

Midway Christian Church

1844-2007

Heritage Month

Midway Christian Church

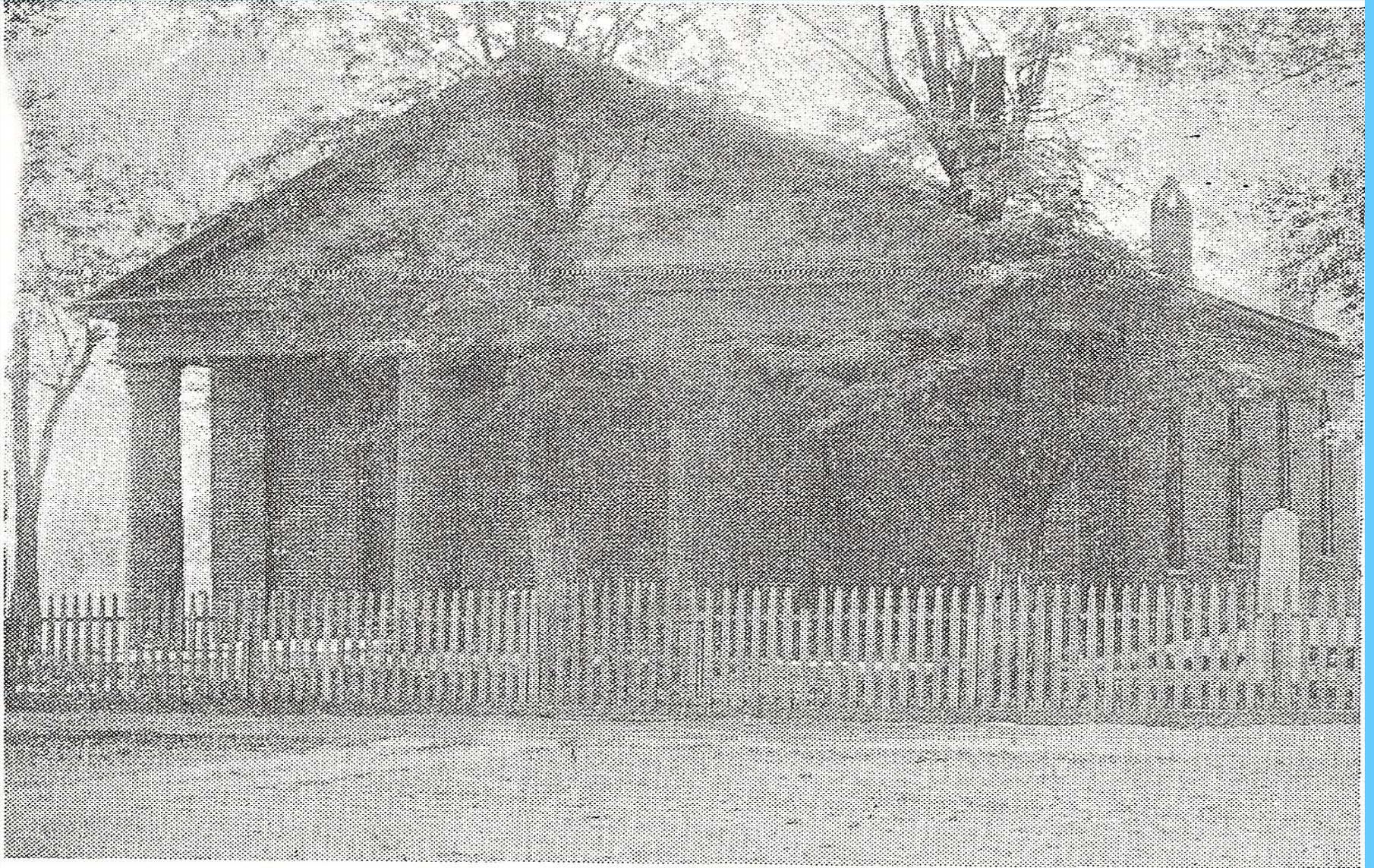
- The first members of MCC first met in an unfinished woolen mill.
- The first meeting was held:
“on Saturday, before the third Lord’s day in July 1844”.

The first minister was Dr. Curtis J. Smith and there were 32 charter members.

Midway Christian Church

- Membership began to grow and it was decided that they needed a church building of their own.
- So the new church was dedicated on December 25th, 1844.

Midway Christian Church



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- Lewis Letig Pinkerton soon became co-minister with Smith of this new church.
- He preached the dedication sermon for the new building and his subject was “The Name Christian-Why It Should be Used in Preference to Any Other.”

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- In 1859, the “incident” with the Melodeon happened, testing this newly formed church.
- At that time, no musical instruments were allowed in church. Dr. Pinkerton managed to obtain a melodeon to use for church services.
- He told the congregation that he was bringing this instrument in because “their singing was so bad that even the rats were fleeing the church.”

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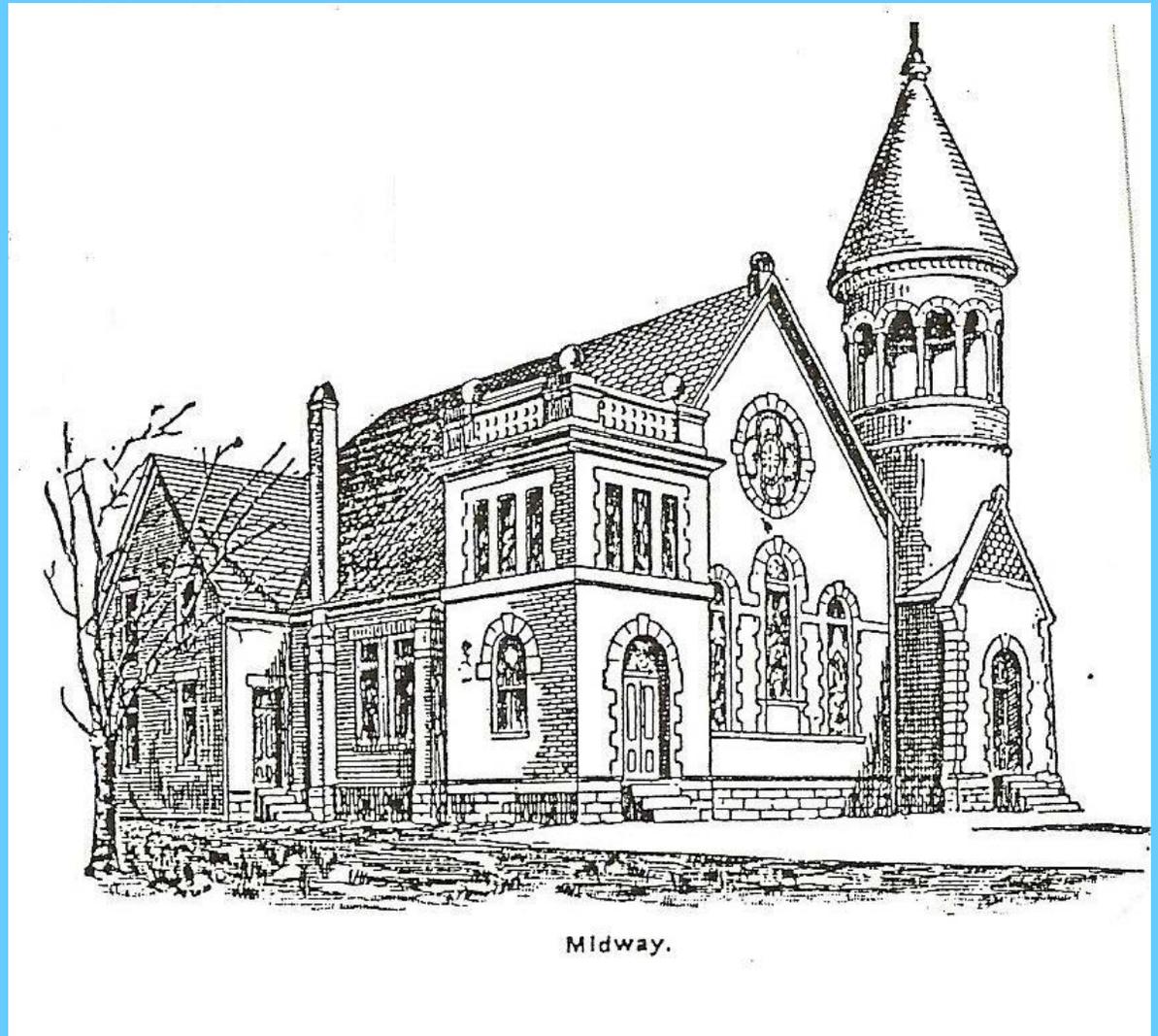
- Needless to say that not everyone in the church was happy with Dr. Pinkerton's decision.
- One man, Adam Hibler, decided to put an end to the discord by removing the "instrument of Satan".
- Late one night, he and his servant, Ruben took the melodeon from the building. And the instrument was never seen in the church again!
- This incident led to the split between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Church of Christ denominations.

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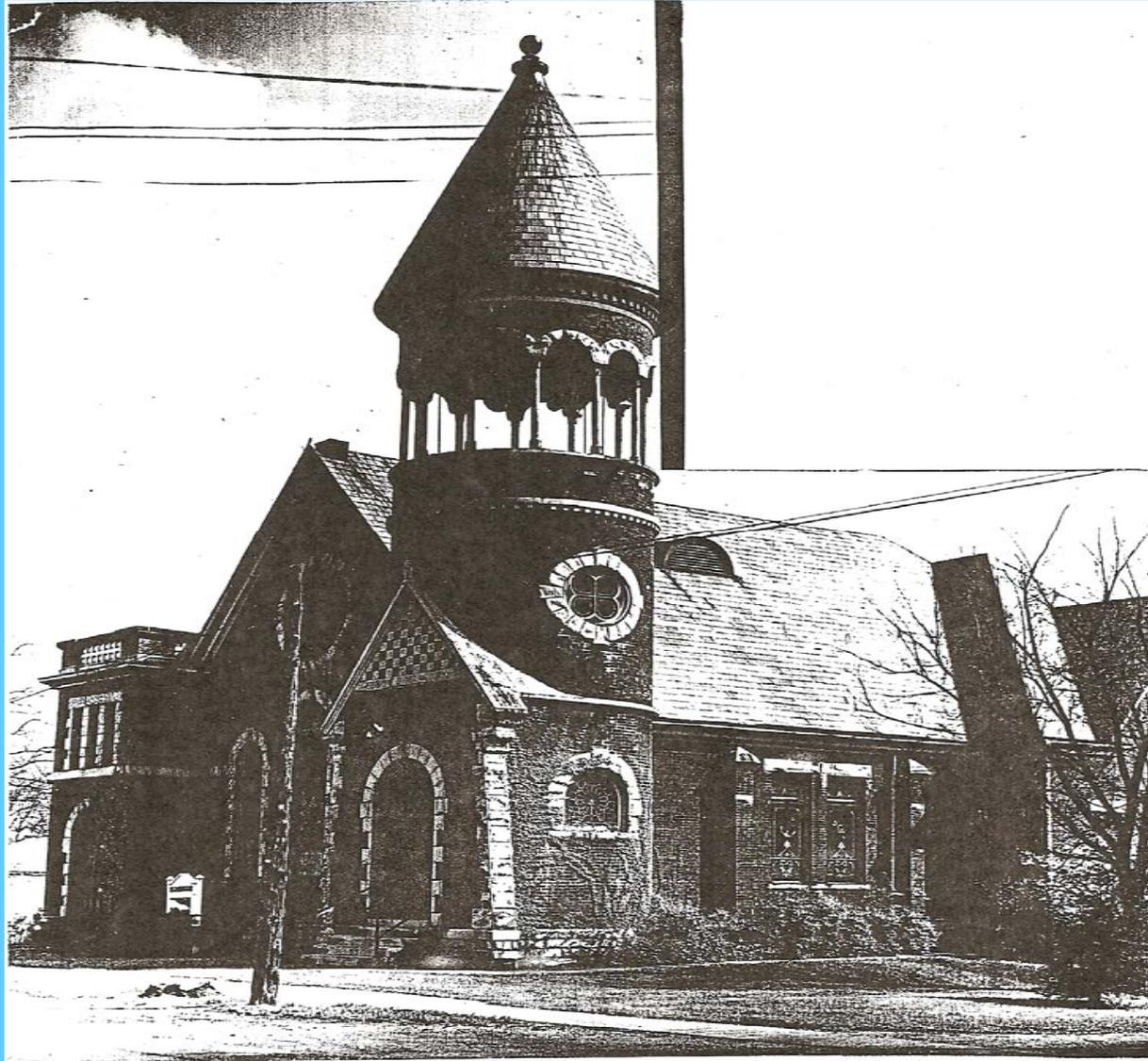
- It was soon decided that the church building was in need of repair. A committee was formed that decided the best option was to build a new church with lots of room to grow.
- So on March 31, 1895, MCC decided to build a new church.

Midway Christian Church

- So on April 12, 1896, the new building was dedicated!
- Notice the stain glass window above the Pinkerton window! It is bricked in today!



Midway Christian Church



Midway Christian Church

and

Midway College

MCC and Midway College

- Education for any children was difficult in Kentucky in the 1840s. For girls it was even more difficult and for orphan girls it was all but impossible.
- The beginnings of Midway College take place in a revival in Madison County, KY

MCC and Midway College

- Dr. Pinkerton was seated in the pulpit at Old Round Top Church when his eyes rested on the frail form and sightless eyes of a little blind girl and “then and there Christ inspired his heart to do something for the poor and the friendless; and the Female Orphan School rose before him as a call of God.”

MCC and Midway College

- So the story goes: “One stormy night in 1845 Dr. Pinkerton went to the Church to hold prayer meeting, but the only person who ventured out was one of his Elders, James Ware Parrish. They held prayer meeting together and then sat on, discussing the work of the Church. Dr. Pinkerton told of his dream of a school for orphan girls and Mr. Parrish eagerly and enthusiastically began to help him plan to make the dream a reality.”

MCC and Midway College

- So the Kentucky Female Orphan School was chartered on February 23, 1847.
- In the words of L.L. Pinkerton: “The Orphaned School is a chartered institution, and the property of our brotherhood in Kentucky. But had this church—its whole membership, male and female—not smiled upon the enterprise; had not some of her members made large sacrifices in time and money, it would not have been...”

MCC and Midway College

