

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

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FROM OUR PASTOR

Rev. David Hall

EASTER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

As February ends, we have only a few more weeks of frost and bitterly cold weather. It'll be spring before you know it. Much progress has been made in your church during the first two months of this calendar year. Of course, we have completed our moving—and thanks again to all who helped move, decorate, clean, and relocate. As March begins, most of that transition is complete.

A few other auxiliary tasks will take place in March and April. After all the temporary trailers depart, some significant dispersion of soil will take place. After that, weather permitting, final paving and striping of our parking lot will take place. We are told that our steeple frame is now complete and that the steeple should arrive soon. Final tweaking of the heating/AC noise in the sanctuary is ongoing, and the sound system in the sanctuary is being adjusted each week to some new conditions. Our organ should be completed in March, and before you know it, you'll be treated to hearing that fine instrument.

So much has been accomplished, and our building transitions—for which I thank you and all involved again—are nearly complete.

Meanwhile, Pastor Brock is assimilating what is most likely our largest New Member class, and we'll begin another one soon. Isn't it a great time to reach out and invite your friends to join us for some service?

The ministerial staff has just completed a long-range planning retreat, and we are planning for growing ministries in the spring and summer.

I continue to preach through the Gospel of John in the morning service. In March, I will have 3 sermons that focus on how our Lord Jesus prayed. God will use John 17, I'm sure, to spur us to greater prayer. And when you enter the sanctuary for worship, do please

spend some time praying for your church and all its ministries. As we work through John's gospel, we'll follow this inspired narrative as Jesus' passion is presented so clearly. It should be a wonderful opportunity to see Christ walk to the Christ and celebrate his resurrection.

It'll be Easter soon, and I'd like to ask you early this year to do two things for that: (a) would you especially pray this year for our Palm Sunday/Maundy Thursday/Easter services—that Christ will work powerfully in our midst and reach his people; and (b) please invite a friend, a co-worker, or someone else to join us for that service.

Thank you for all your prayers, support, faithfulness, work, and giving—even during challenging times.

CUTTING FLOOR

While preparing my sermon series on Joshua, I have consulted Calvin's commentary on that Old Testament book. John Calvin's final commentary before his death was on this Book of Joshua. He stated his intent to complete a commentary on this book in a letter of Nov. 30, 1563. Thus, while his strength was fading and his illness was encroaching, Calvin set his hand to leave insights on this book. Below are several paragraphs that show its continuing validity. The editor of the 1845 edition made this observation:

Such are the circumstances in which this Commentary was composed, and it is impossible, in reflecting on them, not to admire the indomitable energy which Calvin displayed in proceeding with his task, and in meeting the remonstrance's of those who would have withdrawn him from it, with the heroic exclamation, "Would you that the Lord, when He comes, should find me idle!"

From the Pastor cont.

A Work written at such a time, and in such a spirit, might justly claim exemption from criticism; but it has no need of indulgence, and can well afford to be judged by its own intrinsic merits. Viewed merely as an intellectual effort, it displays all the excellencies which characterize the other Commentaries of its distinguished Author: viewed in a higher and better light, it is his dying bequest to the Church — a solemn ratification of the whole System of Doctrine which he had so long, so earnestly, and so successfully promulgated.

On Joshua 1:6: “From this passage, therefore, let us learn that we can never be fit for executing difficult and arduous matters unless we exert our utmost endeavors, both because our abilities are weak, and Satan rudely assails us, and there is nothing we are more inclined to than to relax our efforts. But, as many exert their strength to no purpose in making erroneous or desultory attempts, it is added as a true source of fortitude that Joshua shall make it his constant study to observe the Law. By this we are taught that the only way in which we can become truly invincible is by striving to yield a faithful obedience to God. Otherwise it were better to lie indolent and effeminate than to be hurried on by headlong audacity.”

On Joshua 1:8: “Assiduous meditation on the Law is also commanded; because, whenever it is intermitted, even for a short time, many errors readily creep in, and the memory becomes rusted, so that many, after ceasing from the continuous study of it, engage in practical business, as if they were mere ignorant tyros. God therefore enjoins his servant to make daily progress, and never cease, during the whole course of his life, to profit in the Law. Hence it follows that those who hold this study in disdain are blinded by intolerable arrogance. . . . Everything which profane men endeavour to accomplish in contempt of the word of God must ultimately fail of success, and however prosperous the commencement may sometimes seem to be, the issue will be disastrous; because prosperous results can be hoped for only from the divine favor, which is justly withheld from counsels rashly adopted, and from all arrogance of which contempt of God himself is the usual accompaniment. Let believers, therefore, in order that their affairs may turn out as they wish, conciliate the divine blessing alike by diligence in learning and by fidelity in obeying.”

Calvin on Rahab and true faith

Rahab is a colorful example of conversion in the OT. Calvin contrasts her faith with those around her who melted with despair. He notes: “Here, too, we have

to observe how in a common fear believers differ from unbelievers, and how the faith of Rahab displays itself. She herself was afraid like any other of the people; but when she reflects that she has to do with God, she concludes that here only remedy is to eschew evil by yielding humbly and placidly, as resistance would be altogether unavailing. But what is the course taken by all the wretched inhabitants of the country? Although terror-struck, so far is their perverseness from being overcome that they stimulate each other to the conflict.”

Rahab “does not dream . . . that someone, out of a crowd of deities, is giving assistance to the Israelites, but she acknowledges that he whose favor they were known to possess is the true and only God. Here the image of Rahab’s faith appears, as if reflected in a mirror, when casting down all idols she ascribes the government of heaven and earth to the God of Israel alone. For it is perfectly clear that when heaven and earth are declared subject to the God of Israel, there is a repudiation of all the pagan fictions by which the majesty and power and glory of God are portioned out among different deities; and hence we see that it is not without cause that two Apostles have honored Rahab’s conduct with the title of FAITH.” She distinguished “the one true God from all fictitious deities, and at the same time so to extol his power as to declare that the whole world is governed at his pleasure. Rahab does not speak hesitatingly, but declares in absolute terms that whatever power exists resides in the God of Israel alone.” “Her voluntary surrender was, in fact, the very same as embracing the promise of God and casting herself on his protection.”

Come join us, if not already, for our evening worship and series through Joshua.

Dr. Michael Youssef, pastor of Atlanta’s Church of the Apostles gave a controversial and bold sermon on *The Shack* to his congregation last year. His summary was posted on his web site (“Thirteen Heresies in *The Shack*”) and is below FYI. The teaching of *The Shack* is in bold, with Youssef’s scriptural refutation below.

1. God the Father was crucified with Jesus.

Because God’s eyes are pure and cannot look upon sin, the Bible says that God would not look upon His own beloved Son as He hung on the Cross, carrying our sins (Habakkuk 1:13; Matthew 27:45).

2. God is limited by His love and cannot practice justice. The Bible declares that God’s love and His justice are two sides of the same coin — equally a part of the personality and the character of God (Isaiah 61:8; Hosea 2:19).

From the Pastor cont./ Assistant Pastor

3. On the Cross, God forgave all of humanity, whether they repent or not. Some choose a relationship with Him, but He forgives them all regardless. Jesus explained that only those who come to Him will be saved (John 14:6).

4. Hierarchical structures, whether they are in the Church or in the government, are evil. Our God is a God of order (Job 25:2).

5. God will never judge people for their sins. The Word of God repeatedly invites people to escape from the judgment of God by believing in Jesus Christ, His Son (Romans 2:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-3).

6. There is not a hierarchical structure in the God-head, just a circle of unity. The Bible says that Jesus submitted to the will of the Father. This doesn't mean that one Person is higher or better than the other; just unique. Jesus said, "I came to do the will of Him who sent me. I am here to obey my Father." Jesus also said, "I will send you the Holy Spirit" (John 4:34, 6:44, 14:26, 15:26).

7. God submits to human wishes and choices. Far from God submitting to us, Jesus said, "Narrow is the way that leads to eternal life." We are to submit to Him in all things, for His glory and because of what He has accomplished for us (Matthew 7:13-15).

8. Justice will never take place because of love. The Bible teaches that when God's love is rejected, and when the offer of salvation and forgiveness is rejected, justice must take place or God has sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross for nothing (Matthew 12:20; Romans 3:25-26).

9. There is no such a thing as eternal judgment or torment in hell. Jesus' own description of hell is vivid ... it cannot be denied (Luke 12:5, 16:23).

10. Jesus is walking with all people in their different journeys to God, and it doesn't matter which way you get to Him. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no one will come to the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

11. Jesus is constantly being transformed along with us. Jesus, who dwells in the splendor of heaven, sits at the right hand of God, reigning and ruling the universe. The Bible says, "In Him there is no change, for He is yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 11:12, 13:8; James 1:17).

12. There is no need for faith or reconciliation with God because everyone will make it to heaven. Jesus

said, "Only those who believe in me will have eternal life" (John 3:15, 3:36, 5:24, 6:40).

13. The Bible is not true because it reduces God to paper. The Bible is God-breathed. Sure, there were many men through 1,800 years who put pen to paper (so to speak), each from different professions and different backgrounds, but the Holy Spirit infused their work with God's words. These men were writing the same message from Genesis to Revelation.

News from your Assistant Pastor

Pastor Michael Brock

Listed below are the outreach plans for following up visitors to Midway. If you would like to be a part of a team of people who visit weekly, monthly, or quarterly, please let me know as soon as possible.

1. The goal – the basic goal of our outreach efforts is to do some sort of personal follow-up with every visitor to Midway.
 - a. at a minimum – we want to communicate that we know they were present and that we hope they will return
 - b. if they are interested in talking – we want to answer any questions they may have about the church
 - c. if at all possible – we want to sit down with them and enter into a conversation about spiritual things; learn about their church background; share the gospel with them.
 - d. if they are willing – we want to begin a friendship with them to help them grow in Christ
2. The people – I want *everyone* who is interested in doing some sort of visitor follow-up to be able to play a part in this process. In other words, Midway folks doing the follow-up may participate in this program *at the level he/she feels comfortable*. For example, if you want to simply do "a" above, then that's all you have to do; if you want to do "c" above (sit down with them to share the gospel with them), then by all means – do so. When it is your week to be "on duty" and follow-up with visitors, you can do the follow-up however you like.

From the Assistant Pastor cont. / Children's Ministry

3. The program – is as follows:

- a. The week before you have outreach visitation duty, you will receive an email from Michael Brock reminding you:
 - i. That you have duty in the upcoming week
 - ii. To pick up 4-5 visitor gift bags from Michael's office on Sunday (to be delivered that week; if you forget, then you'll need to swing by the church to pick them up before you actually visit)
 - iii. That you will receive an email from Michael on Monday with names and address of people to visit
- b. On Monday of the week you have duty, you will receive an email from me with names and address of people to visit sometime that week (the earlier in the week the better)
- c. You can either call them to set up a time to drop off the bag or you can simply show up at their house unannounced – *whichever you prefer*.
- d. Recruit someone to go visiting with you. Don't go alone. In the past, I have taken my kids with me; a spouse is a good person to go with you; a friend from church would be great, too.
 - i. At one time we tried to pair up outreach team members to go visiting together. This is too labor-intensive; it meant you were scheduled to be visiting more than most people wanted to be going out. Now, only one outreach team person will be "on duty" that week.
- e. At the home, you may engage the visitor in however much conversation as you feel comfortable.
 - i. Ideally, the Holy Spirit will be working on this visitor and they will ask you how to become a Christian!
- f. After you have attempted to contact everyone for that week, send Michael an email reporting on your efforts answering the following questions:
 - i. What kind of contact were you able to make? (None, because they weren't home – dropped off the bag; only talked by phone; had a conversation at

the doorstep; sat in the living room and shared the gospel with them; etc)

- ii. What kind of prospect are they? (They are not really interested – were just at Midway for a one-time, special visit; they are looking for a church home; etc)
- iii. Do they have any friends or family here?
- iv. Anything else that might be helpful to know?

Again, if you are interested in being a part of these outreach efforts of the church, please let me know.

In Christ,
Michael Brock

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Pastor Marc Harrington

For the last three months, many of Midway's boys and girls have participated in Upward basketball and cheerleading. Through this sport's ministry, our children are exposed to the gospel through weekly team devotions and testimonies and have the opportunity to grow as athletes in an environment of competition and fun. We have had over 25 volunteers serving as basketball and cheerleading coaches, referees and score keepers. For all who have worked in this ministry, please except my heartfelt thanks for a great season.

On Saturday, February 28th at noon, we will gather in the Midway gym for an Upward banquet where we will recognize the players, coaches and volunteers. There will be lots of pizza, cake and games so please plan to join us.

As we look beyond winter into spring and summer, I am excited about the activities and ministry we have planned. Currently we are meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday nights for a time of bible study in the children's assembly where we sing, have puppet skits and study the parables of Jesus. The children are taught in two groups, K4-1st grade and 2nd-5th grade, and have time when they're not being taught to play games in the gym. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help coordinate gym activities, please contact me for more information. We expect to continue this schedule into the spring and summer months.

In case you haven't already heard, here are a few more important dates to mark on your calendars:

- Music Camp—June 1st-5th
- Camp Westminster—June 7th-13th

Youth Ministry

Facebook and the Christian Faith

Pastor Joel Smit

By now you are aware of the cultural trend known as "social networking." These are web sites where one can post everything from pictures and videos, to likes and dislikes, what you are currently doing, and basically anything else you want others to know about. Essentially it is the modern version of a diary or journal, but instead of being kept under lock and key, it is accessible to everyone who wants to see it. While I am not opposed to such sites (in fact I have my own "page"), and whereas they can be a great way to connect with people that you otherwise might not; they do have their downfalls. Here is a great article from Dr. Al Mohler (President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY) that helps us and our youth on how to think and use these web sites with wisdom.

Thoughts on Social Networking

Facebook marked its fifth anniversary on February 5, setting a milestone for social networking as a cultural phenomenon. Just five years ago Harvard undergraduate Mark Zuckerberg launched the site and service. Just as Facebook celebrated its fifth anniversary, it passed rival MySpace in registrations.

Together, MySpace and Facebook report over 280,000,000 registered users. Those services, first popular among high school and college students, are now joined by Twitter, a micro-blogging service. Together, these represent nothing less than a major social movement.

Social networking differs from other Internet services by creating a virtual community of linked users, whose updates, photographs, and postings allow for communication anytime and anywhere.

Today's student generation, the "Digital Natives," know of no existence before cell phones, the Internet, e-mail, and text messaging. Social networking perfectly fits their lifestyle and worldview. They assume 24/7 social contact -- or at least access to this contact just a few clicks away.

Social networking is like any new technology. It must be evaluated on the basis of its moral impact as well as its technological utility. Social networking sites offer unprecedented opportunities for communication and contact -- and that is both the promise and the peril of the technology.

Here are a few suggestions for safeguarding the social networking experience:

1. Never allow social networking to replace or rival personal contact and communication. God made us to be social creatures that crave community. We cannot permit ourselves to substitute social networking for the harder work of building and maintaining personal relationships that are face to face.

2. Set clear parameters for the time devoted to social networking. These services can be seductive and time consuming. Social networking (and the Internet in general) can

become obsessive and destructive of other relationships and higher priorities for the Christian.

3. Never write or post anything on a social networking site that you would not want the world to see, or anything that would compromise your Christian witness. There are plenty of young people (perhaps older persons now, too) who are ruining future job prospects and opportunities by social networking misbehavior. The cost to Christian witness is often far greater.

4. Never allow children and teenagers to have independent social networking access (or Internet access, for that matter). Parents should monitor, manage, supervise, and control the Internet access of their children and teens. Watch what your child posts and what their friends post.

5. Do not allow children and teens to accept any "friend" unknown to you. The social networking world can be a dangerous place, and parental protection here is vital.

6. Encourage older friends and relatives to sign up and use the technology. Grandparents can enjoy keeping up with grandchildren and with friends and loved ones separated by distance or mobility.

7. Use the social networking technology to bear witness to the Gospel, but never think that this can replace the centrality of face-to-face evangelism, witness, and discipleship.

8. Do all things to the glory of God, and do not allow social networking to become an idol or a display of narcissism.

The fifth anniversary of Facebook is a milestone in American culture -- and a good time for a reality check. We were made by our Creator to be social creatures, but made for far more than mere social media.

(Article accessible at

http://www.albertmohler.com/blog_read.php?id=3248)

Youth Schedule:

- March 5 (Thurs.) – Final Cut-off Date for Middle School Retreat Registration
- March 15 (Sun.) – Homerun @ Warren & Kathy Jackson
- March 18 (Wed.) @ 7PM – In Concert: Nathan Clarke George (www.nathanclarkegeorge.com)
 - In the Youth Room: Adults welcome!!!
- March 20-22 – Middle School Retreat: Copperhill, TN.
 - Meet at Church at 4PM.
- March 28 (Sat.) @ 9:30AM – Youth Service Day: TBA

-NEED MORE INFO OR YOUTH SCHEDULE???

NEWLY UPDATED YOUTH PAGE ON CHURCH WEB SITE:

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

Music Ministry / Diaconate Report

From the Music Director. . .

“. . . And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:17-19.

The Agincourt Carol, known today by the title “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High!”, is a beautiful hymn with an interesting history. In the year 1415, King Henry V of England waged a battle against Charles VI of France in the Pas-de-Calais region of France. When the victorious King Henry returned to London, a celebration was staged, and this hymn was sung. The original words recounted the battle itself, giving praise to God for His grace and protection. The “newer” words, which are published in our Trinity Hymnal (#155), are from a 15th century Latin hymn, translated by Benjamin Webb in the 1800’s. The text outlines the life of Christ, from his birth through his death and resurrection. The final verse gives praise to the Trinity.

O love, how deep, how broad, how high! How passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals’ sake!

For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew, for us the tempter overthrew.

For us to wicked men betrayed, scourged, mocked, in crown of thorns arrayed;
For us he bore the cross’s death, for us at length gave up his breath.

For us he rose from death again, for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

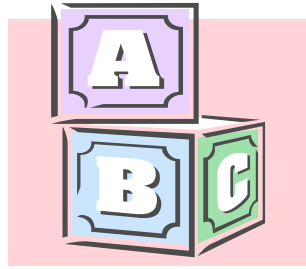
All honor, laud, and glory be, O Jesus, virgin-born, to thee;
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost, forevermore.



DIACONATE REPORT

	January-09	Year to Date
Undesignated Receipts	\$61,934.56	\$61,934.56
Over / (Under) Budget	(\$68,516.92)	(\$68,516.92)
Missions over & above	\$3,543.17	\$3,543.17
Ministries & Misc.	\$800.00	\$800.00
Expenses	\$126,314.24	\$126,314.24
(Over) / Under Budget	(\$11,007.18)	\$11,007.18
Cash on Hand	\$101,731.00	
Building Fund	\$5,358.64	\$5,358.64
Building Fund Since Inception	\$6,570,267	
Daughter Church	\$40.00	\$40.00
Daughter Church (Since April 2003)	\$13,280.00	

Nursery Ministry



“And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:16

Dear Nursery Volunteers,

Thank you for giving of your time, talents, love and patience to the youngest members of God's "flock" at Midway. Those of you who work with these babies and toddlers are carrying and holding the future of God's Kingdom in your arms. The nursery may not be the most “glamorous” or high profile ministry in the church, but it certainly is one of most vital areas of our church family.

Look for nursery reminders monthly in the Midway Messenger, Weekly in the Sunday Bulletin, and a few days before Sunday by a personal email sent to all the volunteers for the upcoming Sunday.

Remember to dress comfortably for playing, take care of personal needs (coffee, breakfast, restroom, etc.) before coming into the Nursery Welcome Station. Try to come as early as possible, 15 minutes is wonderful if you are able to and be prepared to stay until your replacement or the parents arrive at the end.

Please let me know if your preferred time or ability to help changes, or if your email or phone number change so we can communicate efficiently. You are on the list forever unless you request a change.

I would love to know how the Nursery has blessed you when you help, please feel free to send an email describing your Nursery experience. We are excited to have you added to our list and pray that you will be blessed as we know your presence will bless all of us in the Nursery Ministry.

When you sign up to be a volunteer:

- You only need to have loving arms, rocking chair skills, and a playful spirit.
- You will only be called to help one Sunday every 6 or 7 weeks for an hour at your chosen time: either 9:45 SS hour, @ 11:00 Worship hour or @ the 6pm Evening Worship.
- You will get to know the children and many families that use the nursery.
- You will have a special bond with many volunteers and the Nursery Staff.
- You will become familiar with another area of the church and feel more like Midway is your home.
- If you have children that are 10 & up, you may sign up as a family to help in the Preschool Nursery and serve the Lord together.
- Best of all: You will bless the many families, the Nursery children, the staff and **you will be blessed too.**

Sincerely,
Jennifer Nichols, Director
for the Nursery Ministry

Midway Nursery Ministry

MARCH 1

- 9:35** Dina Dropp, Melissa Klein, Chris Spicer,
Bob Tango, Tom & Anna Campbell
- 10:50** Jill & Lucy Barrett, Sandy, Katie & Kim Burton,
Anna Kate Cartwright, Chris Cowley, Sarah & Anna
Dudt, Amy & Sam Griffith & Family, Max & Emma
Jeffries, Laura Keesee, Derek & Amy Spicer
- 5:50** Barbara Kline, Jerry & Becky Blades,
Michael & Katherine Matthews

MARCH 8

- 9:35** Susan Brookins, Jeannie Fair, Becky Jackson,
Mary Katherine Keel, Liza Hendrix
- 10:50** Donna Way, Tammy, Noah & Nick Robertson,
Whitney Brookins, Sarah & Maggie Eller, Anna & Lib-
by Hankal, Ann Kistner, Jen Nolan, Jean Ross, Jenni-
fer, Jackson & Sophia Siewert
- 5:50** Sandra & Dave Westerfield, Kimberly Smith

MARCH 15

- 9:35** Lisa Brock, Julie Dykstra, Alicia Bartlett, Nikki
Allen, Joel & Sandy Kroese
- 10:50** Brock Family, Leila Chumley, Becca Leslie,
John & Brandy Marchant, Leslie Nichols, Shari & Alli-
son Purdue, Jeffrey & Paige Siewert, Jocelyn Pharr,
Kate & Connor Worley
- 5:50** Nancy, Phoebe, Calli Pritchett

MARCH 22

- 9:35** Theresa & Jeremy Fix, Caron Hobson, Ruth
Dewhurst, Cliff & Christie Cook
- 10:50** Anne & Emily Hart Herbert, Larry & Mary Ju-
dy, Gayle, Anna, & Lauren McLean, Kim, Michael &
Katherine Matthews, Denise Monroe, Nicole Neumeier,
Nathan, Zach, & Drew Bohannon, Ken Dewhurst, Cook
Family
- 5:50** Laura, Austin, & Tyler Joseph

MARCH 29

- 9:35** Doug & Dena Clapp, Lance & Sonja Cooper,
Jennifer Pursley
- 10:50** Scott & Samantha Clapp, Rachel & Sarah How-
ard, Terri & Melody Kayler, Bobbi & Michelle Mit-
chell, Julie, Sarah & Elizabeth Bell, Cooper Family,
Chase Wallen, Katherine Godwin
- 5:50** Stephanie Smit, Claire & Courtney Pursley Emily
Hart Herbert

APRIL 5

- 9:35** Kelly Stout, Shelley Remington, Shannon Howard,
Christopher Braaksma, Elizabeth Taylor
- 10:50** Kimberly & Morgan Kennedy, George, Kim &
Emily Jones, Kip & Will Howard, Lori & Chris Cow-
ley, Mary Burton, Luke, Will & Mary Grace Burton,
Madison Braaksma, Grace & Greta Taylor
- 5:50** Paula Wilson, Barbara Bokhoven

APRIL 12

- 9:35** Dan & Karen Widner, Cheryl Marsh, Patricia
Hall, Janice Furlong, Susan Brookins
- 10:50** Katie, Maribeth, Christy, & Julia Wichterman,
Donna Way, Richard & Polly Vogh, Lee Tebbens, Kei-
ra Hall, Lori, Allie, & Katherine Peterson, John, Leslie
& Taylor Nichols, Whitney Brookins

- 5:50** Charles & Kirt Moore, Julie & Leah Knox

APRIL 19

- 9:35** Carol & Catie DeMar, Bob Tango,
Tom & Anna Campbell, Chris Spicer
- 10:50** Laura Keesee, Melissa Klein, Leila Chumley,
Jill & Lucy Barrett, Amy & Sam Griffith & Family,
Anna & Sarah Dudt, Amy & Derek Spicer

- 5:50** Julie Bell, Barbara Kline,
Michael & Katherine Matthews,

APRIL 26

- 9:35** Becky Jackson, Jeannie Fair, Dina Dropp,
Heather Cartwright, Nikki Allen, Mary Katherine Keel
- 10:50** Jennifer, Jackson, & Sophia Siewert,
Tammy Robertson, Nick & Noah Robertson
Jean Ross, Jen Nolan, Anna Kate Cartwright,
Ann Kistner, Max & Emma Jeffries, Samantha Clapp,
Anna & Libby Hankal, Maggie & Sarah Eller,
Sandy, Katie & Kimberly Burton
- 5:50** Jerry & Becky Blades

Special People/Special Announcements

Happy Birthday to our Senior Saints!



MARCH

10 - Nell Hunter
19 - Barbara Hartsfield
25 - Ann Jacobs

APRIL

8 - Carolyn Kemp
14 - Buck Kemp
22 - Gay Ottinger



There will be two Saturday workdays, March 7 and 14, to re-establish the Ray Kuipers Memorial Gardener. A good number of shrubs have been waiting in pots to return to Midway. If the weather is good and we have enough help it may only take one Saturday. If you are available and willing please let us know by emailing bladesg@bellsouth.net.

Our expectant families: Kim & Brian Washington, Amber (Magee) & Dan Michael, Jennifer & Bernard Nolan, Linda (Bursi) & Phil Jones, Jenny (Still) & Jeremy Joiner, Paige (Richardson) and Nate Forrester, Liza and Matthew Hendrix, Krystal & Kyle Tigar.



*We join Linda and Matt Harris
in praising God for the birth of their daughter,
Elena Joy Harris, who was born February 16, 2009.
Elena Joy is also the granddaughter
of Elaine & Reggie Harris and Liz Vawter.*

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.

Thank You Notes:

Dear Midway Family,
Fred and I want to thank you for your prayers, visits, calls, cards, flowers and delicious food during my recovery from surgery.
Your thoughtfulness, concern and love meant so much to us.
May God bless you all,
Margaret Warren

The many displays of kindness to us during this challenging time have been very encouraging and uplifting, and we are most appreciative of your support. It reminds us of how important it is to be a part of the body of Christ, feel the peace that only Christ can bring, and how we are all encouraged by the gift of Grace that God freely gave us. Thank you for your gifts, thoughts, and prayers.

Kip, Shannon, Ben, and Will Howard

Diaconate Assistance: The deacons of Midway would like to remind the congregation that they are here to serve church members in need. During challenging times, brothers and sisters in Christ must not forget His command for us to love one another. Whether it's financial assistance needed due to job loss, accident, or illness, Senior Saints needing assistance with home repair or yard work, single parents struggling to make ends meet, or any request for assistance due to other reasons, please do not hesitate to contact a Midway deacon, pastor, or elder to request diaconate aid.

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
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
Ester Hunter – WBT
Tim and Lois Hunter - WBT Orlando/Africa
Gary and Linda Johnson – MTW, Sweden
Scott and Tracy Ketrow - CCC, Italy
Dale and Nancy Knudson - MTW, Philippines
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 - ABC, 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, 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
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

There is nothing quite as lovely as a vase of sunny yellow daffodils to brighten a day in spring. Early colonists from England brought the bulbs with them. Daffodils are not native to this country but are so tough their blooms are often all that remains to mark an old homestead site. Whether you call them jonquils, buttercups or daffy-down-dillies they all belong to the genus *Narcissus*. *Narcissus* is the formal Latin or botanical term for this whole genus of wonderful bulbs. Daffodil and *Narcissus* are often used interchangeably as daffodil is the common English name for all members of this genus. The 50 plus species of daffodils are divided into 12 divisions based on the shape and size of the flower. Within these divisions are hundreds of varieties with bloom times that can

stretch from late December through the month of May. Unlike tulips and crocus, squirrels or other animals do not bother daffodils, as the bulbs are poisonous. But you don't have to worry about a child or pet eating one, as the alkaloid crystals are extremely distasteful.

Like other spring blooming bulbs, daffodils are best planted in the fall. This gives them all winter for the roots to grow before the green leaves appear. Looking at a bag of hard dry bulbs it is hard to realize they are really alive with flowers sleeping inside. Many people are like that – hard and dry – with no sign of God's call to eternal life visible. Only God knows the heart and those whom He has called. We are not to judge or show partiality. The second chapter of James warns us not to show favoritism to the rich over the poor. *“Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?”*

Spring flowering bulbs also picture Jesus' resurrection. In the fall, dry dead looking bulbs are planted deep in the earth, like Jesus' lifeless body was put into the tomb. Beautiful spring flowers remind us that the tomb could not hold the Lord of glory. He has conquered death. The white of Easter Lilies add the element of purity and remind us that Jesus lived a perfect sinless life providing the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Because so many people around the world are trapped in works based religion that offer no assurance of heaven Midway supports missionaries to go and tell. Here are a few notes from the field. Complete letters are displayed around the missions bulletin board.

*A Navigator Africa Staff Conference running from February 27 – March 5 in **Kenya** has Bob and Patty **Meredith** busy preparing to host the 450 staff coming from 26 countries. Pray the staff conference will impact this new generation of Navigator leaders.

*Benji and Esther (Hunter) **Campbell** returned to **Papua New Guinea** January 28 following their wedding in North Carolina January 3. They continue to serve missionary kids there but as a married couple now. Pray for grace as they grow together as a couple.

*John and Kathy **Lesondak** have returned to Slovakia but to a new village. Pray for wisdom as the team presses forward and decides on new church-planting sites while continuing to nurture of the Fellowship in Trnava.

*The **Bakelaars** pray that as they live and work in **Japan**, that God will use them as a bridge to link the unchanging message of the gospel to the hearts, lives, and culture of the Japanese people.

*The **Ketrows** are amazed at how culturally comfortable their kids are living in **Italy**. Pray that the Carneval (lent – in that very Catholic country) would provide great gospel-centered conversations.

*Besides teaching and discipling students at the Bible Institute in **South Africa**, the **Wannemachers** are also part of outreaches into very poor areas. Because of Barbara's work, the public school has welcomed volunteer Bible teachers into grades 1 – 9 at Masiphumelele School.

*Dan and, oldest daughter, Isabel **Gregoire** are traveling in the USA right now for a couple of weeks. Pray for Rebecca and the rest of the children at home in **Slovakia**.

God has written **His Story** all over His creation. Take advantage of something as simple as a bouquet of daffodils to tell someone your redemption story.

Becky Blades, for the Missions Committee

Midway Covenant Christian School / WIC



MCCS All Under One Roof

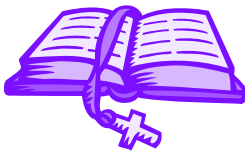
As the Midway Presbyterian Church family continues to celebrate its beautiful new facilities, the student body of Midway Covenant Christian School has good reason to join in. With the new building open, a hearty group of volunteers rolled up their sleeves and helped move the older students out of the portable units and under a permanent roof, while also shifting some elementary students from one room to another. Headed by Mel Bokhoven, Steve Furlong and Scott Hellman, this hard-working crew relocated 11 classrooms in three days, making it possible to get the portable units off the property more quickly than we had anticipated.

Put Me In Coach

Coach Harris has his Lions on the practice field getting ready for baseball season. The team will begin their season in March with home games at Big Shanty. For a schedule, visit the Athletics section on our Web site at www.midwayschool.org or come by the school office.

Back for More

While the uncertain economy has everyone a little on edge, MCCS is blessed with families dedicated to a Christian education for their children. Re-enrollment is underway and going strong. Classes are filling up quickly, but there may be room for new additions in the 2009-2010 school year, especially in the higher grades. For more information, visit our Web site at www.midwayschool.org or call the school office at (770)590-1866.



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 3rd 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 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 to 8:30

Location: The home of Kathy Jackson

Contact: Kathy Jackson (770-424-0740)

*Ladies of all ages are invited to share in the joy of one
of our covenant daughters.*

Bridal Shower Brunch
for Nancy Vogh

Saturday morning, March 21, 2009

10:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Nancy, the daughter of Richard & Polly Vogh, is registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Ladies, save the date:

Tuesday evening, April 28th

WIC Spring Meeting

A Celebration of God's Faithfulness

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