

# MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Founded 1850*

# MESSENGER

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

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

Rev. David Hall

### WONDERFUL ENRICHMENT!

I want to thank all who worked so hard and provided for a wonderful Spring Enrichment Series (April 16-18). All the meals were outstanding, our attendance at each service was up, and thank you for inviting so many friends. Steve Lawson was a treat, and do find his books at our new bookstore.

Next year, we will have Michael Horton as our speaker. In between are several other excellent preachers: Joel Beeke will be in our pulpit on June 20, and Geoffrey Thomas (Wales) on July 11. These are incredible blessings, and God smiles on his church by bringing these world-class preachers to us.

Thank you again for all your help and participation.

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL ON JOYFUL PRAISE IN WORSHIP

For six weeks this summer, several Sunday School classes will combine for a 6-week series on “Joyful Praise in Worship.” I will be leading (with the assistance of Judy Dodd) a biblical study of the role of hymns and psalms in worship. We will also practice and learn some new songs. Along the way, Judy Dodd will acquaint us with some great hymnwriters, and we will deepen our understanding of why we worship as we do. Join us in the choir loft **June 6-July 11**. This will not be a boring time; I promise.

### EVENING WORSHIP: IMPORTANT FOR ALL

A church with both morning and evening services of worship is increasingly unusual in our day and age. We worship that way for a reason. Among our reasons are:

*First*, to reserve the Lord’s Day as a whole day (not merely a few hours) set aside to worship our God who deserves our best attention.

*Second*, to receive more of God’s Word and to be in his presence.

*Third*, as a witness to Christ’s resurrection each Lord’s Day.

*Fourth*, because we need all the help we can get!

There are many other reasons. If you are not already with us in evening worship, it is a great time to start. Our worship features song, prayer, scripture, and preaching.

Many other programs and groups will come and go; but worship will continue even into heaven.

Worship is so important that we want all to be invited. And our ordained leaders are expected to embrace and participate in all the weekly worship services of the church. That is a requirement in our church and part of their leading. Let’s follow the shepherds in this healthy practice.

### OFFERING FOR THE POOR

Next Sunday evening, we will begin receiving an offering for diaconal mercy ministries following our evening communions. Below is part of the rationale for that.

1 Corinthians 11 teaches something critical. Paul begins in v. 17 by stating that it is possible to gather, either for worship or for communion, and do more harm than good. That verse makes it plain that we are capable of doing certain things that so detract from this meal as to nullify it.

One way that he mentions in v. 18 is to come together for the sacrament with glaring divisions. This sacrament is designed to be a uniting means. It is to heal divisions as we lay down what we have against some members. Scripture warns us to avoid those divisions as much as possible but to especially take note that we not come to this table hypocritically.

A second way to nullify this supper is in vss. 20-21. There, if we eat like an animal herd, not waiting on one another, that too is contrary to what should go on in this sacrament. Paul criticized the Corinthian church for treating this meal like any other meal. In this case, folks who were hungry were squeezed to the back of the line and went home hungry. Others drank too much and got drunk.

Scripture argues that we have homes to drink in and we should not treat this supper as if it is some other meal.

## *Pastor cont. / Music Ministry*

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A third way to partake unworthily is to ignore those around you. Paul asks, "Do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing?" (22) This was certainly not a cause for praise. The ignoring of the poor, the humiliating of those who were already downtrodden and without provision, made the celebration of the Lord's Supper worse.

That's one reason why we wish to take an offering for the poor among us.

It is traditional in Presbyterian churches to take a thank offering following the Lord's supper. In the section on the Lord's Supper in one Directory of Worship, for example, it says this: "After a prayer of thanksgiving, an offering may be taken for the relief of the poor or for some other sacred purpose."

Thus the taking of an offering related to thanksgiving is not an innovation of your congregation but a historic Presbyterian practice. Such a thank offering is over and above the tithe and is completely voluntary, in the spirit of 2 Cor. 9:7: "Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver."

Westminster Seminary Professor Larry Sibley notes: "Calvin and the early reformers reintroduced the gifts for the poor into the main liturgy. Calvin's essay on the meaning and practice of the Lord's Supper, which appears in some editions of the *Form of Prayers*, draws a direct connection between the blessings given in the supper and our oblation of ourselves in service to God and further, to "holy offerings and gifts which are administered to Jesus Christ in His least ones, to those who are hungry, thirsty, naked."

The benediction of one of the earliest Reformed Liturgies in Basel in 1526 proclaimed: "Let love be commended to you, and especially love for the poor. The peace of Christ be with you." Communion with God was expected to lead to a communion of the saints. Is that not something we should glimpse at every Lord's Supper?

John MacArthur noted: "The church is one place--maybe the only place--where rich and poor can commune together in mutual love and respect. Jesus and the apostles taught that (cf. John 13:34-35; James 2:1-9; 1 Pet. 4:8-10; 1 John 3:16-18). Unity through ministry to those in need and those among diverse groups became the pattern for the new church as they shared all things in common. Christianity had broken down socio-economic barriers, yet within twenty years of Jesus' ascension, the Corinthians were starting to put them up again. The well-to-do were supposed to bring the food to the love feast and share it with the poor. But the rich would arrive early and eat all their food in their exclusive groups before the poor showed up, who ended up going home hungry." The Christian who is exiting from the Eucharistic celebration should examine his or her conscience on what can or should be done for the poor, the sick, the handicapped and the needy in general.

## MUSIC CAMP 2010

June 7-11

9:00a.m.-12:00 noon

It's back! Plans for Music Camp 2010 are under way. The Music Camp faculty is VERY excited about all we will be doing this year. The camp is for rising K5-12<sup>th</sup> graders, and is for all kids, music lovers or not! The purpose of the camp is to instill an understanding of the role of music in worship, a love for hymns and the psalms, and the musical literacy necessary to be an active participant in the musical elements of worship.

Each day will begin with an assembly under the leadership of Rev. Marc Harrington. Following the assembly, the children will be divided into four sections: Descant (K4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade), Melody (3-5), Harmony (6-8), and Counterpoint (9-12). We will have sessions in music theory, sight-singing, handbells and choir. Campers will need to be picked up at 12:00 noon Monday through Thursday. On Friday, all campers are invited to a pizza party following the last morning session, and will need to be picked up at 12:30 that day. All drop-off and pick-up will be at the back of the church under the portico. On Sunday evening, June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Music Camp Ringers and Singers will be a part of the 6:00 worship service.

A new feature of this year's camp will be Bach's Lunch. This session will occur Monday-Thursday from 12:00-1:00 p.m., is **optional**, and is open to **middle and high school students only**. Those who wish to participate will need to bring their own "Bach's" lunch. Drinks will be provided. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, and cover a little music history while we dine.

Look for the Music Camp Registration form in the bulletins during the month of May. Forms will also be available in the Adult Choir room. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. Plan to attend, and bring a friend!

# Missions

## MIDWAY-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES

Stanley and Donna Armes - MTW, South Africa  
stan.arnes@gmail.com  
Peter and Diane Bakelaar - MTW, Japan  
pjbakelaar@hotmail.com  
David and Stacy Bergmark MTW National Associate – Sweden  
dbergmark@gmail.com  
Chris and Jen Bowen – RUF Kennesaw State University  
cbowen@ruf.org; www.ksuruf.org  
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  
Roy and Kristy – Restricted, Asia

### 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

A few months ago I reported that through our gifts and those of others, Sebastian Heck our missionary in Heidelberg, Germany had been able to sign a lease on a facility that would serve as a church for their new congregation. I am now happy to report that on April 18<sup>th</sup> the first worship service was held in the new facility. Sebastian joyfully reported the following:

“We were able, in God's providence, to hold the **first stated worship service** in Heidelberg, Germany - the first Reformed presence and worship service there in roughly 150 years! About 45 people showed for worship at 9 am. For many of them, it was a first time ever experiencing a Reformed liturgy and worship service. The Lord enabled me to preach on Ephesians 1:1-3, the first sermon in a series on Ephesians, this time with a strongly evangelistic bent.” Let’s rejoice with Sebastian about the Lord’s provision for their young congregation.



Rev. Sebastian Heck preaches in Heidelberg

This month we were privileged to hear from Jim Tate, one of our missionaries to Ecuador. Jim reported to the Grace class about the ongoing ministry in Ecuador. Their church planting effort in Guayaquil is branching out to impact three areas of the city and the crisis pregnancy center started by his wife Caty has been able to purchase their own facility for ministry. Please pray for this ongoing work.

At our Worship service on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> we received a greeting and report from the Rev. Jean Paul about the continuing ministry and relief efforts in Haiti. Jean Paul reported that even through the horrible pain in Haiti, God is reaching individuals with the Gospel.

Please be in prayer as the Keesee’s and the Albania short term team prepare for their upcoming summer trips. These teams will be commissioned on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in the morning worship service. After the service a fund raising luncheon will be held in the fellowship hall. More details will be shared in the Sunday School classes.

Chris and Jen Bowen have requested prayer as they lead an RUF group on a two month missions trip to Kenya this summer. They will be taking a group of six RUF students on this trip. Chris is the RUF minister at Kennesaw State.

Summer is an exciting time for missions as many people go out from Midway and other churches in obedience to the great commission. Please be a part of this great endeavor through your prayers for and support of those who are going.

Jim Wolff  
For the Missions Committee

# Announcements

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## The Ray Kuipers Memorial Garden

The April 17<sup>th</sup> dedication of the replanted garden in memory of Ray Kuipers was a blessing to all. God was honored from the opening prayer by Wilson Smith to the closing prayer by Don Barnett. Patsy spoke about Ray's gentleness and love of all living things – plants, animals and children. The plants in the original garden were donated and planted by his coworkers as a way for them to work through their grief. Mary and Justin David have added a beautiful Japanese maple to the garden in memory of her Dad. So the legacy continues. Gardening has become for Patsy a connection to Ray as she continues to enjoy the garden he planted at their home. Patsy's words, about God's faithfulness as a father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow, was a true testimony and an encouragement to all who attended. We serve a mighty God who keeps His promises. Many thanks to so many of you who helped dig and then replant the plants from the original garden. Patsy, Jessie and Mary are most thankful for all your faithful efforts.



## Library News

Hello, Midway readers! Come by the library and check out our new titles. Among the new arrivals in the library you will find:

Hidden Worldviews by Steve Wilkins and Mark Sanford

Cross Talk: Where Life and Scripture Meet by Michael Emlet

50 People Every Christian Should Know by Warren Wiersbe

Faithfulness and Holiness: the Witness of J. C. Ryle by J. I. Packer

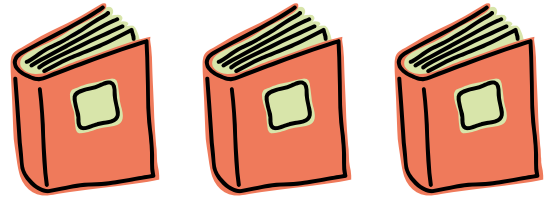
The Secret Key to Heaven: The Vital Importance of Private Prayer by Thomas Brooks

Bonhoeffer by Eric Metaxas

And new fiction:

Her Mother's Hope by Francine Rivers

The Hidden Flame by Janette Oke and Davis Bunn

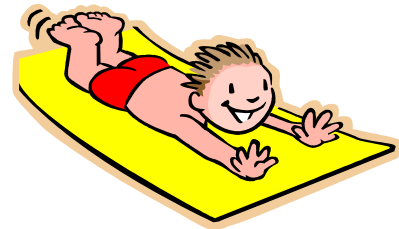


## Bookstore

News flash!--Midway now has a bookstore! Please visit our store display shelves located across from the "Coffee Cove" outside the Fellowship Hall. In a few weeks we will also have a store inside the library office. Until then, please check our new titles on the display shelves. You may pay by check made out to Midway PCA, in memo area please put "bookstore". We have a wide assortment of great Christian books, from must-read Puritan classics, to practical parenting help, to books to help you enrich and deepen your daily walk with the Lord. Read, learn, and grow! Come see all our **new** titles today!

## TABLETALK

If you would like a subscription to the Tabletalk monthly devotional magazine from Ligonier Ministries, the cost of a subscription is \$20.00 and Midway will pay 50% of that cost. A sign-up sheet is on the table near the main, front outside doors of the sanctuary. If you desire a subscription, supply all information requested on the sheet and put your \$10.00 cash/check (payable to Midway) in the envelope attached. Any questions, contact Wendell Way. This is available through Sunday, May 30.



## Children's Ministry

Rock Climbing Wall and Slip-n-Slide--Mark your calendar for May 15<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Families with children K4-5th grade are invited to Midway for a time of food, games and other activities. More information will be provided in coming weeks.

**Midway to celebrate 97th Annual  
Memorial Day  
“The First Sunday in May”  
May 2, 2010**

A memorial is defined as something that keeps a remembrance alive. For 97 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 but have now passed on to Glory. If you are a Christian, someone first introduced you to Jesus. May 2<sup>nd</sup> is a day to remember and be thankful for that person as together we celebrate Midway’s Memorial Day.

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

- An opening exercise at 10:00 in the 1987 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.**

How can I prepare 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 97 years at Midway.**
- You are invited to come and help prepare the flowers we will place on each grave on Sunday. We will meet on Saturday, May 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot near the cemetery. If you have flowers growing in your yard, cut and bring some with you to the church. We will tie the flowers in small bunches and ready them for the following morning. If you don’t have flowers to contribute, come anyway. Your help will be appreciated.
- Plan to bring food & beverage for your family and stay for lunch on Sunday. *Also bring* plates, forks, napkins, etc. -- whatever you 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 that it is dangerous for children to run through the cemetery or climb on markers. It is interesting to note the many old graves in our cemetery – some dating back to the Civil War. There are also a large number of markers for small children who died before the days of common antibiotics. These provide a wonderful teaching opportunity for parents & children as we consider the lives of those who lived in former generations, as well as friends and family members who have recently passed on to be with the Lord.

Please plan for and enjoy this annual event in our church.

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**PERPETUAL CARE**

~ A Goal of the Midway Cemetery Association ~

It would be easy to assume that upkeep of the cemetery is a regular church expense, and is paid for with our tithes and offerings. It is not. The Midway Cemetery Association pays for all cemetery 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 2.

Sandra Westerfield, Secretary, Midway Cemetery Association

***Midway Presbyterian Church***

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