

# 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  
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May 2009

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

Rev. David Hall

### The Pastor Brags on You!

I'm sure most of us often fail to say as many kind words of appreciation as we should to folks around us that we love. I don't want to miss this opportunity to brag on the Congregation for the first quarter of this year. It has been an incredibly busy and eventful time for our church. I'm proud of you!

So many people have pitched in and worked so hard. Many of you have given sacrificially on many occasions. The attitude and spirit is encouraging. I want to thank you and praise the Lord for the many transitions as you:

- Have moved into new Sunday School rooms, what could have been difficult is done.
- Enter a new Sanctuary, you've endured the new systems, sounds, and born with your staff's mistakes.
- Figure out where to go and when, it has gone very smoothly.

We thank you and are happy to boast about the good attitudes in our church that help us adjust to new surroundings. Visitors notice that, and some of you have a renewed passion to reach out to new folks. Thanks.

Meanwhile, Judy Dodd deserves special thanks for learning the new organ and for accompanying us already so well. What a treat!

What a glorious service we had for Easter, and the entire week was so Christ-centered and uplifting. Thank you for inviting your friends and for showing hospitality to new visitors. *I believe our friendliness will continue to grow as we grow.*

Your prayers definitely helped; my thanks to those of you who prayed 9 minutes a day. Maybe we should keep that going.

And thank you for the renewed spirit of reverence as you enter the Lord's house for worship.

Thank you again, and I am proud of you.

### Upcoming Events of Note

- May 3 is the traditional First Sunday of May. Come and join us for this homecoming.
- May 5 the Northwest Georgia Presbytery meets here @ 4:00 PM.
- May 17 in the evening is our Spring Recital and Worship service.
- May 31 is a Fifth Sunday Missions service in the evening.
- June 1-5 is Music Camp.
- June 7 @ 4:30 PM is the Organ Dedicatory Recital, followed our Music Camp Choir presenting special music in the 6:00 PM service.
- June 8 is Deacons Appreciation Night at the Braves game.

### Calvin emphasis this year: Using his Catechism in our worship

Many of you have heard that this is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Calvin's birth. As your pastoral staff puts together our worship services, we seek to use creeds, hymns, prayers, readings, etc., that reinforce the message of the sermon. We typically use the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, a biblical confession of sin, or questions from the Westminster Shorter Catechism. And there are many fine creeds and catechisms from which to draw.

Earlier this year, in our evening worship we used parts of the Heidelberg Catechism (1561), a creedal statement familiar to German and Dutch-speaking Reformed Christians.

It also occurred to us that Calvin might have a catechism that could be used similarly. Since early April in our evening services, we have been employing Calvin's 1545 Catechism in our worship. Sure, some of the words may be new, but it is confirming to see yet another re-statement of the one faith held by the saints.

Calvin's Catechism was designed to be used with young children—complete with leading questions—and it is a thorough summary of our faith. We hope you enjoy.

## ***From the Pastor cont. / Assistant Pastor***

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**CUTTING FLOOR:** Below are tidbits from sermons.

Calvin for Good Friday: “Christ’s Death was More Quickening than his Life”

John Calvin had perceptive observations about Joseph and Nicodemus when he commented on their taking Jesus’ body for burial. As many know, Calvin admonished some who professed belief but sought to put their candle under a bushel. Some in Calvin’s day drew upon the final verses in John 19 to suggest that “Nicodemites” could get along very closely to the world.

Calvin noted, however, on John 19:39 that Joseph and Nicodemus were actually acting with “heroic magnanimity” such that when “affairs are at the lowest ebb, they fearlessly” took a public stand. Not only did they wish to avoid being in a “state of perpetual warfare with their own nation,” but it is also certain “that this was effected by a heavenly impulse, so that they who through fear did not render the honor due to him while he was alive, no run to his dead body as if they have become new men.”

In this is “a striking proof that this death was more quickening than his life; and so great was the efficacy of that sweet savor which the death of Christ conveyed to the minds of those two men, that it quickly extinguished all the passions belonging to the flesh. So long as ambition and the love of money reigned in them, the grace of Christ had no charms for them; but now they begin to disrelish the whole world.”

The example of these two shows how much we owe Christ, for these two “not only took down Christ from the cross with great hazard, but boldly carried him to the grave. Our slothfulness will be base and shameful if, now that he reigns in the heavenly glory, we withhold from him the confession of our faith. So much the less excusable is the wickedness of those who, though they now deny Christ by base hypocrisy, plead in his behalf the example of Nicodemus. In one thing, I admit, they resemble him, that they endeavor as far as lies in their power to bury Christ; but the time for burying is past, since he has ascended to the right hand of the Father, that he may reign gloriously over angels and men.”

Calvin summarizes: “When we perceive that the Evangelist bestows on Joseph the honorable designation of a disciple at a time when he was excessively timid and did not venture to profess his faith before the world, we learn from it how graciously God acts towards his people and with what fatherly kindness he forgives their offenses. And yet the false Nicodemites have no right to flatter themselves, who not only keep their faith concealed within their own breast, but by pretending to give their consent to wicked superstitions do all that is in their power to deny that they are disciples of Christ.”

On John 20:17-18, Calvin sees behind the issue, that touching per se is not the problem, for Jesus did not rebuke the women for touching earlier (Mt. 28;2), nor did he discourage Thomas from touching him later. In fact, he offered his hands and side to be touched as proofs of the resurrection.

The rebuke from Jesus came only after their “eagerness to touch him had been carried to excess.” As far as touching him to remove doubt that was fine, but “perceiving that their

attention was too much occupied with embracing [clinging to] his feet, he restrained and corrected that immoderate zeal.”

Their problem in this case: they “fixed their attention on his bodily presence and did not understand any other way of enjoying his [company] than by conversing with him on earth. We ought, therefore, to conclude that they were not forbidden to touch him, until Christ saw that by their foolish and unreasonable desire they wished to keep him in the world.” His explanation is that he must ascend to his Father. And even well meaning disciples must restrain their feelings until he returns to glory. “In short, he pointed out the design of his resurrection; not such as they had imagined it to be that, after having returned to life, he should triumph in the world, but rather that by his ascension to heaven, he would enter into the possession of the kingdom which had been promised.”

Christ is telling Mary that even as great as his resurrection is, it is not complete until he sits at the right hand of the Father, and that it would be wrong to satisfy ourselves “with having nothing more than half of his resurrection and desiring to enjoy his presence in the world.”

This “yields two advantages. The first is that those who are desirous to succeed in seeking Christ must raise their minds upwards; and the second is that all who endeavor to go to him must rid themselves of the earthly affections of the flesh as Paul exhorts, ‘if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sits at the right hand of God.’”

### ***News from your Assistant Pastor – Michael Brock***

Our full-fledged Wednesday Night supper and activities will end for the semester on May 13. The next week, May 20, the format will be limited to adult choir practice at 7:00 p.m. and the Bible Study and Prayer Time led by Joe York, also at 7:00 p.m. Beginning June 24, the Children’s ministry, Youth ministry, and an adult study of some sort will begin meeting again at 7:00 pm. In other words, the Wednesday Night supper and activities will revert back to the school-year format (except for supper and children’s choirs) beginning June 24 and lasting through August 5.

With so many new members joining our church in recent weeks, please be sure to get to know them. Invite them over to your home for a lunch – or, take them out to eat; sit with them at Wednesday Night suppers; spend an evening together playing games or just sitting around talking.

We have a new New Member class that has started. Week #2 will be May 10. It is not too late for interested people to join the class. Pass this along to your friends who may be interested in joining Midway.

In Christ,

Michael Brock

# ***Children's Ministry***

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## **A Busy Spring and Summer for the Children's Ministry:**

If you haven't already heard, Midway Children's ministry has many activities planned for the spring and summer. Mark your calendar's for these upcoming dates:

### **1. Father-son outing**

**When:** Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00am-2:00pm (we will meet behind the Midway gym at 9:00 am.)  
**Where:** Matthew's Farm in Polk County  
**What:** Fishing, cookout, water balloons, games & more.  
**Who:** Fathers with sons K4-5th grade

### **2. Mother-daughter luncheon**

**When:** 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Sat. May 16th  
**Where:** Midway Fellowship Hall  
**What:** Lunch, speaker (Nikki Allen) & fun activities  
**Who:** Mothers and daughters, K4-5th grade

### **3. MUSIC CAMP 2009**

June 1-5, 2009  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
Rising Grades 2-12  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 27

### **4. Tuesday's in June and July**

June 9, 16<sup>th</sup>-Midway gym activities  
June 23<sup>rd</sup>-Cagle's dairy  
June 30<sup>th</sup>-Zoo Atlanta  
July 7<sup>th</sup>-Jumpitz  
July 14<sup>th</sup>-pool party (TBD)  
July 21<sup>st</sup>-gym activities

### **5. Vacation Bible School**

July 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 9:30-12:00  
Children K4-5<sup>th</sup> grade

For more information and to sign up to volunteer and/or register your child for these activities, contact Marc Harrington at 770-422-4974, ext. 1103 or check the children's ministry table outside the children's assembly.

## Does College Cause a Decline in Christian Belief?

Pastor Joel Smit

I am often on the prowl for good materials that will help me think about subject matters that directly relate to my role as a Pastor of Youth and Families. Often times this comes from typical Christian sources such as books, magazines or blogs, but once and a while I will find some helpful material from an unlikely source. Last week I discovered one of these rare finds in an article entitled "How Corrosive is College to Religious Faith and Practice?". Since we have many graduating seniors this year, this article naturally piqued my interest. It was written by two sociologists, and I find their research to be quite enlightening and their overall sentiments correct. So this month I thought I would pass along some of their findings.

While they agree that the statistics indicate a decline in religious attendance during the college years (only 17% of college age seniors attend weekly service – the lowest of any adult age person) it may not be college per se that is the direct cause of this decline. When it comes to the cause, many would like to believe that it is the secular, liberal agenda that college and universities promote that is the real culprit. Most think of the overbearing, monster-like, atheist professor that is just waiting to prey upon our Christian children. But this is seldom the case. In fact, research shows that those who never enroll in college have a higher rate of "leaving the faith" than those who do enroll. So if it is not college itself that is the cause, what is it that might cause this decline in religious observance? Let me pass along some of their findings that may better indicate a cause.

**1) Parents have not actively taught their children.** Parents often assume that their kids are picking up on things at home, and know right from wrong, because of the general practice of the home. Yet the authors of this article give a stark warning for what usually results from this type of thinking. They write,

*If parents do not actively affirm and transmit the oral and written traditions of a religion, their failure to "teach the language" results in youth who cannot speak the language and are at elevated risk of shedding the religious value system altogether. Indeed, scholars often forget that religion is primarily taught, not caught or transmitted by osmosis. Once these teenagers leave the structures (especially families) that have patterned their religious lives, religiosity is simply left behind as well.*

While practice is certainly important it must come alongside the active teaching and engaging children on a daily basis so that they are ready to think holistically through a Christian world and life view.

**2) The Christian structure is gone.** Many in college no longer have the Christian structure that once organized their life while they were at home. Christian parents had organized their life for them with church attendance, prayer, bible study, etc. Now out on their own they have not sought to build their own support structure and thus tend to fall away from their religious habits.

**3) Religious values and practice take a lower priority level.** College age students are usually actively pursuing many different priorities (some good, some not so good), and whereas religious belief might still be important to them, it may

easily take a backseat to more seemingly pressing and urgent matters. In other words, they get wrapped up in the "college experience" that they easily overlook their religious involvement.

**4) Faith seems non-normative among peers.** Often in college the peer-pressure of being socially acceptable plays a huge role in faith and practice. They want to be liked by others and this often means that their religious faith does not play a prominent role in defining who they are. The authors of the study write; "Faith goes underground not for the purpose of feeding and sustaining it through the college years but simply because it feels non-normative to either admit religious faith, much less make any sort of big deal about it." They go on to say that to appear too religious may be the "social kiss of death."

While surely this is not all the reasons for why faith may decline in the college years, they are ways that we would do well to give more thought about as we prepare our children to leave the home. For while it might be easy to think that it is entirely the college's fault for our children's potential struggle in the faith during the college years, the reality is that it might be our lack of actively preparing them to engage in the next level of life that is a bigger threat to their Christian well-being than any challenge that they may face in the actual classroom itself.

[http://religion.ssrc.org/reforum/Regnerus\\_Uecker.pdf](http://religion.ssrc.org/reforum/Regnerus_Uecker.pdf)

**ATTENTION YOUTH PARENTS:** Feel like you are light-years behind your children when it comes to technology and the internet?? Want to know what is available to your teenagers when it comes to these areas and how you should handle them? Join us for our **parents meeting May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6PM** in the *Old Fellowship Hall* where we will talk about **Teenagers & Technology**. Also we will discuss upcoming Summer Youth Events. Feel free to bring your Wed. night dinner into the meeting.

### Youth Dates

May 1 –2nd of RYM Payments Due.

-ALSO if you have not gotten in your RYM Forms, please do so ASAP!!

May 13 (Wed.) – PARENTS MEETING – 6PM. Old Fellowship Hall.

-**Topic: Teenager's & Technology.** Also information on upcoming Summer events.

May 13 (Wed.) – Last Wed. Night until June 24.

May 16 (Sat.) - C.S. Lewis on Stage – dramatic presentation on the best of C.S. Lewis' work. Meet at church at 4PM. Bring \$ for dinner before the play. (See flyer in Youth Room for more information)

May 17 (Sun.) – Homerun at Wes & Susan Richardson's Home.

REMEMBER TO SEE OUR NEWLY UPDATED YOUTH PAGE ON CHURCH WEB SITE: NOW WITH YOUTH CALENDER!!

<http://midwaypca.org/youth.html>

# Music Ministry / Diaconate Report

## *From the Music Director*

The month of May rivals December for level of activity! And this May is no different, actually spilling over into June. Following are three events which I pray will see you all in attendance.

The **Spring Recital for Children's and Handbell Choirs** will take place this year on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the 6:00 service. These ringers and singers work very hard throughout the year improving their musical skills, with their ultimate goal being to serve Christ through the music of His church. Please plan to attend this service in support of these choirs. In preparation for this recital, there will be a very important dress rehearsal for the children's choirs Wednesday evening, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:00 in the new Sanctuary.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> **Music Camp** will be June 1-5, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The camp is open to rising 2<sup>nd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Registration forms are located in the hallway of the music suite and on the Children's Ministry table located on the first floor. Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the camp is to educate the participants about the role of music in worship, and to make progress in the area of music literacy. Why music literacy? There are over 700 hymns in our hymnbook, including a fairly large percentage of hymns that we do not know. One of the goals of music education in our camp will be to equip the participants with the necessary musical knowledge to sing at sight a hymn which they have never heard. Therefore, the focus of this year's music theory classes will be sight-singing. In addition to the theory classes, the campers will attend an assembly, led by Pastor Marc Harrington, participate in a handbell class, and sing in the camp choir. Each morning will also include a snack break, and the week will conclude with an end-of-camp pizza party in the church gym. The Music Camp Choir will sing for the 6:00 service on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The week promises to be a great opportunity for our Midway children. Make plans now to participate!

On Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> we will have our long-awaited **Organ Dedication Recital**. Our recitalist is Miss Chelsea Chen, a highly accomplished young organist with a very long resume! She was chosen not only because of her musical skills, but also because she desires to serve the Lord with her musical gifts. You may read more about Chelsea at her website, [www.chelseachen.com](http://www.chelseachen.com). She will be our guest organist for the day, playing for the 11:00 service, and playing the dedication recital at 4:30. Following the 6:00 service, we will have a dinner reception for Chelsea, and to honor Midway's own Ann Tippins, who has chosen to retire as our church organist after over 40 years of volunteer service in this capacity. Plan to attend the recital and stay for church and the reception. What a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, neighbors and colleagues to Midway!



## **DIACONATE REPORT**

	March-09	Year to Date
Undesignated Receipts	\$119,832.92	\$325,640.87
Over / (Under) Budget	(\$10,618.56)	(\$65,713.56)
Missions over and above	\$1,276.00	\$6,695.17
Ministries & Misc.	\$2,315.00	\$3,615.00
Expenses	\$165,920.72	\$436,726.74
(Over) / Under Budget	(\$3,680.41)	(\$43,872.32)
Cash on Hand	\$54,245.97	
Building Fund	\$36,268.40	\$175,058.36
Building Fund Since Inception	\$6,801,571.23	
Daughter Church	\$20.00	\$80.00
Daughter Church (Since April 2003)	\$13,320.00	

For the Diaconate  
In His Service  
Christopher Braaksma & Eric Klein

# Nursery Ministry

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## Midway Nursery Ministry

Nursery News:

Times Nursery is open: Nursery is provided on Sunday mornings for Worship Services and Sunday School from 9:30 to 12:15 p.m. Nursery is also provided during Wednesday evening Bible Study & Choir Practice from 6:50 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. and this summer on 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings for the Lydia Bible Study & Ruth Circles from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Nursery Ages: The nursery is provided for newborns to three-year old children. Care of children four years of age (by Sept. 1 of the year) and older is provided by the Children's Ministry through their educational programs.

At Check In: Pagers will be provided to the parent signing in the child. If the nursery staff has a question/problem concerning your child, the pager will vibrate and you should return to the Nursery area. When your child has become used to the Nursery Ministry and doesn't require further comfort, a parent/security tag will replace the pager. Either the green security tag or the pager is necessary to exchange to receive your child. If you choose to send an older sibling to receive your child from the Nursery be certain they have the pager or green security tag to exchange for their younger sibling. Thank you for cooperation concerning this since safety is our main concern for our Covenant children.

Nursing Mom's: A Nursing Room is available near the nursery Patio Welcome Station for nursing mothers. A changing table with supplies is also available in the Baby Lambs room for your convenience. A Baby Monitor is available upon request to monitor the sermon while feeding. Stop at the Patio Welcome Station to allow the Nursery Staff to supply you with the listening devices and to enter the Nursing Mom's Room.

New Members, New Parents and New Visitors: Please call me and lets arrange for you to come and tour of our Nursery areas. Let me show you where your child(ren) will be and what we are teaching them through our GPC Curriculum "Show Me Jesus". I would love to hear your concerns or questions and talk with you. Call Jennifer Nichols 770 422-4974 extension 1114 or email [Nursery@MidwayPCA.org](mailto:Nursery@MidwayPCA.org)

### MAY 3

**9:35** Sandy & Joel Kroese, Laura Klein, Julie Dykstra, Lisa Brock, Alicia Bartlett  
**10:50** Jennifer, Jackson, & Sophia Siewert, Shari & Allison Purdue, Jennifer Nichols, Jocelyn Pharr, Chris Cowley, Brandy & John Marchant, Becca Leslie Bryant, Charles, Priscilla, Ragan & Tabby Brock  
**5:50** Dave & Sandra Westerfield, Kimberly Smith

### MAY 10

**9:35**, Liza Hendrix, Theresa & Jeremy Fix, Cliff & Christie Cook, Susan Brookins  
**10:50** Kate & Connor Worley, Jeffrey & Paige Siewert, Nicole Neumeier, Larry & Mary Judy, Anne & Emily Hart Herbert, Kendall Butler, Gabe Bostwick, Bobbi & Michelle Mitchell, Whitney Brookins, Jeffrey Baxter, Leila Chumley  
**5:50** Pritchett Family, Becky Lewis

### MAY 17

**9:35** Caron Hobson, Ruth Dewhurst, Kelly Stout Lance & Sonja Cooper, Kim Matthews  
**10:50** Ken Dewhurst, Terri & Melody Kayler, Rachel & Sarah Howard, Rachel, Rebecca Michelle, Asa & Aaron Cooper, Jennifer Nichols, Julie, Sarah & Elizabeth Bell, Lori, Allie, & Katherine Peterson  
**5:50** Laura, Austin & Tyler Joseph

### MAY 24

**9:35** Shelley Remington, Jennifer Pursley, Shannon Howard, Katie Edwards, Cheryl Marsh, Christopher Braaksma,  
**10:50** Kim & George Jones, Emily Jones, Madison Braaksma, Richard & Polly Vogh, Will Howard, Zach, Nathan & Drew Bohannon, Mary & Luke, Will & Mary Grace Burton, John & Cindy & Isaac Tartal  
**5:50** Claire & Courtney Pursley Stefanie Smit

### MAY 31

**9:35** Karen & Dan Widner, Elizabeth Taylor, Janice Furlong, Doug & Dena Clapp,  
**10:50** Grace & Greta Taylor, Laura Keesee, Kimberly & Morgan Kennedy, Chase Wallen, Scott & Samantha Clapp, Katie Wichterman, Lori, Allie & Katherine Peterson,  
**5:50** Paula Wilson, Barbara Bokhoven, Emily Hart Herbert

# ***Nursery Ministry***

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## **JUNE 7**

**9:35** Bob Tango, Chris Spicer, Dina Dropp, Melissa & Laura Klein, Carol & Catie DeMar,

**10:50** Julia, Christy, & Maribeth Wichterman, Amy & Derek Spicer, Lee Tebbens, Keira Hall, Leslie & Taylor, Jennifer & John Nichols, Sam & Amy, Mattie, Sam Jr, & Mallory Griffith, Lori & Chris Cowley

**5:50** Julie & Leah Knox, Barbara Kline

## **JUNE 14**

**9:35** Susan Brookins, Tom & Anna Campbell, Jeannie Fair, Liza Hendrix, Becky Jackson

**10:50** Whitney Brookins, Denise Monroe, Heather & Anna Kate Cartwright, Leila Chumley, Sarah & Anna Dudd, Anna & Libby Hankal, Ann Kistner, Tammy, Noah & Nick Robertson

**5:50** Julie Bell, Charles & Kirt Moore

## **JUNE 21**

**9:35** Alicia Bartlett, Lisa Brock, Mary Katherine Keel, Joel & Sandy Kroese, Jean Ross

**10:50** Katie & Kimberly Burton, Becca Leslie, Bryant, Charles, Priscilla, Ragan & Tabby Brock, Emma & Max Jeffries, Jocelyn Pharr, Gail Griffin, John & Brandy Marchant, Shari & Allison Purdue, Maggie & Sarah Eller

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

## **JUNE 28**

**9:35** Christie & Cliff Cook, Kim Matthews, Theresa & Jeremy Fix, Julie Dykstra

**10:50** Samantha Clapp, Kendall Butler, Gabe Bostwick, Christina Rodriguez, Jennifer, Jackson & Sophia Siewert, Nicole Neumeier, Bobbi & Michelle Mitchell, Jennifer & John, Leslie & Taylor Nichols, Anne & Emily Hart Herbert

**5:50** Kimberly Smith, Sandra & Dave Westerfield

# Special People/Special Announcements

Happy Birthday to our Senior Saints!



## **MAY**

16 Ellen VonStein  
29 Billy Penrod

## **JUNE**

15 Pat Phillips  
16 Carol Roberts  
25 Julie Morrison

**Our expectant families:** Jennifer & Bernard Nolan, Linda (Bursi) & Phil Jones, Jenny (Still) & Jeremy Joiner, Paige (Richardson) and Nate Forrester, Liza and Matthew Hendrix, Krystal & Kyle Tigar.

**WEEKLY PRAYER TIME FOR MISSIONS** has a new location - the Berean Sunday School classroom. We meet each Sunday afternoon at 5:15 to pray through the letters from our missionaries. This a wonderful way to get to know our Midway missionaries and understand God's heart for the lost.

## Reformed University Fellowship

Any college students who are interested in the Reformed University Fellowship at KSU or Southern Poly, please contact Chris Bowen at [cbowen@ruf.org](mailto:cbowen@ruf.org) or 678-982-3212

## **Midway Covenant Christian School**

### **Midway Brings Home Olympic Gold**

Midway students recently competed in the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) District Spelling Bee and the ACSI District Math Olympics. Spellers in grades 5-8 earned a total of eight awards, with Lauren Craig being crowned the overall spelling bee champion. Anna Hankal finished second and Anna Beth Lewis took fourth place overall. The math team won six first-place prizes, three seconds and three third-place finishes. Individually, Katie Marie Tanner, Jacob Leigh, Katelyn Reynolds and Katherine Godwin each earned gold medals for scores of at least 85 percent.

### **From Gold to Diamonds**

The Midway Lions baseball team is off to a roaring start, winning its first three games of the 2009 season.

## Women in the Church:

*You are encouraged to join us as we study  
God's Word . . .*

### Weekly Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Meets Tuesday morning at 9:30 for fellowship; lesson  
begins at 10:00

Location: Fellowship hall classroom  
Nursery and ministry program for 4 and 5 year olds  
Contact: Sandra Westerfield (770-427-2336)

### Lydia Circle

Meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 10:00

Location: Fellowship hall classroom  
Nursery and ministry program for 4 and 5 year-olds  
Contact: Mary Katherine Keel (678-797-6289)

### Ruth Circle

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

Location: Parlor  
Nursery and ministry program for 4 and 5 year olds  
Contact: Ann Tippins (770-427-3607)

### Lydia at Night

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 7:00 to 8:30

Location: The home of Kathy Jackson  
Contact: Kathy Jackson (770-424-0740)

*Thank You!*

We wish to thank all of you at Midway for all of your prayers, food, visits and other thoughtful kindnesses to both Lela and our family during her illness.

Tasker Russell

Toni Anne Frey

# 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  
Ron and Gayle Clegg, WHM-USA/ Eastern Europe  
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  
Mike and Sheryl – Restricted, Atlanta area  
Guillermo and Jeannie Salinas - PEF, Mexico  
Jonathan and Kellie Sawtelle - CO, Samford University  
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  
CO -- Campus Outreach  
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

Nature hates a void. That is to say if you have empty spaces in your garden they will soon be filled. Weed seeds have a way of finding any unoccupied dirt and filling it up. Preventative measures like not allowing weeds to go to seed in the first place and covering bare soil with a barrier of mulch help. But there are no maintenance free gardens. Lower maintenance, yes, but there are always opportunities for a little weeding or watering or pruning.

Living out your Christian walk also takes some diligence. A life that is swept clean at conversion but not filled with worship, prayer and Bible study can be quickly fall back into old 'weedy' habits. (Luke 11:24-26)

Back in March, Rev. Phillips gave a sermon, "Participating in Missions Around the World". What is happening on the mission field can seem remote to us in West Cobb, but we can have a vital partnership through prayer and financial giving. Chuck went on to list what God does in answer to our prayers. He sends out more workers for the harvest, Matthew 9:38. The gospel is spread, II Thessalonians 3:1. The gospel is proclaimed boldly, Ephesians 6:19. God opens doors that have been closed, Colossians 4:3. Chuck concluded that the basis of hope for success on the mission field lies in a God who answers prayer. For when we pray, God transforms us and things happen on the field. You are invited to join a faithful group who pray each Sunday afternoon at 5:15 through that week's missionary letters.

As you pray please remember those going on short-term trips this summer: Jessie Kuipers to Peru, and Ruth Dewhurst and Laura Klein to Slovakia. If you are interested in teaching in an English Camp for youth in Slovakia please contact Ruth.

Our new facilities continue to give us new ways of doing things. Several years ago our sessions set aside the 5th Sunday evening worship services for missions emphasis. On the next 5th Sunday, May 31, we will have a church wide covered dish dinner Sunday evening. This will provide more opportunity to fellowship with our missionary guests. Unlike the new sanctuary the new fellowship hall can be darkened for power point presentations if needed. Watch your bulletin for more details.

Weeding time in the garden is a great time to fill your mind and heart with prayer. And please remember our Midway missionaries as you pray.

Becky Blades, for the Missions Committee

## **Midway to celebrate 96th Annual**

Memorial Day

**“The First Sunday in May”**

*May 3, 2009*

A memorial is something that keeps remembrance alive. For 96 consecutive years, Midway has set aside a day for that specific purpose – a day to keep alive the remembrance of those who have led us to faith in Christ and who have now passed on to Glory. All of us have someone in our lives who first introduced us to Jesus. May 3<sup>rd</sup> is a day to remember and be thankful for those people as we celebrate together.

### **What can I expect on this day?**

- An opening exercise at 10:00 in the 1985 sanctuary. Sunday School will not meet that morning. Following the opening exercise, the Decoration of Graves will follow, at which time children & adults will help to place flowers on each grave in the cemetery.
- Eleven o'clock worship
- Lunch brought from home and shared with others in the fellowship hall
- A 1:30 p.m. service and short business meeting of the Midway Cemetery Association where an update is given on the care, upkeep, and financial status of the cemetery.

### **Who participates in these activities?**

All who presently worship at Midway as well as others who trace their roots back to this church and to the Lost Mountain Community.

What should I do to get ready for this day?

- **First, know that this is not an ordinary Sunday.** We will vary a bit from regular routine to celebrate this event which has been observed annually for *96 years* at Midway.
- If you have flowers growing in your yard, cut and bring some to the church on Saturday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m. Ladies from the community enjoy being together as they tie the flowers in small bunches to be used to decorate the cemetery the following morning. *All are invited to come and help prepare the flowers even if you don't have any to share.*
- Plan to bring food & beverage for your family and stay for lunch on Sunday. *Also bring* plates, forks, napkins, etc. -- whatever your family would need if you were going on a picnic. All the food will be spread on long tables in the fellowship hall. Everyone is free to amble around, visiting and trying another's specialty dish.
- Prepare your children for this event. They should understand “cemetery etiquette and safety”. It is dangerous for children to run through the cemetery or climb on markers. This is a wonderful teaching opportunity – a time when families can be together remembering and showing respect for those in former generations who have passed the faith along to us.
- Come and enjoy the day's activities!

### **Cemetery upkeep is not paid for with regular tithes and offerings.**

It would be easy to assume that upkeep of the cemetery is a budgeted church expense. It is not. The Midway Cemetery Association pays for upkeep and needs your financial support. This association is a non-profit organization founded in the early 1960's with the goal of acquiring sufficient funds so that interest on invested money would eventually pay for perpetual care. The Midway Cemetery Association has no paid staff. Allen Scott has been appointed by the Session to provide voluntary service as manager of the cemetery to oversee the sale and deeding of lots, to stake out burial sites, etc. Our goal of perpetual care can be realized only when interest is equal to expenses. An investment goal of \$500,000 has been set. **To reach our goal, your financial support is needed; all donations are tax deductible and should be made payable to Midway Cemetery Association.** There will be an opportunity to give following morning worship on May 3.

Sandra Westerfield, Secretary, Midway Cemetery Association

# ***Midway Presbyterian Church***

4635 Dallas Hwy  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

## **ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE:**

### SUNDAY

- 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
- 5:15 p.m. - Prayer time for Missionaries in the parlor
- 6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship Service (Nursery ages 0-3)

### TUESDAY

- 9:30 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 a.m. - Men’s Early Prayer, Church Office Trailer
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. - Adult Study, Prayer Meeting

### THURSDAY

- 7:30 p.m. Young Adults Bible Study