

Happy Valentine's Day



THE CONTACT

Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

February , 2007

Church Staff:

Rev. Heather McColl

Minister

Amanda Hatfield

Student Associate

Melissa Langley

Music Director

Ainsley Wagoner

Pianist

Rhonda Rankin

Secretary

Jestine Johnson

Custodian

Fat Tuesday
Pancake Dinner
Tuesday,
February 20
6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Sunday Wor- ship

9:30 AM: Sunday School

10:55 AM: Worship

123 East Bruen Street

PO Box 4548

Midway, KY 40347

859-846-4102

Fax: 859-846-9542

office@midwaychristian.org

Visit us on the web:

Midway Christian Welcomes Amanda Hatfield as Student Associate Minister

The Board of Midway Christian Church extended the call to Amanda Hatfield as the new Student Associate Minister. She began her ministry on Wednesday, January 17th. Amanda's primary responsibility will be working with the children and youth of Midway Christian Church and Children Worship and Wonder. Amanda will also be a vital part of the ministry staff of Midway Christian Church. Please help us to welcome Amanda to the Midway Christian family. You can send her a note of welcome to: 633 Maxwelton Court, TH 13, Lexington, KY 40508.



Welcome New Members

Charlann and Jim Wombles joined our congregation by transfer of membership on December 31, 2006. Notes may be sent to 208 Gayland Dr., PO Box 4462, Midway. Their phone number is 846-4455.

Please welcome them to the Midway Christian Church family!

Budget Update

Budgeted to date: \$84,502.36
Received to date: \$79,704.94

A Pastoral Word

This is always a hard time of the year for me. The days seem to get darker sooner and the weather seems to be getting colder. Usually during this time of year, all I want to do is curl up in with a blanket and a good book or hibernate until spring. I don't like the dark days and I don't like the cold. My wish is always the same during this time of year. Can't we just skip this part and go to spring? Can't we just skip the cold and go to the cool crisp sunny spring days? Can't we just skip the darkness and go straight to the light?

As I ask myself these questions, I realize that the answer is no. It is by going through the dark that we appreciate the light. And that is one of the reasons we celebrate the Season of Lent. We start the Season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service, a service designed to help us remember our mortality and our human sin. The imposition of ashes on the forehead is an ancient tradition that goes back at least to the tenth century. At the Ash Wednesday Service, we are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return as the ashes are placed in the shape of a cross on our forehead.

The Ash Wednesday Service is a dark service that gives us a chance to lay our burden of sin down before our God. It is dark service that helps create in us a clean heart so that we may be prepared for our Lenten journey. It is a dark service that reminds of our beginnings and our endings. It is a dark service where the seed of grace is planted and awaits the nurturing hope that will grow throughout the Lenten Season and spring forth new life on Easter morning.

Following Ash Wednesday, our Lenten journey will continue for forty days on which we learn and experience Jesus' travel to Jerusalem. We hear the stories of his teachings and his healings. We hear the stories of how lives will be changed and how the anger and fear of the crowd will grow. Our Lenten journey takes us through the valley of darkness where we will be reminded of many dark times in the lives of the Hebrew people, such as the rain that fell on Noah's ark for forty days, the Israelites wandering for forty years before coming to the Promised Land, and the Hebrew people who were in exile for forty years before coming home again.

Our journey through Lent is a time to prepare, a time to prepare the rich nourishing soil for the seeds of hope and grace, a time to prepare our hearts and our spirits for the life-giving light that is promised for all. We take this time in Lent to pray, to meditate on the scriptures, and reflect on our faith as Christians. It is also a time for the youth in our church to prepare for baptism and the promise of new life.

I am really looking forward to this year's Pastor's Class for many different reasons. It is exciting to be on this journey with our youth as they ask their questions of faith, discover Disciples' history, and develop mentoring relationships with the elders of our church. It is also exciting to be on this journey with our youth because this will be my first group to baptize! I have been a part of Pastor's classes in the past, before never in the role of the minister. I have to say that I am a little nervous!

The youth, elder mentors and I will take the next step together on our faith journeys as we look toward preparing for baptism. These youth have been nurtured in their faith by this church and now have decided to take the next step in deepening their relationship with God and with the church. These youth have invited me to be a part of a very important time in their faith journey as their minister. And they have been invited to be a very important part of my ministry!

So I invite all of you to join us on our Lenten journey by attending worship on Sunday mornings, joining us for Bible study, praying for the youth, elders, and ministers who are a part of Pastor's class or meditating on your journey using the Lenten devotionals provided by the church for your own preparation and prayer life. As we travel the next forty days together, preparing our hearts and spirits for the nourishing light of God, always remember that it is by going through the dark that we appreciate the light. It is by laying our burdens down that we are truly open to the promise of new life. It is by creating in ourselves a clean heart that we can experience the hope and grace of God.

Heather

Worship News and Notes

Worship Themes

You are encouraged to read the text for the day in advance



**February 4—Amanda Hatfield Preaching—
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Boy Scout Sunday

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Sermon: “From Now On”

February 11

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Luke 6: 17-26

Sermon: “Blessings and Woes”

February 18

Last Sunday after Epiphany

Week of Compassion Sunday

Installation Service for Amanda Hatfield

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Sermon: “Confidence in Christ”

February 25

First Sunday of Lent

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: “Do Not Put the Lord Your God to the Test”

Pastor’s Class

We will begin Pastor’s Class on **Monday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m.** and continue for about 7 weeks. All children and youth who are currently in the 4th grade or higher are invited to be a part of the class. We will be taking a look at Disciples history, baptism, communion, and the Bible. Please call Heather if you have any questions or would like more information.

Serving This Month

Elders

Jan Nance

Phil Burchell

Deacons

Jim Nance, Etta Manor, Jeanne Sturgill, Wilda Caudill, Bobby Riddle, Ouita Michel, Bob Rouse, Sue Roberts, Bob Settlemire, Virginia Ballenger

Worship Leaders:

February 4: Boy Scouts

February 11: Nao Hiro Hora

February 18: John Batts

February 25: Sue Roberts

Sunday School Classes

February Theme: Love

February 4—Valentine’s Breakfast

Four Types of love, primarily focusing on Agape Love

February 11—Study on 1 Corinthians 12, 13, & 14

February 18—Spiritual Aphrodisiacs and Romantic love in the Bible.

February 25—God is Love.

Bible Study

During the month of January, we began a 5 week Bible Study session on how to interpret the Bible. This Bible Study will finish up right before Lent. So during the season of Lent, Midway Christian Church is offering a Bible Study on the Book of Genesis. We will be using the Interpretation Bible Studies Series available on-line or at your local Cokesbury store for about \$7. We will begin this series on **Thursday, February 22nd at 6:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, February 28th at 10:30 a.m.** Please call Heather if you have any questions or would like more information.

Children's Ministry

Dear Church Family,

For those of you who were not on the search committee or who missed my brief self-introduction in worship last Sunday, I would like to once again tell you how pleased and excited I am to have been called to Midway Christian Church. I think this church can teach me many things I need to know about the Ministry, and I hope the things I already know can be used for the good of the congregation.

I would also like to tell you a little about myself. I grew up between the cities of Raleigh and Durham, North Carolina (about an hour east of Heather's hometown) and was raised in St. Paul's Christian Church in Raleigh. I began to teach Sunday School there when I was sixteen and began to consider ministry as a career when I was eighteen.

In May 2005 I received a BA in English from Meredith College in Raleigh—a private women's college of about 1200 students. I moved to Kentucky in August 2005 to attend Lexington Theological Seminary and am halfway through my second year there. Once I graduate I plan to be ordained and enter full-time congregational ministry.

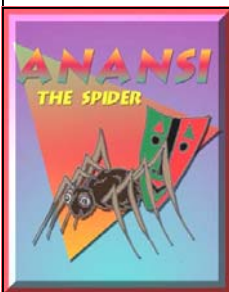
My parents live in Durham county. I also have a younger brother who lives in Raleigh and is working on a BS at North Carolina State University.

Thank you all for the warm welcome I have already received. I am eager to see what shape my future will take now that I have landed here in Midway.

Peace,

Amanda

February Activities for Children



On Sunday, February 11th we will be going to the Lexington Children's Theatre for a production of *Anasi the Spider*. The play is a comedy based on the traditional African tales of Anasi and is recommended for ages four and up. We will be attending the 2:00 performance, so we will have a pizza lunch at the church immediately following worship to allow us to get to Lexington in plenty of time.

Also on the schedule is a 'Movie Night' on Friday, February 16th. We will be going to see a movie in either Lexington or Frankfort. As of now what movie we will be seeing has not been decided—any suggestions are welcome!

Please come and join us for these times of fun and fellowship.



Acolyte Schedule

February 4—J.T. & Will
February 11—Steele & Franklin
February 18—Gregory & Clay
February 25—Nate & Jack

Children Worship & Wonder Greeter Schedule

February 4 & 11—Margaret Easton
February 18 & 25—Ouita Michel

Mission News and Notes

Mission Night

Wednesday, February 14

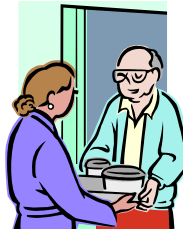
The next mission night will be Wednesday, February 14, 2007. The Cabinet will meet at 5:45 pm and the Committee's will meet at 6:30 pm. Child-care is provided.

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Meals On Wheels

Many thanks to the Meals on Wheels team that served the week of January 8:

Buddy & Gertrude Johnson, Adele Dickerson, Pat & Charles Wilson, Pat Settlemire



The next Meal on Wheels delivery will be the week of February 5, 2007.

Food Pantry

The Hope Ministries Food Pantry is in need of several items: laundry detergent, canned fruit, corn, ravioli, spaghetti o's, and cereal. Please remember those in our community who are in need by donating one or more of these items.



Also, the local food pantry, located in Midway Baptist Church, is trying to restock after Christmas. They are in need of everything. This food pantry serves our community and is used very often.

Week of Compassion

Midway Christian Church will be collecting a special offering for Week of Compassion on **Sunday February 18th** and **Sunday, February 25th**. Since 1946, the Week of Compassion offering has provide an opportunity for each of us to become participants in humanitarian work that expresses God's love to our neighbors far and wide-not just to victims of the major disasters that saturate the media, but to victims of the disasters that repeat themselves each and every day. Gifts to Week of Compassion support programs that help our neighbors around the world build lives and communities that are healthy, safe, and sustainable, making a huge difference in the lives of millions of families by creating sustainable sources of food for rural villages, providing women micro-credit to start poverty-escaping businesses, teaching trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines and offering children a chance to survive past the age of five and go to school. By participating in Week of Compassion, we can experience the joy of showing and sharing God's love-offering a hand to the stranger in need and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world.



Valentine Party for the Women's Hope Center Planned

Saturday, February 10, 1 to 3 pm

Missions committee is planning a Valentine party for the Women's Hope Center residents and their children on February 10, 2007 from 1-3 p.m. The committee will be collecting travel size hygiene products for the intake shoeboxes like we did at Christmas. Suggested items are *shampoo, conditioner, tooth paste, tooth brush, soap, lotion, brush, comb, disposable razors, baby wipes, lip balm*. Monetary donations to the shoe-box project may be placed in the offering plate with a notation for the Missions Committee - Women's Hope Center. Donated items and monetary donations are due Sunday, Feb. 4. Volunteers are needed to assist with the party. Please contact Rhonda before Feb.7 to sign up to go with the committee members to the Hope Center.

Fellowship News and Notes

Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting on Sunday, February 4 following the Souper Bowl luncheon .

Elders Meeting

The Elders will meet on Sunday, February 25 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Disciples Women

Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm



The Disciples Women will meet Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will discuss the up coming Conference and retreat. We will also discuss results from our women's surveys and make plans for the rest of the year.

Keenagers

Tuesday, February 19 at 11:30 am

On Tuesday, February 19 we will meet at the church and travel to Frankfort. We will have lunch at the China Wok. All persons, regardless of age, are invited to attend. This is a great time for fellowship.

Men's Group

The Men's Breakfast was a huge success! Twelve men came together for coffee and conversation at Wallace Station and decided to keep this ministry going. All men of Midway Christian Church are invited to attend a breakfast on **Saturday, February 17th at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** Phil Burchell will be cooking up something good to eat for all the men. Please invite your friends! Please call Dan Roller or Phil Burchell if you have any questions.

Hand Bell Practice

Hand bells will start again on **Wednesday, February 7th, at 6:30 p.m.** We will meet in the sanctuary. Please contact Melissa Langley if you would like more information.



Keep Our Visioning Team in Your Prayers

In response to our Board Retreat, the board officers formed a Visioning Group that will lead our congregation in process of discerning our vision and our mission for Midway Christian Church. The Visioning Group is lead by Adele Dickerson, Chairperson of the Board, and is teamed by Jim and Charlann Wombles, Phil Burchell, Ouita Michel, Jeannie Sturgill, Jim Nance, Buddy Johnson, and Heather McColl. This is a very exciting time for Midway Christian Church! Please keep the board and our congregation in your prayers as we discern where God is leading us.



Midway Christian Church has registered to be a part of the national Souper Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring is an effort to touch lives and teach youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities.

"We are called by Jesus to feed the hungry people we see," said Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) "I encourage Disciples youth to participate in this ecumenical grassroots movement to transform the largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring."

So after church on **Sunday, February 4th**, we will host a soup luncheon and help the children and youth of Midway Christian Church collect an offering for Week of Compassion. Please invite your friends and family to be a part of the Souper Bowl of Caring!

Community News and Notes



Farewell

A farewell reception was held after church on Sunday, January 14 for C.P. Williams. His new address is:

C/O Rockford Manor, 4700 Quinn Drive, Louisville, KY 40216

We wish C.P. all the best and would like to thank him for his many years of service to Midway Christian Church.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful farewell reception in December! It was a memorable and full evening with the Christmas Program, reception and Christmas caroling all wrapped into several hours. The gifts you showered me with are surrounding me here in my office as I finish putting "Christmas" away and begin to work on New Year tasks. They are a reminder of the love we share that will never be taken away.

Thank you so much for all the gifts: the generous check which I intend to use for my travels to Ireland in June; the beautiful Celtic cross picture and the lovely painting of Midway Church. What treasures you've given me! You and your many acts of kindness expressed to me during my time at Midway will not be forgotten. Blessings for a Christ-filled New Year of Hope, Peace and Joy to each and every one of you.

Love,

Joan

Year End Giving Statements

Everyone's year end giving statements have been mailed out from the church. There was a question about whether you could claim deductions for certain items like Ten Thousand Villages. We have done our research and discovered that you are not able to claim items like the Ten Thousand Villages or meals because you received something in return for your purchase. Only giving that is considered charitable giving is allowed to be claimed for deductions.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 21 @ 6:30 pm

We will have an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

If you are interested in doing something about "Raising the Minimum wage," "Saving the Mountains," "Restoring Voter Rights," or "Income Tax Reform", you don't have to be a lone voice in the wilderness. Join up with many voices from across the state to raise awareness and make changes. Contact KFTC (Kentuckians for the Commonwealth) leader Dave Newton at 420-8919.



General Assembly

Make plans now to attend the General Assembly, July 21-25 in Fort Worth, Texas. The theme this year is "Share the Feast", based on Matthew's account of Jesus feeding the crowd of 5,000. Online registration for the General Assembly and housing reservations are available at www.disciples.org/ga.

Midway Christian Church

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Midway, KY 40347

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