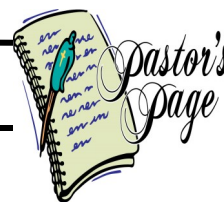




MIDWAY MESSENGER

3238 Midway Road, Anderson, SC 29621



Friends in Christ,

September, like January, seems to mark a time of new beginnings, energizing opportunities and fresh possibilities. Perhaps this originated during our school days when September marked the beginning of the school year with new supplies, activities we loved, sports, band or choir and seeing friends we might not have seen in three months. The days of school beginning the first part of September are gone, but like a circadian rhythm deep within, September marks a transition time in the year.

Fall brings the same rhythm or renewal to the church and there is lots going on at Midway this fall. Missions are a large part of the emphasis and the heart of this church. The Fall Festival for missions will be the first part of October. There will be a 'yard sale' of fall and Christmas decorations so this is a good time to clean out your closet and donate any items you no longer use. The bake sale is always a big draw and donations are needed. Help is also needed to help set up and to work on the day of the festival. Please plan on helping wherever you can.

Meals on Wheels is another mission near to the heart of Midway Church. This fall may be a time when you consider volunteering to help with this ministry by serving on a delivery team.

The Vision committee has developed a flyer which will be sent to homes within the zip codes around the church. While people often drive by and note the beauty of Midway's exterior, let's pray that this serves as the encouragement some need to 'come inside' and share in the worship, work, and fellowship here.

The grounds of Midway are always well maintained and beautiful. But as with any building, there is always something that needs a little cleaning or fixing. There will be a work day on September 14th to put that extra sparkle and polish on things. Please come and help if you can.

Rally Day will be held on September 8th. There are two Sunday school classes at Midway and they meet year-round. Fall is a time to recognize and thank those teachers and others who help with Sunday school. This is also a great time to come and try one of the classes.

With graduations, weddings, family reunions and vacations, people are gone during the summer. The arrival of fall is a good time to come together as a congregation. Fall is a good time to reconnect after a busy summer or to connect with a new group or ministry at Midway. The energy and efforts of each one of us add to the overall life of Midway Presbyterian.

Hope to see you this fall.



Grace and peace,
Peggy



**Legacy Academy
Grades 8 and 9 on the first day of School**



In Psalm 33, the psalmist remarks, “The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.” These first few days of Legacy have beautifully testified to that exclamation. God’s love has appeared to us in many ways: in the voices of our children singing “Holy, Holy, Holy” in harmony every morning of school, in the prayers of their fathers and mothers lifting up our community to the Lord during our night of convocation, in our teachers delighting in our newly-floored and painted rooms, in the liveliness of the playground during recess, in the joy of learning overflowing from each class, and especially in the grace and generosity of the leadership and members of Midway Presbyterian Church. We approach the next months of school hopefully, ready to receive and proclaim all the fullness of ways God shows his steadfast love.



Rally Day

Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 8. During Worship, Sunday School teachers will be recognized.

Covered Dish Lunch



Second Sunday Dinner

Our Second Sunday Dinner will be held on September 8, and will be a covered dish.

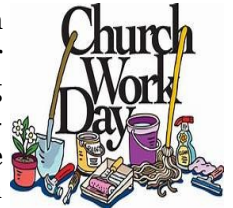
Midway’s Fall Festival



Reminder!

We’re planning a small holiday-themed Bazaar at the October 5th Fall Festival, offering gently-used Fall and Christmas décor. Members are encouraged to look through their decorative holiday items and donate one or two items in mint condition that they can bear to part with. Ornaments will also be sold, should you have more than your tree can hold. Turn your mementos into funds being raised to support our numerous Outreach programs. It’s “tight times” financially for many, including our little church, but we’re working to fulfill our budgeted charitable commitments, and our semi-annual Festivals are helping in that regard. Items may be left in Fellowship Hall kitchen whenever it’s convenient, just no later than Sunday, Sept. 15th; but sooner is better, so we have sufficient time for pricing. If you need something picked up, please contact Linda Mylod. And note the Festival on your calendar; tell your friends and family, and please support us with your participation. Thank you!

The Church will have a workday from 9:00 a.m. – noon on Saturday, September 14. We will be washing windows, cleaning up the outdoor worship area, painting railing and concrete, cleaning gutters at the manse, removing cobwebs, and other fun stuff.



Bingo



We will not have Bingo in September, our next Bingo Day will be Wednesday, October 16. This is a great time to fellowship with members and guests and have fun as well.



Lunch Bunch

Watch your bulletins for our next Lunch Bunch get-together. Hope you will plan to join us for some good food and good fellowship.



Financial Report as of August 23, 2024

Budget Needs to Date	\$ 99,496.00
Budget Receipts to Date	\$ 95,406.46
Spent to Date	\$100,632.58
Special Offerings	\$ 4,881.65

*“For it is in giving that we receive.”
~ St. Francis of Assisi*



Our Jar Offering for the first four Sundays in September will go to The Lot Project which provides a meal to those in need on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. They also provide shoes, coats, and blankets to those in need, on the first Friday of every month.

The fifth Sunday Jar Offering will go to Blue Dragonfly Dragonfly whose mission is to help juvenile victims of human trafficking via advocacy, education, outreach, awareness and resources.

Our 2-Cents-a-Meal Offering for the 3rd Quarter will go to Buchanan Fishes & Loaves, based at 1206 S. Murray Avenue in Anderson South Carolina. The center can provide non-perishable food as well as groceries to the less fortunate in the community, and hundreds of local families get help from it on a monthly basis. Any bags of groceries and other items are passed out first come, first served basis, and the Buchanan pantry is only open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 11:30 am.

Good Neighbor Cupboard

Good Neighbor Cupboard provides lunch bags for our local brothers and sisters in need of help with their daily nutrition. For September and October, please consider adding one or more of the following items to your weekly grocery list so we can support their efforts. The most needed items are tuna pouches (not cans), protein bars, granola bars, canned foods with pop tops, peanut butter/cheese cracker packs...items that can be opened without a can opener. I recently read this description of why helping provide food can help people avoid homelessness, and it struck a chord with me:

Sometimes people face a demon's dilemma. When they have to make a choice between buying food or paying rent, they're going to buy food. If we can help provide them food, they can pay their rent & not end up homeless. If they can stay in their homes, perhaps they can keep their jobs & not end up needing shelter OR food (from The Road Home by Richard Paul Evans).

It's always better to build a fence on top of a cliff than to leave an ambulance at the bottom.

Calling All Members!

Our District 5 youngsters in the Homeless Kids program are in need of toiletries. The program's new director has advised that shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash and deodorants are completely out. If you can find it in your heart to bring one or more of these items to church, we'll make sure they find their way to District 5 immediately. Mouthwash should be smaller bottles—preferably plastic—but the other items can be regular/full-size. Thank you in advance for anything you can do to help with this immediate need.

SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Pulpit

- Sept. 1 Kent Saunders
8 Tom Waddell
15 Dee Ashworth
22 Bob Bone
29 Kent Saunders

Head Usher

- Sept. 1 Tom Waddell
8 Keith Wentzky
15 Marilyn Martin
22 Amy Morris
29 Tom Waddell

Sunday School Secretaries

- Sept. 1 Sammy Stevenson
8 Bob Bone
15 Amy Morris
22 Sammy Stevenson
29 Bob Bone



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 1 Marilyn Mamrick
5 Cindy Wentzky
13 Rita King
23 Linda Mylod
24 Cindy Evans
Carol Wentzky
27 Terry Waddell

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Sept. 21 Bill & Randi Rexroad 54th



Getting to Know Your Church Neighbor...Who's Cookie Brown?

This month's interview was with Rosalynn Loskoski Rozakos...quite a mouthful, so we'll just call her Roz. Like prior interviews, hers was enlightening and very entertaining. (The more entertaining parts were "off the record" so in true journalistic fashion, I can't reveal all that was said J). But what do we already know about Roz? Most of us know that she was raised in Midway Church; that she has a beautiful soprano voice; and that she's been the Choir Director of Midway's Mass Walking Wounded Chancel Choir (her words, not mine) for a dozen years this month. But what did we learn from our interview?

Roz was born into a musical family on her mother's side, the Vandivers. She was a Debutone through Junior High and HS; this was an elite group of young female singers from Georgia and South Carolina who often performed at national events. In 1964 & '65, the Debutones sang Broadway tunes and gospel songs at the New York World's Fair! They also performed in our nation's capital and at our nation's Capitol at a Cherry Blossom Festival. But they were best known and beloved by the members of Midway Church when their quartet performed as the Disciples of Joy (later known as the Joint Heirs) at Sunday services. The quartet consisted of Roz, Kim Wentzky, Alan Nowell and LaVonne Hopkins, with piano accompaniment by Sandra Kay. Those were the days when Midway was full of young folks, including our still-current, just not as young, members Sammy Stevenson, Keith, and Cindy Wentzky, and the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall were only attached by a breezeway. Roz said that's where the youth group would meet with their teacher, Blanche Campbell, on Sunday evenings. Her brother Greg was touched by the Spirit during those years, and is now a retired Presbyterian pastor.

A vivid memory from those good old days was the trip that Roz took to "Jesus '76" with Kim Kowalski and the entire Rosenberger family: Beryl, Mary and their 6 children – all in Beryl's station wagon, pulling a small trailer loaded with tents. They spent three days at a campground in Orlando, listening to religious speakers and singers, including B.J. Thomas and Andrae Crouch. Roz still envisions Andrae singing while the lights from the fireworks at Disney World lit up the evening sky behind him. She also remembers having to go three days without a shower, so she finally made Peter Rosenberger pour water over her head so she could at least wash her hair.

Impressively, Roz worked for Belk's for 40 years...moving through the ranks from gift wrapper as a junior in HS to Office Manager about 15 years later. But during this time, she was spiritually inspired to offer her services as a House Mother at Thornwell Home in Clinton, taking a two-year leave from Belk's. For her first year at Thornwell she was House Mother to eight girls, aged 8 to 11; and the 2nd year to eight girls, aged 11 to 15. She claims the first group was easier to handle, but even forty years later, she is still in contact with many of the young women whose lives she blessed while she was at Thornwell. The only highlight she noted from her years at Belk's was meeting Burt Lancaster when he was in Anderson filming "The Midnight Man". But Burt never stayed in touch like her Thornwell girls do, so no contest there.

Roz met the love of her life, Pete Rozakos, in the late 60's when he saw her out one night and asked her to dance. She said he was the "handsomest boy I'd ever seen in my life", and they dated for about a year, until Pete moved to Atlanta for work for the next 30+ years. But when he returned to Anderson, he soon called to ask her out for coffee, and the rest is history. Pete, as many of you know, is part of a very large Greek family, so Roz insisted that he become a Presbyterian and join her at Midway, since the Greeks celebrate every event with gifts and dinners, and they could better afford to be Presbyterians than Greeks J. Pete embraced Midway and became a deacon when we still had enough members to fill a diaconate.

Roz's words of encouragement for our dear little church is to remember that church is not something you go to; it's a family you belong to. As long as we all keep this in mind and do our best to welcome new members to the family, Midway will survive today's lack of youth and some folks' overall apathy toward church-going. Roz is working to set up a musical event with the Saint Mark Singers from Seneca, who have performed at Midway before. Our hope is that events like this, which are open to the public, might introduce us to some of our new neighbors and pique their interest in attending our worship services. Watch for a date to be announced for this hopefully upcoming event. Roz stressed how grateful she is for our small but dedicated choir, which is a true blessing to her, and she did explain why she's known to some folks as Cookie Brown, but that's not for publication. If you want to know, ask Marilyn Martin. J

Great thanks to Roz for spending time with your Roving Reporter, and most especially for all the years of love and service that she has given to Midway Church. She's a force to be reckoned with, and we're very grateful for her sharing her friendship and her talent with us.

With each hymn and chorus, you truly inspire; as we fill our souls with God's holy fire.