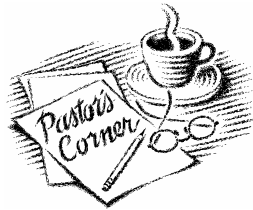




Midway Messenger

The Good News of Midway United Methodist Church

July 2010



“Just a Thought”

In the January newsletter, I proposed the following:

In 2010, we need to be intentional about creating “avenues and doorways” through which we and others can enter into such a wonderful relationship. The support we give one another is fine, the discipleship that we strive for is admirable, but in 2010 we need to pursue a deeper relationship with God. I would invite you to consider 3 questions in planning and preparing for your ever deepening journey:

- 1. How does this (activity, event, program, etc.) allow people to see Jesus?*
- 2. How does it allow people to see themselves as Jesus sees them?*
- 3. How does it allow people to see themselves as what Jesus knows they can become and that it is achievable?*

After 6 months, let's consider the items again. Have we thought through any of these in this year? Have we discovered any areas of success or incompleteness?

Have we even thought about them? If you are like me; life gets so very busy that things we most authentically, with the best intentions, plan to do get laid aside as we do those things we deem essential to do. If we do reflect, often it ends early with the promise to come back and consider those issues again. Somehow, “again” doesn't seem to come.

As we approach July 4th, our Independence Day; I wonder if we have followed the same practice. Are we aware of the privileges that are ours at great cost? Let's consider just a few of those privileges.

There is freedom of religion. Though some might try to turn that into freedom *from* religion; the gift is still astounding. We are free to practice the faith that brings us fulfillment; even if we find the most comfort in no faith; no one has the ability to tell us what we will and/or will not believe.

We have the freedom to participate in the choosing of our own leadership. I have always been fascinated that we choose to participate in that decision in an almost upside down way. By that I mean that we have a tendency to vote in greater numbers in the “larger” elections (President, Governor, Senator, etc.) and much less numbers in the local elections or primaries that choose the candidates for the different parties.

We have the right to express our views on an issue; which means that others have the same right. Though the view they espouse may make our blood boil. We have the freedom to, by an act of the will; refuse to demonize those who have different belief and value systems.

On July 4th, there will be picnics, fireworks, parties, reunions, and celebrations of all types. There will be time off from work (for some) and time to be spent with family. My prayer is that part of that day will be used for reflection and thanksgiving. Will we celebrate what freedom is, and honor its cost borne by others? I hope that we will. In fact, I pray we will do it more than one day a year; at least that's “just a thought.”

In Covenant,

Lee



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 8:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Sunday School NO SNL NO Men's Bible Study	5	6 ESL 6:30-9:00	7 8:30 Praise Band	8 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 Toastmasters 6:45-8:00 ESL 6:30-9:00	9 7am Men's Bible Study	10
11 8:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Sunday School 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 SNL	12	13 ESL 6:30-9:00	14 2:00-7:00 Blood Drive 8:30 Praise Band	15 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 ESL 6:30-9:00	16 7am Men's Bible Study	17
18 8:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Sunday School 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 SNL	19 Church Council 7pm Youth Ministry Week 9am-12 ----->	20 Men of Midway 7pm ESL 6:30-9:00 9am-12 ----->	21 8:30 Praise Band 9am-1pm ----->	22 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 Toastmasters 6:45-8:00 ESL 6:30-9:00 9am-1pm ----->	23 7am Men's Bible Study SIX FLAGS ----->	24
25 YOUTH SUNDAY 8:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Sunday School 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 SNL	27 Music and Drama Camp 9-3 ----->	27 ESL 6:30-9:00 ----->	28 8:30 Praise Band ----->	29 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 ESL 6:30-9:00 ----->	30 7am Men's Bible Study Music Camp Perform 6pm -----> Scout Camp-in 7pm to	31 Scout Camp-in 12 noon

CHOIR NEWS

There will be no adult choir practice during July. We will resume our 7:30 pm Wednesdays practice on August 4th. All joyful voices (no experience needed) are welcome to join us. We meet in the Choir Room, across the hall from the Youth Room.

We Wonder Preschool has openings for the 2010-11 school year in the 3 and 5 day Pre-K and the Tuesday/Thursday 2 and 3 year old classes. Please contact Beth or Felicia at 770-752-0440.



Thanks to everyone who supported our VBS, "High Seas Expedition" in any way! Whether you sponsored a matey, helped with decorations, served during the week, or supported this amazing ministry through prayer, YOU ARE APPRECIATED! "Big Hearty" thanks to our VBS directors, Michele Schuman and Stephanie Sumner. In addition special thanks to Tony Kennedy for his generous donation of the lumber, foam and liquid nails, and to Nate Brink for your generous donations – you are awesome!!! My right hand ladies...Carol Steppe and Pam Bryson, I thank God for you both and also for the honor of serving with you!

God has and continues to bless Midway with the most amazing group of young people.... Without you this VBS could not have happened! You all know who you are, and I love and appreciate each of you!

Building HIS Kingdom...Reaching HIS Kids!

Ms. Linda

H 2 O News....

There will not be H 2 O in July. H 2 O will resume on August 15.

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
Jonathan Foster jonny@midwayumc.org	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	



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 7/1 Psalm 23 | 7/17 Isaiah 43:14-28 |
| 7/2 Psalm 25 | 7/18 Isaiah 44:1-8 |
| 7/3 Psalm 27 | 7/19 Isaiah 44:9-20 |
| 7/4 Psalm 31 | 7/20 Isaiah 44:21-28 |
| 7/5 Psalm 32 | 7/21 Isaiah 52:1-12 |
| 7/6 Job 42:1-17 | 7/22 Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 |
| 7/7 2 Samuel 12:1-25 | 7/23 Isaiah 55:1-13 |
| 7/8 2 Samuel 19:1-23 | 7/24 Isaiah 57:14-21 |
| 7/9 2 Samuel 19:24-43 | 7/25 Isaiah 63:1-14 |
| 7/10 Psalm 91 | 7/26 Isaiah 63:15 – 64:12 |
| 7/11 Psalm 99 | 7/27 Isaiah 65:1-16 |
| 7/12 Psalm 103 | 7/28 Ezekiel 33:1-20 |
| 7/13 Psalm 130 | 7/29 Micah 7:8-20 |
| 7/14 Isaiah 30:19-26 | 7/30 Psalm 16 |
| 7/15 Isaiah 33:1-24 | 7/31 1 John 1:1-10 |
| 7/16 Isaiah 43:1-13 | |

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....



BLOOD DRIVE JULY 14, 2 PM - 7 PM, GYM

**MIDWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
AS OF 5/31/10**

Report Month	May				
	Actual MTD	Budget MTD	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2010 Budget
Total					
Receipts	\$36,600	\$56,509	\$201,903	\$274,877	\$659,705
Total					
Expenses	\$37,701	\$56,509	\$208,399	\$274,877	\$659,705
Conference					
Obligations					
Expense	\$0	\$6,313	\$10,531	\$27,931	\$67,034
Program					
Council					
Expense	\$46	\$3,146	\$407	\$10,521	\$25,250
Salaries					
Expense	\$23,904	\$24,146	\$118,925	\$121,840	\$292,415
Admin					
Expense	\$1,441	\$3,196	\$7,671	\$15,979	\$38,350
Bldgs & Grds					
Expense	\$12,410	\$19,200	\$70,686	\$96,065	\$230,556
General					
Expense	-\$100	\$508	\$178	\$2,542	\$6,100
Average					
Attendance	246		253		
Cash on Hand		\$29,761			
Accounts Payable		\$4,396			
Designated Fund Liabilities		\$77,563			
Balance on Building Loan			\$792,553		

2010 North Georgia Annual Conference
June 16-18
The Classic Center – Athens, Georgia

The theme of the 2010 Annual Conference was “Ordinary to Extraordinary: Wake Up and See Where God is Moving.” Bishop Michael Watson presided over the 144th Session attended by more than 2300 delegates representing the 922 North Georgia Conference churches.

Bishop Watson opened the conference with a sermon based on Genesis 28:10-19, challenging members of the conference to wake up and see where God is moving in our land, in this place. “Are you willing? Are you able? Are you ready?” he asked. “Because the power of the Holy Spirit is among us.” Bishop Watson identified many of the issues that can create barriers within the church, including differences in size, political leanings, finances, ethnicity, culture and social issues. “But Jesus Christ can transcend all those barriers,” he said. He emphasized our mission as United Methodists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. “It is absolutely vital that we fulfill our mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ,” said Bishop Watson. “God wants to do the extraordinary and tag you are it.”

The conference was composed of six sessions over the three meeting days. Presentations and reports were provided by representatives from the following disciplines:

- . Jurisdictional/Joint Agencies
- . Administrative Agencies
- . Connectional Ministries
- . Conference Related Agencies
- . Ministry of Laity

This is a summary report of the key events and facts that should make you proud of the work and activities that have taken place our conference in the past year:

- . 58 persons were ordained or commissioned for ministry.
- . Membership in North Georgia is now at 356,279. This is an increase of 2,185 from last year.
- . Camp Glisson celebrated its 85th Anniversary.
- . Volunteers gave 50,000 hours of service through the programs of Action Ministry last year.
- . \$121,600 was given to the Central Conference Pension Initiative. This is in addition to the \$1.2 million already pledged.
- . 669 churches paid 100% of their apportionments last year.
- . Volunteer conference attendees in support of Stop Hunger Now, a mission to feed hungry children, packaged 200,230 meals.
- . 6,522 persons made a profession of faith in North Georgia United Methodist churches last year.
- . North Georgia United Methodists gave \$657,391 last year to The Advance, the designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church.
- . Three new church starts were constituted last year. Four more are scheduled to constitute this year. A new church plant is being organized in South Clayton County.
- . A new initiative was announced that would seek to build relationships between the North Georgia Conference and ministry partners around the world. The first Bridge of Mission that launches this year is to Uganda.

- . Denman Evangelism Awards were presented to: Catlin McKenzie (Youth), Henry Fuller (Laity), and Sharma Lewis (Clergy).
- . Seven churches were recognized as Churches of Excellence in Outreach: Briarcliff, East Cobb, Elizabeth Lee, Loganville, North Decatur, McEachern, Union Point.
- . Five churches were recognized for Excellence in Outreach to refugees: Avondale Patillo, Dunwoody, Oak Grove, North Decatur, Northside.

The Conference voted and passed a 2011 North Georgia Conference Budget for \$25,295,067. This budget represents a decrease of 2.4% over last year. The Treasurer acknowledged the four primary fiscal challenges for this year:

- . Unfunded liabilities - \$90 million. This is for both retiree Health and Pension Benefits.
- . Simpsonwood - Continues to require subsidies from the Conference. Studies are underway to recommend options to move Simpsonwood to a more viable operational and financial position.
- . Lack of Conference Reserves
- . Declining Apportionment Payment Percentages – The Conference payments were 88.3% in 2008 and 86.1% in 2009.

If you wish, you may review a more detailed summary report of the conference sessions online at www.ngumc.org. This was our first opportunity to attend an Annual Conference and it was truly an eye-opening experience. We have a better appreciation of how our Conference supports its churches and the worldwide missions that rely on our contributions of service and gifts.

Allen Bachrach
Midway UMC - Conference Delegate

Carol Bachrach
Midway UMC – Alternate Conference Delegate

**JOIN US FOR MS. LINDA'S MUSIC AND
DRAMA CAMP!**

July 26th – July 30th

9:00-3:00

Friday Performance 6:00pm

Rising 3rd graders and up

We proudly present “*The Promise Cruise*”

Join the “*WAKE UP! WORLD*” television news-show hosts as their guests tell the story of God's saving grace—a message just as relevant today as in Noah's time. Through the flood, God preserved Noah in the ark, a picture of our life in Christ. These clever and entertaining songs will help your children remember the redeeming love of our Lord long after your production. From talking animals to power tools, this musical will appeal to everyone.

COST: \$150.00 per participant
10% discount for 2nd family member
Parents will need to provide a packed lunch and drink each day of camp. A morning snack will be provided.

QUESTIONS?

Call Ms. Linda: 678-361-3809 cell or
Via e-mail; lindabsn@bellsouth.net;
lcaudill@midwayumc.org

Camp will be contingent upon the number of participants. First come - first serve basis.
(Maximum number 20)

All registrations must be received no later than Wednesday, July 7, 2010.



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 August issue is noon on July 26th.**

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