



MIDWAY MESSENGER

3238 Midway Road, Anderson, SC 29621



Dear Friends,

Little did Hazel and I know what lay in store for us at the conclusion of our Christmas Dinner on December 8. We were instructed to make our way to the sanctuary, and so we did. There we received a bulletin with an order for a “Retirement Celebration,” with our picture on the back. There were a number of speakers with gifts and hymns led by the choir. Needless to say, we were overwhelmed. We thank each of you for making this a special night that we will never forget!

And such thoughtful gifts! There was a beautiful framed picture of the church; a retirement picture of a willow tree, bridge and fishing boat; wind chimes for our garden; a tie clasp for John and a necklace for Hazel with Scriptures engraved; a farewell glass plaque on a stand; a subscription to the *Wall Street Journal*; gift certificates for four nights at Black Mountain, for our meals while there, and also travel money for gas; and gift certificates for a bookstore, Home Depot, the Farmers Market in Greenville, and a plant nursery. We were also told that the benches for the cemetery were arriving with plaques with our names on one. What an honor! At the end of the celebration, it was announced that so much was collected that the excess went to The Salvation Army in our names.

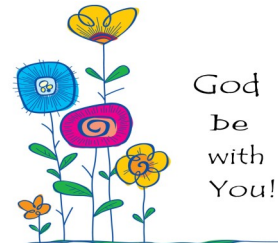
Former Presbyterian pastor Thomas Currie wrote a book entitled, *The Joy of Ministry*. Well, I have certainly known joy in ministry with you as we have sought to truly be a church of Jesus Christ. To be as a light on a hill here in the Midway community. To be the “salt of the earth.”

“Goodbye” originally meant “God be with you.” When there was fear for the journey ahead, there was the assurance that the One who gave life would be there to guard and comfort. “Goodbye” was a blessing of love. While I will no longer be your pastor as of January first, I will remain your friend; and I will keep up with you via the Newsletter. Thanks for all the precious memories. Thanks for making Hazel and me a part of your church family. Goodbye—God be with you.



Yours in Christ,

John McCallum



Prayer and Sympathy

Our Christian love and sympathy are expressed to the family of Jim White at his death on December 14. Jim was the father of Gail Alewine.



What Stewardship Means to Me
by Linda Mylod

It's almost a New Year, with new opportunities to serve our Lord and help His people.

For the first time in my many decades, I'm reading "Pilgrim's Progress." John Bunyan, its author, has been quoted as saying, "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." Obviously, the youngsters and charitable organizations in our community, who receive support and gifts from us each year, cannot repay us, so our giving is pure.

But what about our giving to support our church? Do we get anything in return for it? As a member for just the past dozen+ years, I can assure you that I do. The fellowship and love that I've found here at Midway is more than a return on an investment; it's precious and priceless to me.

Certainly, our financial support keeps the lights on, pays our dedicated staff, keeps us insured, maintains our property, and allows us to provide charitable support, which for me is its greatest blessing.

But, because we're able to keep our doors open, it also provides us with opportunities for 2nd Sunday lunches, for fun at Bingo, for Daytripper adventures, and, yes, even for gathering together at Session and committee meetings to plan and brainstorm with each other.

So, my support of our church is not as pure as my support of our charities, because I most definitely DO get something in return. I get all of you as my extended family, and I thank God – and Kitty & Bob Burge – for leading me to Midway and for continuing to provide me with the financial means to give back a portion to Him who has given me such blessings.

I pray that all of you will search your hearts to find what gifts you have received from Midway in return for all the gifts you have given. I pray also that you'll enjoy good health, much peace, and many small joys in the coming New Year.

And to quote Robert Louis Stevenson, "You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving." So, let the love of Christ, of our neighbors, and of our Midway family fill our hearts to overflowing and lead us to generously share our blessings.

**Financial Report as of
December 20, 2023**

Budget Needs to Date	\$153,681.35
Budget Receipts to Date	\$155,328.09
Spent to Date	\$159,975.34
Special Offerings	\$ 8,875.21
Heat & A/C Offerings	\$ 15,279.00

*"Honor the Lord with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce."
~Proverbs 3:9*

Christmas Dinner



Undecorate

Everyone is invited to help undecorate the church on Saturday, January 6, at 10:00 a.m. "Many hands make small work."



The Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering came to \$714.00. Appreciation is expressed to everyone who gave. You can still contribute by placing your offering in the offering plate on Sunday, December 31, or by mailing or bringing it to the church office.

Thank You

John, LeNelle, Beth, Roz, Cindy, and Will want to thank the Church for the generous Christmas checks. It's been a blessing to serve you this past year.

January Congregational Dinner

On January 14 we will have a Covered Dish Congregational Dinner. The 2-Cents-a-Meal Offering will be received for Good Neighbor Cupboard.





SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Pulpit

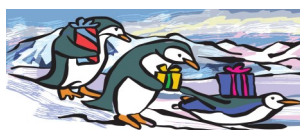
- Jan. 7 Dee Ashworth
- 14 Bob Bone
- 21 Kent Saunders
- 28 Tom Waddell

Head Usher

- Jan. 7 Elaine Gilmore
- 14 Marilyn Martin
- 21 Amy Morris
- 28 Jacky Stamps

Sunday School Secretaries

- Jan. 7 Jacky Stamps
- 14 Sammy Stevenson
- 21 Bob Bone
- 28 Amy Morris



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Jan. 5 | Tommy Alewine | Jan. 23 | Kitty Burge |
| | Dee Ashworth | 24 | Sammy Wentzky |
| | 8 Anna May Potter | 28 | Beth Croft |
| 16 | David Peters | 31 | Randi Rexroad |
| 21 | Jacky Stamps | | |



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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- | | | |
|---------|------------------------|------|
| Jan. 14 | Frank & Joyce Wentzky | 68th |
| 19 | John & Donetta Dodwell | 51st |
| 31 | Alan & Traci Webb | 43rd |

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



Ray, Jacky, & Sammy with James Fowler from District 3, 4 & 5 Technical Center with new bench



Donetta & John Decorating for Christmas



Donations for Salvation Army



Jacky & Brenda at Christmas Dinner



**Ladies in Red at Christmas Dinner
Donna, Beth, Roz, & Carol**

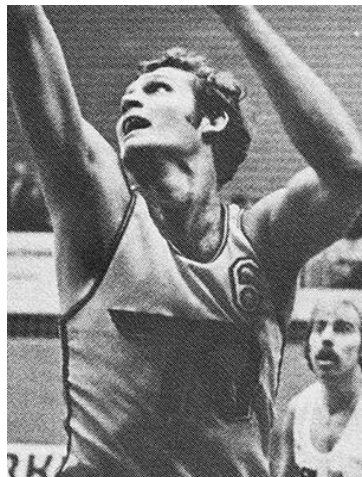


**Claire & David Bailey & Debbie & Traverse Foster
at Christmas Dinner**

SPECIAL FEATURE

Get to Know Your Church Neighbor

This new column will feature one of our church members from time to time, so we can know something more about the person sitting in church near us on Sundays. It's a "work in progress" but we hope you'll enjoy reading some human interest stories about the people you worship with.



Our first interview was with John Wayne Croft (yep, that's his real first name), and it was very enlightening. What we already know is that Wayne is by far the tallest Midway member, with a walking stick that's nearly as tall as many of the women in church. Sitting in the choir loft on Sundays, he appears to be a bit of a "quiet giant". But what more might an interview reveal about him? Wayne was born in Bamberg, SC and raised in the Pentecostal Church with two brothers and four sisters. Due to moving a lot, Wayne had 17 school enrollments before heading to Clemson U, where he met Beth in 1971. He played basketball as a forward at Clemson for 4 years, and in 1975 was part of their first team to ever make it to the post-season tournament. He was drafted by the NBA Kansas City Kings, but chose to play in the Netherlands for Nationale Nederlanden Donar and in Switzerland for Fribourg Olympic. Switzerland is where Jonathan was born.

The family moved to Anderson in 1982 and Wayne became the Director of Leisure Ministries at Trinity Methodist Church, where he coached multiple sports teams. He completed a degree in History and Social Studies, then took a teaching position at Belton-Honea Path High School, where he also coached basketball. But his heart was still with ministry, so he took a position at the alternative school for at-risk kids (currently the Renaissance Academy). Wayne taught a class called New Beginnings, which covered skills from anger management to manners and yard work. During his years there, which were obviously rough years for parts of our beloved Anderson, he helped shut down crack houses with Kurt Stutler, whom many of us know from South Main Street Mercy Center.

The Croft family started worshipping at Midway in the early 2000's; Beth played organ and piano at various times back then, becoming our regular pianist/organist about ten years ago. When asked for suggestions regarding Midway and ideas for its future, Wayne said that he and Alan Webb have been discussing the need for an event that would include a BBQ and gospel sing on the church grounds. Hopefully, that's something we can all get behind in this New Year! Wayne shared some parting words of wisdom: he said that the negative trait that bothers him the most in people is when they're condescending. But he gave assurances that he hasn't encountered that in our Midway members; he finds them to be caring and concerned. He also shared the Bible verse that he learned in 2nd grade, which has guided his behavior throughout his life: John 13:35, *By this all people will know that you are my disciples: if you have love for one another.*

Great thanks to Wayne and Beth for taking time for this interview, and especially for sharing their talent with us on Sundays. This Interviewing Inquirer may be knocking on your door sometime this year to request an interview for this column. We hope you'll be happy to share your story with us when she does.