



Words Along the Way

Monthly Newsletter

March 2015

Mark your Calendar

- 4-7 *Love Haiti Benefit Concert*
- 4-14 *EBA WMU Prayer Breakfast*
- 4-15 *Love Haiti Pancake Breakfast*
- 4-15 *Sarah Taylor's Baby Shower*
- 4-20 *First Day of Spring*
- 4-22 *Deacon Ordination*
- 4-29 *Palm Sunday*
- 4-30 *Spring Break Begins*
- 4-30 *Feed the Hungry*

Reminder:

WMU Meeting

March 4, 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study Every Sunday Night –
5:00 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time Begins –
Move clocks forward – March 7

Good Friday Service – April 3 at
7:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt – April 4
at 3:00 p.m.–Northside Elem

Pastor's Insight

(Continued on page 2)

My friend and former coordinator of CBF of South Carolina, Marion Aldridge, wrote a very meaningful article I want to share with you as we dream about God's future together.

"I have coined a new word: CHURCHCRAFT. *What I mean by Churchcraft is an individual's ability to say and do the things that will help to build the organized church.* My observation is that a lack of Churchcraft is the number one reason churches and pastors fail. In the 20th century, I might have called it churchcraftsmanship. Some people think I'm referring exclusively to the "soft skills" that pastors, staff and laity need for a church to succeed—the ability to negotiate, to compromise, to listen, to sell an idea, to understand limits, to provide leadership, to exhibit social graces—and I do mean those. God help the church's pastor, staff or lay leadership are bulls in a china shop!

But Churchcraft is much more. It is also...

- The ability to conceive, develop, implement and evaluate an event.
- The ability to create a plan to overcome a budget deficit.
- Time management, showing up, being on time, finishing the task.
- Work ethic
- Knowing when to speak prophetic and challenging words and when to say pastoral or encouraging words
- Understanding congregational history, and the ability to recognize congregational landmines.
- The ability not to create congregational landmines!
- Making sure that buildings are maintained.
- Discovering and honoring appropriate congregational rituals.

**Dr. Molly Marshall,
Featured Pulpit Guest
Annual Women's
Day • March 1, 2015**

Combined Worship Service

Dr. Molly Marshall will be our featured guest on March 1st as we celebrate the Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching. Sponsored by the Baptist Women in Ministry, The event is both a celebration of women in the pulpit and an opportunity to educate congregations about women in ministry.

Dr. Marshall, President and Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation of Central Baptist Theological Seminary states on her bio *"I view my vocation as an "equipper of ministers," a midwife of grace who helps deliver what I discern is struggling to be born in the lives of students. Theological education is a process of discovering and refining calling and gifts—learning where one's "great gladness meets the world's deep need," in the words of Frederick Buechner.* Dr. Marshall served as Pastor Steve's Doctor of Ministry Supervisor and he is very honored to be one of her students.

Women's Day at Midway Baptist is a celebration of the calling and gifts of women, and a reminder that God does indeed call women to the work of the kingdom.



Pastor's Insight (Continued)

- Knowing when new skill sets are needed and then learning them (or enlisting someone who has them).
- Understanding when you need to recruit volunteers and then delegating responsibility to them.

The two most common enemies of Churchcraft are probably 1) ego, which is a character issue, and 2) lack of intelligence, which is a capacity issue.

That Ego is a problem is obvious. When a pastor, a deacon chair, or Sunday school teacher thinks he or she is always right, there is no room for growth, change or compromise. Absolute certainty may be good for some things but it is rarely helpful in a Baptist congregation. We have all heard of or experienced ecclesiastical horror stories about people who were willing to split a church over the color of the carpet. One way of expressing this predicament is by asking, "Is this the hill I want to die on?" or "Is this the hill I want this church to die on? (which helpfully reminds us that Jesus' death on the cross was for the salvation of the world and not about the color of the carpet!).

The other enemy of good Churchcraft is ignorance. Some cannot hold complex thoughts in their minds. Their world is black and white, all or nothing, right and wrong, good and evil, and anyone who thinks differently than they do they believe to be demonic. Even when I am right, surely there is something I can learn from the "opposition." Some people, even in the church, do have the gift of empathy. These people should not be elected as congregational leaders.

When the Deep South finally integrated, the NAACP adopted a policy of gradualism, of incremental change. The alternative to incremental change is revolution. Jesus, of course, was (and is) a radical, and not the best example of someone working within an institution. He preached utter and immediate transformation, and he was murdered. Christians, according to Reinhold Niebuhr, need to make a personal decision about whether they will be prophetic (and likely end up as martyrs) or, alternatively, work within the system.

Some people are called to hang in there with the spiritual skill of organizational leadership. Pastors and staff must have this gift and hopefully, every church will have laity who are able to take the long view. Gossips, saboteurs, blamers, second-guessers, the ignorant, the petty, the irresponsible and the fearful do not have either the capacity or the character to possess Churchcraft. Churchcraft involves building coalitions of very different people. Any pastor who doesn't pay attention to choirs and to the people who love music is foolish. A good church leader tries to make a place, even in the most conservative congregations, for the boundary-stretching rowdiness and the challenges of the younger generation. Any pastor or deacon chair who does not know congregational members have different collegiate and political loyalties is naive. Saints and Sinners! Maybe one of the best descriptions of a successful Christian congregation is that it is full of grace and radically inclusive!

I never said Churchcraft was easy, just that it is necessary."

Let's GROW the church together with God.

Your friend and pastor,

Steve

Woodford

Habitat for Humanity

Doug Searcy would like the church community here in Midway to help spread the word that there will be a Habitat Midway build at 209 E. Stephens Street this year probably starting in May. They are in need of some building leadership for example, someone to oversee the build much like Ron Miller did on the latest house built in Midway on Winter Street. Habitat would certainly consult with this person but this leader would set the work schedule and be on site most days anyone is working. Habitat would send them volunteers and have experienced volunteers working as well. Habitat would like for the church community to except this as a local mission opportunity and hope that area churches will be more involved with the build this year. We will not be asking the churches to raise funds. Habitat already has the money to build this house. Doug Searcy says that it is sometimes harder to get mission volunteers to work locally than it is to send delegations to some foreign place. Habitat is praying that it might be easier to get area friends involved since it is right here at home. They appreciate all the help with last year's build. The project turned out great. If anyone is interested, please contact Woodford Habitat for Humanity at 859-333-0440 or email woodfordhabitatforhumanity@live.com. Please leave your name, number, and email address. They are also taking applications for buying a habitat house. The home in Midway will be an energy efficient 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath home on a large lot suitable for a family of 4 or more people. Family income between \$20,000 and \$50,000 depending on family size are being considered.

1st Day of Spring

March 20th



Thank you

Thank you to the wonderful WMU ladies who prepared the Valentine goodies. Thank you to all who had any part in preparing and bringing the delicious nutritious meals. A very special thank you for the much needed groceries. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. My prayer is that God will richly bless you for your kindness. – *Midway Apt. Resident*

The Blessings of Spring

by Deborah Ann Belka

There are many blessings, that each new Spring brings you can see it bloom about and hear the song it sings.

With winters bleakness over, and brighter days ahead comes promises of new life Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers, and their buds begin to show He gives to us the assurance grace in our hearts will grow.

He sends us the robin's song, with the promise to provide a shelter under His mighty wing where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snowy covers, and sends the refreshing rain sprinkling us with His mercies to heal winter's ache and pain.

God's given to all His Son, to shed upon us a new light and the real blessing of Spring . . . is keeping Jesus in our sight!

Song of Solomon 2: 11-12 (KJV)

“For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land;”

Zechariah 10:1 (NIV)

Ask the LORD for rain in the **springtime**; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.

Sunday School

March Madness Begins!

March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

On March 1st, Midway Baptist Church will begin its own version of "March Madness". On March 1st, all 17 Sunday school classes will be matched up one-on-one (there will be one "play-in game": Young Adults vs. Praise Band) with another class in an NCAA tournament style bracket; the tournament bracket will be posted on the bulletin board next to the sanctuary. Each class can score points three ways: 1 point for each person in attendance, 3 points for a visitor to the class, and 5 points if all persons on your Sunday school sheet are in attendance.

The class that scores the most points wins and moves on in the tournament! Don't worry if you don't win the first week, you will still have a chance to win. After each team's first loss, they will begin head-to-head match-ups with other classes to determine two other winners.

In the end, we will have three winners! We will have 1) an overall tournament winner, 2) team with most points scored, and 3) the team with the most visitors.

Keep your eyes on the bulletin board for "March Madness Match-ups" and final scores as each week passes. So go forth: come to Sunday school, invite a friend and Good Luck!

Sunday School

Every Sunday morning at 9:45, Sunday school provides the opportunity for you to grow and learn with others. Sunday school classes are set up for you to feel comfortable and challenged. You can share your burdens and support others during their hard times. It's also a fun place to get together with genuine people who desire to pursue Christ. Also, this is a place to draw deeper and closer to God and others. We have a wide range of Sunday school classes, locations, and teachers—a class for every age group. Come grow with us! For additional information see Cody, Kenny Tackett or Ashley Brown

Nursery

College & Young Adults - 100

2-3 - 101

K-1 - 103

Pre K - 105

Fellowship - 106

Golden Circle - 107

Adults - Gathering Place

Women - 109

Lamplighters - 110 (corner next to kitchen)

Couples I - 112 (corner opposite of kitchen)

Men - 201 (upstairs mall room)

Couples II - 202 (Upstairs large room)



Youth in Action



MISSIONFUGE CAMP

July 5th—12th

Charleston, SC

Evan Rowe and our youth would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of MBC for their support and prayers. Please continue to pray for our youth as they continue fundraising efforts for this year's youth camp, safe travel and for wonderful life changing experiences.

**LOVE HAITI BENEFIT
CONCERT AT MIDWAY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

March 7, 2015

7 p.m.

Saturday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m., Midway Baptist Church will be hosting a Love Haiti Concert. We are very excited to announce that the talented Denise Watts-Wilson will be returning to celebrate with us. The concert is open to the public and free so begin inviting your family, friends and neighbors. A love offering to benefit the group going to Haiti will be collected.

For more information, contact: Paulette Akers at 859.494.9292 or email: pauletteakers@gmail.com

**LOVE HAITI PANCAKE
BREAKFAST AT MIDWAY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

March 15, 2015

9:30 a.m.

LOVE HAITI YARD SALE

April 10-11

The team will begin taking donations on April 9 in the ministry center. If anyone has large items they need help with please contact Ron Wyatt and the team will arrange a pickup.

MBC CHOIR NOTES

The MBC Choir has begun practice for the 2015 Easter program which will be presented at the Joint Worship service (10:45am) on Palm Sunday, March 29th. If you have not participated in a choir program before but would like to do so, we encourage you to join us for practice at 4:00pm each Sunday afternoon in the church sanctuary. This year, we are using a mixture of music and drama, with new anthems and some older songs to introduce each Bible character. Please be in prayer about using your musical talents and being part of this great experience.

MBC 2015 Haiti Team News

Please pray for our 2015 team: Ron Wyatt, Mike Taylor, Darin Hensley, Kelly Rowe, Kenny Tackett, Melissa Ratliff, Mallory Akers, David McCoun, Haley Wyatt, Jay Akers, Ronan Wyatt, and Andrew Hall, who will be traveling to Haiti from June 12th - June 20th Please add this group to your prayer list and begin praying for each member, plans for the trip including fundraising efforts and for the trip in June. Our Haiti group appreciates your support and prayers.

The Haiti Mission Team would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting their upcoming trip:

(Platinum Sponsors)-South Hill Gallery, Kentucky River Lodge FOP #87, and Fazolis

(Gold Sponsors)-Wyatt's Farrier Service, Shirt Warehouse, and Bluebird Creative

Additionally, the 2015 "It's a Love HAITI Relationship" shirts are in! Shirts are \$15 and can be purchased on Sundays and Wednesday nights. Please see one of the Haiti team members if you would like one (or more than one). All t-shirts proceeds go directly to our Haiti Mission Team.





Kids' Corner

Parents' Leisurely Lunch: TBD:

Keep an eye out for announcements and emails for this event to be rescheduled from its original February 22 date that was impacted by winter weather. Kids are invited to spend the afternoon at church (while parents take advantage of the opportunity to go out for lunch). The afternoon will include a special focus lesson about Baptist beliefs and what it means to be a Christian. The event will begin with lunch and a video immediately after church and will continue with games and crafts. You can RSVP by email to andrea@midwaybc.net

Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 4, at 3:00

on the Northside lawn (rain location: MBC).

A small candy bag and bottled water will be provided for each child. Kids will hunt for eggs stuffed with small prizes and coins that they can exchange at a prize table. Age-appropriate goodies for babies and toddlers will also be included.

Everest Vacation Bible School: Take it to the limit! - July 26-29, 2015

Embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. Anchor kids in rock-solid Bible truths that will guide them through life's challenges. Each day leaders will reinforce God's love for them in surprising and unforgettable ways - making them easy to remember and apply to real life. The Climbing Crew will lead kids through field tested stations that will include Base Camp Sing and Play, Bible Expeditions, Imagination Station, Glacier Games, Mountain Top Treats, Meaningful Missions, Pre-school Peak and the Summit Celebration. Please mark your calendars and invite your neighbors to join us for VBS this summer.



What MBC Means to me by Don Dobson Presentation during worship on 2/1/2015

A few weeks ago, Pastor Steve asked me to do a 2-3 minute presentation on what Midway Baptist Church means to me. He went on to say, “the folks do not see enough of you.” I responded by saying my impression is that they see too much of me. But then thinking about it, I guess most of what I do is actually behind the scenes. Although I do donate a substantial amount of time on a continuing basis, most of the results of that work are not visible. The reason for mentioning time donation will become clear in a moment.

So why is Midway Baptist Church important to me? Simply put, it is the support and benefits I can both derive and give by interacting with the church people. Of course we know that this building is not the church. The scriptures teach that the church is a group of believers and followers of Jesus – those who honestly try (imperfect though they may be) to actually follow what Jesus taught. This church has quite a few of those types.

Let me take you back to December, 2012. On the Sunday that our new pastor was supposed to participate in his first Christmas dinner celebration with his new church, something unexpected happened. In the dark of the morning about 3:30am, Venona was taken to the hospital. She was bleeding internally following a simple hernia surgery. Her blood radiator was just about empty. After numerous blood transfusions, and efforts to stop the bleeding, the doctor determined that she would have to have surgery. The trip to surgery was truncated by a severe reaction to one of the anesthetics which apparently triggered an enzyme indicator that she may have had a heart attack. Now off for a heart catheterization. This came back OK, so she went back into surgery again.

However, by this time it was near the end of the day – getting dark. All day long it seemed that each new bit of news was bad. I realized that she might not make it. The waiting room was empty except for my family, several of you now listening to me and Pastor Steve. In spite of encouragements to leave to attend the Christmas dinner, Steve remained until the surgery was completed and the first bit of good news came from the doctor. It would have been totally OK for him to leave, but instead he missed his first Christmas dinner at his new church –because he cared. Now while all this was going on at the hospital, I am totally confident that the folks at the dinner were providing prayer support for Venona.

While I won't go into detail, something, in many respects similar, happened with Allen last April. MBC was equally supportive in that case. You don't put a price on that.

So now, a bit of Don's philosophy on this subject. What one gets from any activity or relationship is directly related to what one puts into the activity or relationship. To derive maximum benefit from the relationship with my church, I believe, Jesus expects me to support the church with my time, my money, my attendance, my prayers, and to do my best to model my behavior (both privately and publicly) after his teachings.

Whenever I think about volunteer service, I remember Louis and Josephine Wash. As we know, Josephine's health limits what she can do. Yet every Sunday Louis and Josephine will pick up about 20 bulletins. They personally deliver some of them to shut-ins and some are mailed to others. Nobody asked Louis and Josephine to do this task. They simply saw an opportunity for service and began doing it. Whenever a serious illness triggers a special prayer request, Josephine is on the phone. Such initiative is to be complemented.

Of course, all of this takes time and other resources. I said earlier that I donate a considerable amount of time to church service and Disaster Relief. Sure, with the skills that I have been blessed to have, I'm pretty sure that I could sell that time for a rate more than the minimum wage. So why don't I do that. Simply put, folks, I believe I am getting a better deal.

- Lead Children to know and follow Christ
- Support Children's Ministry with improved equipment and renovated playground
- Enhance support of VBS and provide additional volunteers

Children

Missions

- Support Haiti Team efforts to grow and enhance relationships
- Expand local partnerships through CBF and Elkhorn Association
- Broaden local community mission outreach
- Participate in Habitat house and KBF Extreme Build

Outreach

- Enhance college ministry
- Be active with Homeplace Nursing Home and Midway School apartments
- Support Visitation Ministry
- Broaden partnerships with area churches

Stewardship

- Create a Balanced Ministry Plan
- Actively continue to reduce our debt
- Provide financial support for special projects

CELEBRATE!

March 2015

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Kenrick Grate, Maura Wyatt
- 3 Dalyla Campbell
- 6 Sam Buckley, Timothy D'Egidio
- 7 Carson Bugg, Cole Brown
- 10 Daniel Elkin, Diana Niedwick
- 12 Dalton Kifer
- 14 Cookie Eaves
Larry & Judy Rush ♥
- 15 Ronan Wyatt
- 17 Jack Buckley
Bill & Nancy McGregor ♥
- 18 Jeanne Evans, Avery Grace Hutchison
Nicholas Craig, Hallie Allison
Dr Joan Fowler, Riley Kate Hutchison
- 19 Alice Davis, Grace Noel, Paula Tackett
Elijah Wheatcraft
- 22 Jonathan Doan, Phillip Royalty
Susan D'Egidio
- 23 Rhonda Rankin
- 25 Zachary Rankin
- 26 Natalie Wyatt, Ronald Toy, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Rigney ♥
- 28 Marlene Davis, Richelle Duncan
Selena Smith
Mr. & Mrs. William Sutton ♥
- 29 Jane Trayner
- 31 Kimberly Rose

THANK YOU!

From Steve and Joy

Pastor Steve and Joy want to express their profound appreciation for all the kind words, cards, and generous gifts that were given during the Birthday/Anniversary Celebration and the BIG BREAKFAST! It is a great joy to serve Jesus together with you all.

DEACON NEWS

By Darin Hensley

Deacon Chair

Friends,

We had 41 deacon nominations.

31 of those nominations were eligible for election.

9 of those nominations accepted the call and were deacon candidates.

4 of these candidates have been elected as the 2015 deacon class.

These are some high numbers and the largest numbers that I can recall from recent memory.

This is a testament to the work that God is doing within Midway Baptist. We are not a group of individual families; we are one large church family.

As individuals, we are no longer running from the challenges that God places before us. We are accepting his call, we are stepping out in faith, we are advancing the kingdom and we are doing so in unity.

We should all give ourselves a round of applause, for we are not only hearing the good news...but acting on it. We must keep this momentum going. We must continue the battle. We must keep going.

Congratulations to our newly elected Deacons, Bill Evans, Sam Conder, Kendra Harvey and Nathan Craig. We are excited about what you are going to bring to our group. To those that were not elected this time, do not be disheartened. This simply means that God has other plans for you this year, rest assured God will find a place and plug you in. MBC is going to experience a record year and we are all a part of it.

DEACON ORDINATION—March 22

Celebrate the Resurrection at MBC

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29, Combined Service at 10:45 a.m.

Join us for worship on March 29 as we celebrate Palm Sunday at 10:45 a.m. The service will include a children's palm processional and a musical presentation by the choir. Sunday School will be at 9:45 as usual.

Good Friday Worship Service

Friday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for a contemplative service of scripture, song, and reverence as we follow the footsteps of Jesus. We invite other churches to join us.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 4, at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4, at 3:00 on the Northside lawn (rain location: MBC). A small candy bag and bottled water will be provided for each child. Kids will hunt for eggs stuffed with small prizes and coins that they can exchange at a prize table. Age-appropriate goodies for babies and toddlers will also be included.

Easter Sunday Celebration

April 5, 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Join us at 8:30 or 10:45 a.m. on Easter Sunday, as we celebrate the resurrection with seasonal music and preaching. Sunday School will be at 9:45 a.m. as usual. All evening activities are cancelled.



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Return Service Requested



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