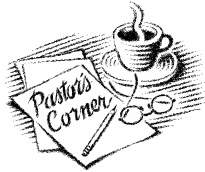




Midway Messenger

The Good News of Midway United Methodist Church

December 2009



“Just a Thought”

Dear Jesus,

We wanted to say hello. Midway UMC in Alpharetta is really busy getting ready to celebrate Your birthday. We hope it will be one that stands out in Your mind as one of the best celebrations ever.

Things around here have been going on as usual. A little mischief, some naughty, and some nice, but then You probably know that already, huh?

In this past year we have lost some special loved ones. For what ever reason, it was time that they came home, I guess (I still struggle with some timing issues). But I'm really glad that when they left from us; you received them into Your home. Now, I just want to remember them as the special gift you created them to be for us. Thank you for preparing a place for them and welcoming them. Give them a hug for us until we can do it ourselves, please.

Naughtiness and mischief have grown into evil in some places and we still have loved ones involved in war. We hope that You keep them safe and bring a quick end to the violence that has to be to protect us from violence that would otherwise vex us more.

Economic times are really challenging us now. President Obama says that we have turned the corner and are on the way to recovery. Maybe things happen quicker in Washington, D.C. than they do in Alpharetta and Cumming. I guess we are still pretty far down on the “trickle down” list of recovery. Many of our friends have to radically readjust their life styles and go without items for the first time. Please help us to recognize (maybe even appreciate) that there is a difference between necessity, need, want, and frill. As far as I can understand, You went from unimaginable wealth, power, and position into poverty and human frailty by choice for our benefit. Teach us the secret of such sacrificial love.

You know, we still have reasons for joy and laughter in these times. Nothing has dulled the sheer joy of watching a child laughingly play with a puppy or kitten. It is still refreshing and invigorating to laugh with friends and family

to the point that the silliest of things become the source of deep, full “belly” laughter. There is still great joy in the making, presenting, and receiving of a hand made gift. On top of all that, there is Fried Chicken, Blackberry Cobbler, Banana Puddin’, and Peanut Butter and Jelly, along with the thought that SMU could become bowl eligible (I don’t get much chance to celebrate my Ponies!).

We have some special events coming to help us celebrate. We will again be helping out with Christmas for some families at No Longer Bound. On Saturday (12/5) we will have “A Night in Bethlehem”. Then on Sunday (12/13) we’re going to have our cantata at the 8:30 and 10:30 services (I will listen but not sing out loud – I promise). Then on Christmas Eve we will have a Children’s Ministries led program with some help from many of our youth at 5:30 PM in the sanctuary. Then we will have special services in the chapel at 7:30 and 10:30 PM. Tell the truth, I know that You enjoy the laughter and smiles at the Children’s service; but I think You would admit that few places are more beautiful on Christmas Eve than our Chapel. I look forward to those services every year.

Jesus, we know that you are with us every moment; but we really look forward to celebrating Your birthday this year. If there is anyone special You would like to have there; please feel free to tap on their hearts and invite them along.

In Covenant,

Lee




Christmas Eve Services

5:30 pm: Children’s Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

7:30 pm: Traditional Family Service with Holy Communion (Chapel)

10:30 pm: Candlelight Service with Holy Communion (Chapel)



| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | 1 Upward Practices 6:15-9:00 | 2 10:00 Bible Study 6:15 Upward Practice 7:30 Adult Choir 9:00 Praise Band | 3 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 4 7 am Men's Bible Study Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 5 Night in Bethlehem 5:00-9:00 |
| 6 8:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 H 2 O Explosion (Small) 10:30 Living H 2 O (Large) 4:30 Choir Practice 5:30 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation Class 5:30 SNL 5:30 Disciple I 5:30 Disciple III 5:30 Companions in Christ | 7 Moms in Touch 10 am Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 8 Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 9 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 – 9:30 Choir Practice (Sanctuary) Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 10 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 11 7 am Men's Bible Study Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 Scout Lock In 6 pm | 12 9:00 – 12:00 Choir Practice H 2 O Practice 9-12:30 Boy Scout Banquet 4:30 pm to 9am |
| 13 8:30, 10:30 Worship Services Choir Cantata 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 H 2 O Explosion (Small) 10:30 Living H 2 O (Large) 12:00-3:00 H 2 O Christmas Program Practice 5:30 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation Class 5:30 SNL & Gift Wrapping 5:30 Disciple I 5:30 Disciple III 5:30 Companions in Christ | 14 Moms in Touch 10 am Trustees 7pm Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 15 Finance 7pm Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 16 7:30 Adult Choir 9:00 Praise Band Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 17 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 | 18 7 am Men's Bible Study Upward Practice 6:15-9:00 – Break for Christmas | 19 H 2 O Practice 9-12:30 Girl Scouts 9-3 WOW Christmas Brunch 10:30 am |
| 20 8:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 H 2 O Explosion (Small) 10:30 Living H 2 O (Large) 12:00-3:00 H 2 O Practice 5:30 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation Class 5:30 SNL 5:30 Disciple I 5:30 Disciple III 5:30 Companions in Christ | 21 We Wonder Closed until January 5 H 2 O Practice 9-12 | 22 H 2 O Practice 9-12 | 23 Church Office Closes at Noon H 2 O Practice 9:00-2:00 | 24 Christmas Eve Office Closed Service Schedule Listed Below | 25  CHRISTMAS | 26 |
| 27 8:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Sunday School No H 2 O Explosion NO SUNDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS | 28 | 29 | 30 No Wednesday Day or Night Activities | 31 Church Office Closes at Noon | | |

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30 pm: Children's Service (Sanctuary)
"The Christmas Shop"

7:30 pm: Traditional Family Service with Holy Communion (Chapel)

10:30 pm: Candlelight Service with Holy Communion (Chapel)



The Chancel Choir will present **"An Evening in December"** on **December 13** at the **8:30 and 10:30 am Services.**

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM A HANDS-ON HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE

Are you ready to take your family back in time? Want to make family memories that you'll treasure forever? And...have a blast while you are doing it? Then reserve December 5, 2009, 5:00 - 9:00 pm!

As soon as you set foot at Midway United Methodist Church, your family will travel back in time to ancient Bethlehem. You'll taste, see and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born. You'll find shops and activities for kids of all ages – so bring your family and friends! There's something for everyone!!

Choir Cantata – Dec. 13, 8:30 & 10:30 am

Join us for “*An Evening in December*”, a retelling of our God becoming a human being, becoming the poorest of the poor and the weakest of the weak...in order to give us His boundless, everlasting life. We pray it gives you a new glimpse of Emmanuel, God with Us, and fills your heart with a new song of thankfulness and praise.

Women of Wonder Christmas Brunch

We invite all women to join us for a great time of fellowship and Christmas cheer at our annual **WOW Christmas Brunch!** The brunch will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 10:30 am at Ginny Tibbetts' house. Ginny's address is 4536 Shiloh Road, Cumming, 770-781-4642. Please contact Jenna Hand at 678-513-7817 or jhandfsu@yahoo.com to RSVP, and to let her know if you would like to bring a hors d'oeuvre. We look forward to seeing you there!

For Your Information

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Dr. Lee Almy lee@midwayumc.org | Pastor |
| Melissa Barclay melissa@midwayumc.org | Business Administrator |
| Linda Caudill lcaudill@midwayumc.org | Children's Minister |
| Kyle Littlefield pastorkyle84@gmail.com | Youth Minister |
| Felicia Browning & Beth Dotson felicia@midwayumc.org beth@midwayumc.org | Preschool Directors |
| Amy Barfield amy@midwayumc.org | Fun Kidz Director |
| Jane Scudder jmscud@bellsouth.net | Music Minister |
| Danny Thomas dannythomas30040@comcast.net | Pianist |
| Marilee McNeely office@midwayumc.org | Church Secretary |

Midway United Methodist Church
5025 Atlanta Highway, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 770-475-5230 Fax: 678-319-0919
Website: www.midwayumc.org



| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 12/1 Psalm 24 | 12/17 Micah 4:1-5 |
| 12/2 Jeremiah 33:1-26 | 12/18 Micah 4:6 – 5:1 |
| 12/3 John 1:1-18 | 12/19 Micah 5:2-15 |
| 12/4 John 1:19-34 | 12/20 Luke 1:26-38 |
| 12/5 John 1:35-51 | 12/21 Luke 1:39-56 |
| 12/6 John 8:12-20 | 12/22 Luke 1:57-66 |
| 12/7 Luke 3:1-20 | 12/23 Luke 1:67-80 |
| 12/8 Malachi 3:1-18 | 12/24 Isaiah 62:1-12 |
| 12/9 Malachi 4:1-6 | 12/25 Luke 2:1-20 |
| 12/10 Psalm 126 | 12/26 Luke 2:21-40 |
| 12/11 Isaiah 9:2-7 | 12/27 John 2:1-12 |
| 12/12 Isaiah 40:1-11 | 12/28 John 4:1-42 |
| 12/13 Zephaniah 3:1-13 | 12/29 John 4:43-54 |
| 12/14 Zephaniah 3:14-20 | 12/30 John 16:16-24 |
| 12/15 John 6:25-59 | 12/31 John 16:25-33 |
| 12/16 John 6:60-71 | |



Mike and Dana Dalton and family in the death of Mike's father, Charlie Dalton, on November 8.

Judy and Greer Austin and family in the death of Judy's brother, Marion Key, on November 13.

**MIDWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
AS OF 10/31/09**

| Report Month | October | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>Actual MTD</u> | <u>Budget MTD</u> | <u>Actual YTD</u> | <u>Budget YTD</u> | <u>2009 Budget</u> |
| Total | | | | | |
| Receipts | \$37,902 | \$56,509 | \$412,521 | \$565,093 | \$678,111 |
| Total | | | | | |
| Expenses | \$36,485 | \$56,509 | \$445,749 | \$565,093 | \$678,111 |
| Conference Obligations Expense | \$0 | \$6,313 | \$10,350 | \$63,129 | \$75,755 |
| Program Council Expense | \$1,026 | \$3,146 | \$2,886 | \$31,458 | \$37,750 |
| Salaries Expense | \$24,267 | \$24,146 | \$239,791 | \$241,463 | \$289,756 |
| Admin Expense | \$1,178 | \$3,196 | \$15,987 | \$31,958 | \$38,350 |
| Bldgs & Grds Expense | \$10,046 | \$19,200 | \$175,867 | \$192,000 | \$230,400 |
| General Expense | -\$32 | \$508 | \$868 | \$5,083 | \$6,100 |
| Average Attendance | 229 | | 238 | | |
| Cash on Hand | | \$17,111 | | | |
| Accounts Payable | | \$7,527 | | | |
| Designated Fund Liabilities | | \$56,905 | | | |
| Balance on Building Loan | | | \$805,114** | | |
| **Light the Fire consolidated with building loan in August 2009 | | | | | |



DID YOU KNOW?????????

Jane Scudder and Neal Dotson have made a Christmas CD - they will be available in the Church office or from Jane. Cost is \$12.00 - (checks made payable to Jane).

*Notice from Melissa Barclay,
Business Administrator:*

All 2009 Gifts must be in the church office prior to noon on December 31 or postmarked on or before December 31.



The Midway Messenger is published monthly by Midway United Methodist Church. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to be a contributor to the Midway Messenger, you can reach the church office by email (office@midwayumc.org), phone (770-475-5230), or drop off any articles at the Church office. **The deadline for the January issue is noon on December 15th, due to Christmas Holidays.**

Midway United Methodist Church
5025 Atlanta Highway
Alpharetta, GA 30004
770-475-5230
Dr. Lee A. Almy, Jr., Pastor