linda Vawter Harris	Amy Bartlett Bonner
Paige Richardson Forrester	
Missy Crew	Andrea Simmons



We join Billy & Rebekah Resh in praising God for the birth of their son Warren William Resh IV who was born on December 13, 2006. Warren William is also the grandson of Lindsey and Ann Tippins.

We join Jeff & Janet Jeffries in praising God for the birth of their daughter Mamie Catherine Jefferies who was born on December 13, 2006.

All women are invited to a baby shower for Andrea Simmons on Saturday, January 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Andrea is having a boy and is registered at Wal-Mart and Babies R Us.

TITUS 2 WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Are now forming for 2007. This is a small group ministry designed to help women develop relationships with other women, and to teach women to think biblically and live covenantally. Single and married women of all ages are welcome. You do not need to be a Midway member to participate. Please sign up at the WIC table or in the narthex after worship services. Two new groups of six to eight women will meet once a month at the home of their group leader. Sign up by January 20 for the meeting time you prefer: First Monday of the month, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., First Friday of the month, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. (child care available at the home of Nancy Pritchett) There will be a meeting of all Titus 2 groups on Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. Individual group meetings begin in February. If you have questions, please contact one of the Titus 2 committee members: Susan Hunt, Ann Kistner, Patsy Kuipers, Denise Monroe, Sandra Westerfield

Thank You!

Dear Midway Family,

We are most grateful and thankful for such a loving and caring church family. Thank you for all the support during Leron's extended illness and death.

Your cards, flowers, thoughts and prayers were truly a comfort during a difficult time for our family. It is truly a blessing to feel God's comfort through your thoughtfulness.

With grateful hearts,
The Wardlaws

Missions

MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES

Stanley and Donna Arnes - MTW, South Africa
Peter and Diane Bakelaar - MTW, Japan
David and Stacy Bergmark - MTW, Sweden
Ron and Gayle Clegg, World Harvest Mission- - Hungary
David and Sue Cunningham - MTW, Australia
Jack and Kim Cunningham - MTW, Thailand
Rob and Angie Edwards - RUF, University of Georgia
Tom and Connie Edwards - MTW, Birmingham/Africa
Alan and Chinglien Fiol - MTW, Taiwan
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Orlando/Africa
Scott and Tracy Ketrow - CCC, Italy
Dale and Nancy Knudson - MTW, Philippines
Endi and Kati Kovacs, CRM, Hungary
John and Kathy Lesondak - MTW, Slovakia
Steve and Ann Lutz - SIM, Niger, Africa
Tim and Nicole - MTW, 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
Heidi Pritchett - MTW, Slovakia
Clay and Darlene Quarterman - MTW, Ukraine
Palmer and Joanna Robertson - ABC, Uganda
Mike and Sheryl - MTW, Atlanta area
Gullermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico
Jonathan Sawtelle - CO, Samford University
Chuch and Wyema - MTW, Europe
Kristy - MTW, Europe
Rick and Yvonne Sawyer - PEF/FCFC Miami
Roger and Dianne Smalling - MTW, Latin America
John and Liz - MTW, West Africa
Jan - MTW, Europe
Linda Summer PEF The Agape Puppets
Jim and Catalina Tate - MTW, Ecuador
Johan and Stephanie Van Der Westhuizen, MTW, Chile
Bruce and Barbara Wannemacher - MTW, South Africa
Clint and Peggy Watson - CO, Atlanta/Athens
Becky White - MTW, Taiwan
Linda Wixon - MTW, Japan
Steve and Kathy Womack - WBT, Kenya
Pat Wood - PEF, Freedom Ministries

Mission Organizations supported by Midway

ABC -- African Bible College
CCC -- Campus Crusade for Christ
CO -- Campus Outreach
CRM-- Church Resource Ministries
MTW -- Mission To the World
NAV - The Navigators
PEF - Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship
RUF - Reformed University Fellowship
SIM - Serving in Mission
WBT -- Wycliffe Bible Translators

Gardeners always know when a new year is approaching when the new seed catalogs begin arriving in the mailbox. This year's catalogs started coming before Christmas. There is always such hope and expectation for the gardening year. In January there are no bugs and the heat and humidity of last summer are only dimly remembered. This will be the year we

stay ahead of the weeds – right. Part of planning involves assessing what grew well and what didn't. The catalogs are full of 'new' plants to try with 'glamour shots' of beautiful flowers and perfect vegetables. It is always tempting to order more seeds than you have room for or time to tend. That's when you need to refer back to your notes and the 'plan'.

Americans are famous for our New Year's resolutions that are quickly broken or forgotten. Never the less, this is a good time of year to look back at what God has done for you and your family over the past year. And then thank Him for his faithfulness. Have I grown closer to the Lord over the past 12 months? If not what plans can be made and kept so that next January I can look back and see spiritual growth? Of course we have something much better than a seed catalog to help us with our planning for the New Year, the Bible. Schedule a daily quiet time, join a weekly Bible study, memorize scriptures with a friend, or start a prayer journal. I just finished Randy Alcorn's book Safely Home. It is a wonderful novel that will open your eyes to how precious God's Word is to the persecuted Christians around the world. We truly don't appreciate what we have.

Our Midway missionaries realize the need and have responded to God's call to 'go unto all the world'. Make a commitment to pray regularly for one or more of our missionary families. Most of them are humble servants whose letters will challenge your own Christian walk. The Missions Committee is working to update the Missionary Directory that will give you information on each family and their ministry so you can pray more effectively. The Committee also has made some changes in those supported. Some who are working in the States were dropped from our budget. This was an effort to increase support for those remaining. Unfortunately we weren't able to increase support as much as hoped and many families continue ministry with financial short falls. Perhaps you would consider investing in heavenly treasure through missions.

A few of the prayer requests from the field include: Kim Cunningham on bed rest in Thailand with a difficult pregnancy; Ann Lutz, Niger, in the States for cancer treatments; Steve Womack, in Kenya, recovering from eye surgery for a second detached retina. Chuck and Weyma will be in the States for a short HMA and to welcome their first grandbaby. Look for them to visit at Midway. For more details and news from our other missionaries check the missions bulletin board for the most recent correspondence. To receive missionary e-mails directly send your e-mail address to me at bladesg@bellsouth.net.

And may 2007 be a year of great hope and expectation for you as you refer often to God's Word. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than that all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Becky Blades, for the Missions Committee

Music Ministry

From the Music Director

Christmas Bouquets of thanks to . . .

- Our wonderful *adult choirs*, who give tirelessly and faithfully their time and their voices to serve God and this congregation in musical leadership
- Our *bell choir* for their determined commitment to this ministry
- The ever-faithful *Midway Deacons*, whose cheerful service to this congregation and to this music director is evidence of their servants' hearts
- Our *Session*, who continues to provide such wise and strong spiritual leadership to this congregation
- Our *Building Committee*, who has given so much prayerful effort in a firm resolve to carry out their assignment
- *The Midway Nursery* for graciously providing loving care for our little ones, and with special thanks for the nursery provided for choir rehearsals when nothing else is taking place at church
- *The Ministers and staff* of Midway Presbyterian Church for your commitment to reformed worship and to the encouragement of this body of believers
- *The congregation* of Midway Presbyterian Church for your prayers

It is an honor and privilege to serve with you all!

In the service of Christ,

Judy

Midway Presbyterian Church

4635 Dallas Hwy
Powder Springs, GA 30127

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE:

SUNDAY

- 8:30 a.m. - Early Morning Worship (Nursery ages 0 – 3)
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Nursery ages 0-3)
- 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship (Nursery for ages 0 – 3)
- 4:30 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. - Middle School Discipleship
- 5:15 p.m. - Prayer time for Missionaries in the parlor
- 6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship Service (Nursery ages 0-3)
- 7:00 p.m. - High School Discipleship

TUESDAY

- 9:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 a.m. - Men's Early Prayer, Gene Hunt's office
- 5:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper
- 7:00 p.m. - Youth Fellowship
- 7:00 p.m. - Children's Program
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Study, Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

- 7:30 p.m. - Young Adults in the Fish House