

*Midway Baptist Church of NC, Inc.*  
*70th Anniversary “ God is Faithful”*  
*June 1940 to June 2010*



Many, O LORD my God, [are] thy wonderful works [which] thou hast done, and thy thoughts [which are] to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: [if] I would declare and speak [of them], they are more than can be numbered.      Psalms 40:5

# Midway Baptist Church History

## 1940-2010

Old timers in the late 1930's and early 1940's were saying they had never before witnessed such a moving of the Holy Spirit in the community. People were being saved everywhere; churches, cottage prayer meetings and tent services.



**Ritchey Home**

The Rev. Hesikai Liner and his son Harold were tent preachers from the Concord, NC area. They held services in Columbus during the Spring of 1940. Their tent was located on the property of Wash and Ellen Hill, which is now the location of the Mini Mall in Columbus, where Calvert's Restaurant is located. The young Harold was an able assistant to his father. Stories were told of how the older Liner would instruct the son on the finer points of soul winning. He would say, "preach love son, you gotta' preach love, that'll get'm every time, preach love." The story then goes that the older Liner would then proceed to take the pulpit and dish out hellfire and brimstone.

The Liners held services for several weeks and the Lord blessed these services. Many people from the Columbus, Midway, and Mill Spring areas either found the Lord or were reunited.

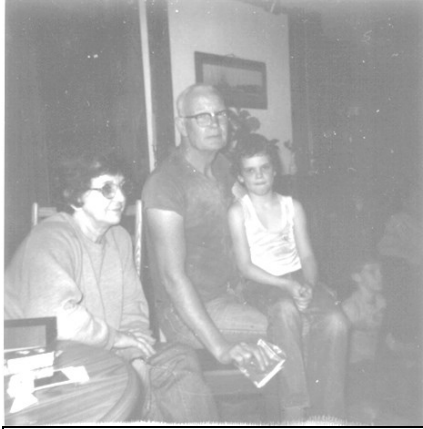
In the summer of 1940, these new converts and rededicated Christians began to burn with the desire to form their own church. The opening paragraph of Midway's record book reads, "On June 30, 1940, the Midway Baptist Gospel Tabernacle was originated by a band of 53 members who love the Lord supremely." The following were elected: Trustees- Jim Smith, Roy Jones, Joe Mayes, Andrew Gibbs, Bob Owens; Building Committee- Jim Smith, Roy Jones, Bob Owens, and A.G. Tate. Treasurer of the Building Committee—Robert Owens.

Sunday, July 14, 1940, Midway organized the first Sunday school in the yard of Carrie Ritchey. The following were elected: Sunday School Supt.- Compton Ritchey (also served as song leader); Asst. Sunday School Supt.- Joe Mayes; Secretary/Treasurer- Ralph Gibson.

Sunday, July 21, 1940, ten Sunday School Teachers were elected: Card Class- Connie Tate (Mills), Primary Class- Marie Jones, Junior Girls- Gwendolyn Gibson, Junior Boys- Fred Dameron, Intermediate Girls- Mrs. James McIntyre, Inter-



**E.S. Burnette,  
Bill Burnette's Father**



**Compton Ritchey  
(First Sunday  
School Supt. & Choir Director)  
Elected July 13, 1940  
Wife- Edith & Tammie Sims**

mediate Boys- W.L. Arrowood, Senior Women- Mrs. Ocie Ritchey, Senior Boys- Joe Mayes, Adult Women- Mrs. Pearl Burnette, Adult Men- M.H. Covil.

Sunday, July 28, 1940, Sunday School began with 82 people in attendance. Many were members in good standing of other churches, some were baptized Christians who had never joined a church and some were new converts who had never experienced baptism or church membership. The message was clear in all their hearts; God wanted a church at Midway where His

spirit could flow through the membership and praise Jesus.

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Tate donated the land, E.S. Burnette set up a saw mill at the site and the men and women went to work building a church.

During the five month construction period the group held services in Mrs. Carrie Ritchey's open



**Mr. Arthur Tate, surrounded by Neil Mills,  
Linda Tate and Jack Mills— donated land  
for first church**



**Midway Baptist Gospel Tabernacle**

air yard under the shade trees with the Rev. Harold Liner as Pastor. The group had called Rev. Harold Liner on July 29, 1940, and recommended his home church, West Concord Baptist, ordain him into the Gospel Ministry. The first Baptismal service of the Midway Baptist Gospel Tabernacle was held on July 28, 1940, below Green River dam near the Hwy #9 bridge. The candidates for Baptism were Clyde Covil (Henson), Fred Dameron, Lillian Green, Edith Laughter (Ritchey), and Annie Ruth Laughter (Sims).

Harold was ordained on August 4<sup>th</sup> and preached his first sermon as Pastor August 11, 1940.

In November of 1940, the first child was born into the Midway Baptist Gospel Tabernacle family this child was

Harriett Arledge Case.



**(l-r) Betty Owens, Harriett Arledge Case (first child born into the congregation of Midway Baptist Gospel Tabernacle on November, 1940) and Bobby Owens.**

On Sunday, December 1, 1940 the first sermon was preached in the new building by Rev. Harold Liner. Etta Mae Stepp was saved and baptized that day, which according to the church's records was the coldest day of a baptism. This made the members of Midway's dream and goal for the church a reality.

Two weeks later, on December 15, 1940, Rev. Harold Liner resigned as Pastor.

The church then called Rev. Malcolm Ross on December 24, 1940. He also served as Pastor of Big Level Baptist Church and therefore he could only preach alternate Sunday mornings at Midway.

Services continued weekly with the void being filled by a variety of ordained pas-

tors, licensed preachers and lay speakers. Midway continued to grow and became known as a church where "powerful services" were held.



**The four Charter Members, 2010- (l-r) Bill Burnette, Virginia Mills, Edith Ritchey, and Clyde Henson**

Midway's first Board of Deacons was elected on January 12, 1941 and ordained on March 2, 1941 by the following: Rev. Brock from Spindale, Rev. Bob Earley and Deacons from Peniel, Silver Creek, Beulah, and Tryon Second Baptist. According to the



**Mr. Melvin Covil, First Chairman of Deacons, elected Jan. 12, 1941**

original minutes, of the church, the first Deacon Board consisted of L.R.Kuykendall, Joe Mayes, Melvin H Covil, Roy Jones and Robert Owens.

On March 9, 1941, Joe Mayes, James Sullivan and Roy Jones came as candidates for Baptism, which was scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also, the church voted to change the church conferences from the second Sunday morning to the second Wednesday night. The church also voted to have the Lord's Supper every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday night. The church name was changed from Midway Baptist Gospel Tabernacle to Midway Baptist Church in the Spring of 1941. July 13, 1941 the church voted to take money out of the Sunday School Treasurer and have the church painted and finished inside. August 13, 1941, the members of the church elected Mr. Melvin Covil as Chairman of Deacons. On



**Joe Mayes, First Deacon and first laid to rest in church cemetery, March 16, 1942**

December 14, 1941, just one week after Pearl Harbor, the church voted in favor of having services every Sunday night and to buy a piano.

The year of 1942 proved to be a very active time for the church. In January, the church building was insured for \$2,250.00. In February, the church re-elected Mr. Tate as Sexton (person responsible for the upkeep of the yards and building), the church also purchased land near the church for a cemetery. Shortly after the land was purchased for the cemetery, Deacon Joe Mayes was laid to rest on March 16, 1942; this was the first grave which was dug. May 31<sup>st</sup>, Midway dedicated it's new building with the Rev. Blythe as guest speaker and the Rev. Lewis Griswald offering the Dedication prayer.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, in a church conference the members voted in favor of paying the pastor \$10.00 per week. In a church conference on September 13<sup>th</sup>, the members voted to join the Green River Association. The reading of the first associational letter was presented on September 20<sup>th</sup>, and accepted by all in attendance. In October, the church appointed Bob Owens to be in charge of purchasing a heater for the church. On October 25<sup>th</sup> B.W. Reid was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel. At the November 1<sup>st</sup> church conference, the church elected Katherine Jones as pianist.



**Clyde Arledge Henson, elected Song Leader, December 12, 1943**

As the church continued to grow, the year of 1943 brought about a time of improvement. In March, the church voted to purchase oil to be put on the floors and benches. Mr. James McEntire volunteered to put the oil on the floor and benches for the cost of the oil. June 6<sup>th</sup> the church voted to purchase screens for the windows and doors. At the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the church voted to give the Thomasville Orphanage \$5.00 per month. On December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Church Conference, Clyde Arledge (Henson) was elected Song Leader.



**Carrie Ritchey on her way from her house to the construction site for Midway Baptist Church**

The year of 1944 was a time of spiritual growth for Midway. In March 1944 the church voted to start a singing school with Mrs. Homer as the teacher. Bob Owens a Deacon at Midway was licensed to preach on May 14<sup>th</sup> and on August 20<sup>th</sup>, was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel. Also, on August 20<sup>th</sup>, Midway elected Bob Owens as their pastor.

Midway's love for Christ and His church flowed into the community in the year of 1945. On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the men of the church built a well box and concrete top for the well of Vinnie



**Lewis Mills, elected Deacon 1946 with wife Connie— Parents of Jack, Joe and Johnny Mills.**

Foster. February 4<sup>th</sup>, the church voted to build new front door steps and to paint the overhead ceiling white. In March, the church voted to underpin the church with rock and cement. The singing school which was approved in 1944 was started by Mrs. Homer. April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the church voted to start a Memorial Day on the second Sunday in May. They also voted to buy songbooks for the church.

The year of 1946 was a time of change and expansion for Midway, they decided to change church conferences back to Wednesday evenings. March 4<sup>th</sup>, church voted in favor of building Sunday School rooms onto the rear of the church. At the April conference, the church voted to buy materials to construct a table for the Memorial Day Services, which were

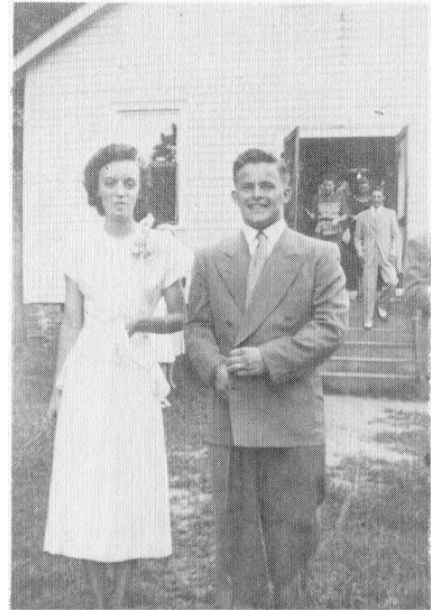
being planned. November 27<sup>th</sup>, the church elected three new Deacons: Lewis Mills, Hugh Hill and Carl Rickman on December 29<sup>th</sup>, the newly elected Deacons were ordained.

The 1947's continued with growth and general up keep for Midway. In March at the church conference, the members



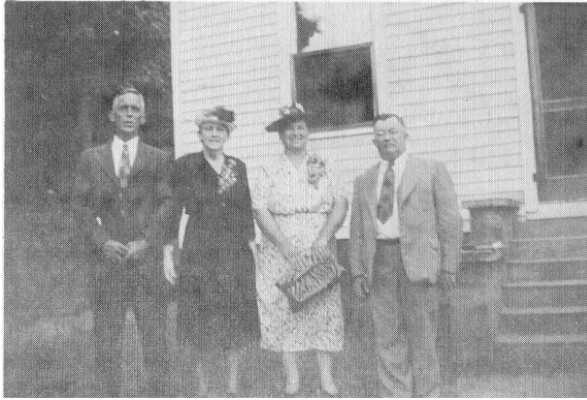
**Mrs. Joe Mayes, Church Treasurer, Sept, 1940**

voted to repair the leaks and raise the janitors salary to \$10.00 per month. In May, the church decided to buy curtains for the church's windows. July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the church accepted the resignation of Pastor Robert Owens. In August, the church voted to call Rev. Chuck Holbert as Pastor. In September, Rev. Chuck Holbert said he could not accept the position as Pastor, so the church was on the look for a pastor again. During the month of September, it was decided to raise the pastors salary to \$15.00 for part-time and \$20.00 for full-time. September 28, 1947, the church called Rev. Clarence Tucker as Pastor. James Smith and Roy Jones were elected as Deacons on November 9<sup>th</sup>, both men were already ordained.



**First Bride and Groom of Midway Baptist Church, Roy Reid & Ophelia Jones, married on July 31, 1948**

The year of 1948 was an exciting time for Midway's congregation as Rev. Tucker continued to preach the Word of God. In March, Pastor Tucker bought a mat for the church aisle. In April, the church decided to buy church



**Parents of the first Bride & Groom Mr. & Mrs. Roy Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Wilk Reid.**

letterhead for sending out to let former Pastors and members know about the Homecoming Services. The church also purchased a rug for the pulpit area. The first wedding was held at the church on July 31<sup>st</sup>, when Ophelia Jones was married to Roy Reid. In August, gravel and cinder were placed on the church parking lot. The Sunday School Rooms were finished.

In the year of 1949, dreams became reality for the members of Midway again as they continued to grow and prosper. Janitor salary was raised from \$10.00 a month to \$15.00 a month. The front door was rescreened and screen forms were painted in May. The Sunday School rooms which

were finished in 1949 were dedicated on the first Sunday in August.

The 1950's continued to bring growth, Church voted to build concrete walk at front of the church and to have rock moved and grading to be done near the highway on April 2, 1950.

At the June, 1952 church conference, the church decided to have the wall which is along side of the church built to help with water and erosion. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, the church approved to buy new church hymnals and the wooden holders to hold the hymnals. In December, the Women's Sunday School Class asked the church to let them move their room closer to the heater for the winter months, this was approved and done. At the December meeting, the church voted to have the floors refinished.

In February, 1953 the church voted to have Mr. Burnette to finish grading around the church. The month of April brought some Spring cleaning and refreshing as the church was painted. As May approached and things were being prepared for Homecoming Services, the church voted to have the windows and doors repaired and the grounds around the church leveled and spread with gravel. August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rev. C. C. Tucker resigned as pastor and Rev. Lewis Griswald was elected.

In January 1954, the church voted to raise the Pastors salary from \$15.00 per week to \$25.00 per week. They also raised the janitors salary from \$15.00 to \$20.00 a month. As summer was in full swing, the church voted to purchase a fan to be placed on the pulpit for the pastor.

On July 22, 1956 the following deacons were ordained: Jack Edwards, Joe Thompson, Earl Cantrell, and John Gibbs.



**John Gibbs, elected as Deacon on July 22, 1956**

September 8, 1957 the church accepted Rev. Lewis Griswald's resignation which would be effective on the third Sunday in September. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the church voted to elect Rev. Perry Whisenant as Pastor. Also during the 1957 period, new Sunday School rooms were built.

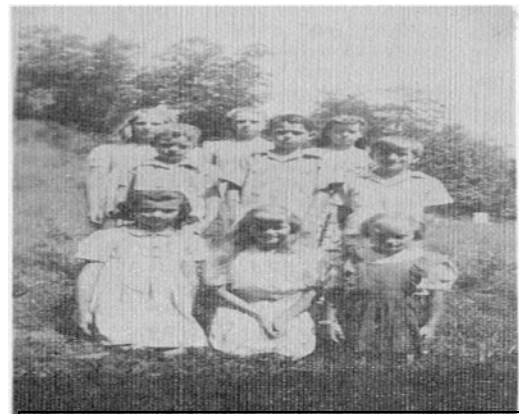


**Blanche Arledge Sunday School Class Picnic:**  
**(f-b) Winfred Owens, Marilyn Mayes, Bobby Arrowood, Mary Burnette, Sarah Joe Mayes (McCarter, Hayes) Blanche Arledge, Ray Mills, James Burnette, and Johnny Mills**

June 22, 1958 the church voted to start a well for water supply to eventually have indoor plumbing. In August, the pastors salary was raised to \$30.00 per week. August 8<sup>th</sup>, the church voted to purchase 20 small chairs and a table for the Beginner's Class and to move the current furniture to other classes who needed it. There was a church picnic planned and would be taken advantage of when there was 150 in Sunday School (what a goal). The church also voted to hold choir practice on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday nights of each month. In October, the church decided to purchase 24 more new chairs and discussed purchasing a heater for each Sunday School room. In December, the church voted to paint the outside trim work in the Sunday School rooms and Pulpit area inside.

Once again, in 1959 Midway was looking into the future and making plans for the year to come as

the church voted to keep pastors as part-time and to pay them \$35.00 per week. On January 25<sup>th</sup>, the church voted to keep Pastor Whisenant for 2 more weeks. March 8<sup>th</sup>, the church voted to erect a new sign. On April 12<sup>th</sup> the church elected Rev. W.T. Luckadoo as pastor and raised his salary to \$42.50 per week. In August, the church purchased new songbooks for the Junior Choir. In September, the church decided to prepare a budget for the upcoming year.



**Sunday School Class**  
**(b-f) Ruth Case, Dot Arledge (Mills, Burnette) Myrtle Burnette, Max Kuykendall, Roy Case, Dorothy Gibbs, Betty Owens, Bobbie Owens**

The 1960's were stable years for Midway, the total membership remained between 145 and 150 people. Business meetings were changed from monthly to quarterly and pastors were no longer required to stand for election annually. At the July meeting, the church voted that when they had \$1000.00 secured to start putting on a new roof. In September, the Pastors salary was raised to \$65.00 per week. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1960, E.S. Burnette Jr., Roy Reid and Ray Skipper were elected as deacons, and ordained on October 2, 1960.





**Bill Burnette, elected as Deacon on October 2, 1960**

In a church conference in 1961, the church decided to have a Watch Night Service which was set for December 31<sup>st</sup>.

March 4, 1962 the church decided to plant a patch of cane on the piece of extra property and the money raised from the sale of the cane would be put into the building fund. In December, the pastor's salary was raised to \$68.00 per week, and the janitor's pay was also raised.

1963 was a rewarding year for Midway. In February, the church voted to build a utility room and restroom on the back of the church. \$768.00 was reported as being raised from the cane patch and placed in the building fund in March.

In January, 1964 the church voted to purchase blackboards for all the Sunday School Classes. On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Rev. W. T. Luckadoo resigned as pastor, effective the last Sunday in November.

March 7, 1965 the church elected Rev. C. C. Tucker as their pastor, this would be the second time that Midway had elected Rev. Tucker as pastor. In April, the choir practice was changed from Saturday nights to Sunday nights. In May, the church voted to purchase carpeting for the church. In December, the church decided to build a new sign for the church, which would be at the road and made out of brick.



**Ray Skipper with Wife Nannie Sue Skipper, elected Deacon on October, 2, 1960**

In 1966, the church saw many improvements; water trays were purchased to keep down the dryness in the air, the church was painted on the outside, new coat racks were purchased, weather-board was placed on unfinished part of church, the retaining wall was poured and men's restroom added. Also in December, the church decided to have a Christmas float in the Columbus Christmas Parade.



**Midway Baptist Church February 1965**

In January 1967, the church was honored to have won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the Christmas float which they had entered in the parade. The member's voted to place the prize money of \$25.00 into the Building Fund.

February 4, 1968 Rev. C.C. Tucker gave his resignation, effective the last Sunday of February. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Tom Frady was elected as Pastor. In September, the pastor's salary was raised to \$75.00 per week and the church was able to purchase a piece of land from Mr. Lackey for \$500.00 down and payments of \$100.00 a month until paid.



**Rev. Tom Frady and family,  
Minister from June 16, 1968  
to May 16, 1976**

During the early 70's the church experienced some repairs and additions as the number of members grew. In April 1970, the church was painted on the outside. The church continued to have second Sunday night singings and fellowship times which encouraged the growth of the church. In August 1970, the church approved for Rev. Tom Frady to continue his education at Wake Forest.

At the October 1971 conference, the church voted to add a wheelchair ramp at the backdoor of the church. In December 1972, keeping the theme of the 70's as a time of steady growth, the church voted to raise the insurance of the church from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00.

In August 1973, the church went on record as against liquor by the drink and decided to work hard to defeat the issue in the November 1973 election.

In 1974, the church voted to paint the outside of the church, several of the men volunteered to paint and to donate paint. The women of the church volunteered to fix them lunch. In July 1974, the church voted to purchase the Coy Painter house for a parsonage for the cost of \$14,000.00. In August, there were two rooms added onto the parsonage.

On April, 11, 1976, Rev. Tom Frady offered his resignation as pastor effective May 16, 1976. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Lawrence Jackson was



**August 1973, Church  
went on record as being  
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election.**

elected as Supply Pastor. On June 12, 1977, the church called Rev. Alvin Jackson as their pastor and raised the pastor's salary to \$150.00 per week with extra pay of \$100.00 a week for revivals, Christmas gift and VBS.



**Rev. Alvin Jackson and Family  
Pastor June 12, 1977 to  
August 31, 1980**

As the 70's came to an end, Midway had seen the number of members increase from 151 in 1969 to 183 in 1979. During the 70's Midway had received special blessings and many commitments had been made to continue to grow Midway and to let the Lord have His way in whatever was to come.

As the 1980's began, Midway was full of Spirit and motivation. In August 1980, Pastor Alvin Jackson gave his resignation



**Rev. Wesley Price Pastor  
May 3, 1981 to  
November 9, 1986  
baptizing Jack Mills**

which would be effective on August 31, 1980. As 1981 rolled around, the church was still seeking a pastor.

On May 3, 1981, the church elected Rev. Wesley Price as their Pastor. Shortly after being elected as Pastor, Rev. Price not only took on the job of pastor, but also the job of custodian. As the 80's began to take off so did the work on the church. In just a few months, the church had received new siding, roofing, carpeting, new piano and many other improvements with the Rev. Wesley Price as the motivating force.

In May 1983, the church was able to pay off the note which was held by NCNB.



**Gene & Suzy Dimsdale (First Brotherhood and Baptist Women Representatives.  
(L-R) Tammy Dimsdale (Conner), Becky Price, Kim Dimsdale, Anna Rumsey and Gwen Steadman**

Brotherhood and Baptist Women Organizations were started in June of 1983 with Gene and Suzy Dimsdale as the elected representatives for the groups. On March 4, 1984, the church decided to build a Fellowship Hall connecting to the back of the church and running parallel to the church. On May 23, 1984, the church had quite a surprise as they arrived to find that the ceiling had collapsed in the main sanctuary due to the release of tension from the power pole.

As Midway moved into the mid 80's, the church continued to grow and prosper. In August of 1984, a front porch was added to the Fellowship Hall, and in September 1984 a moveable Baptistry had been ordered and was on its way.



**Sheila Price with Baby  
Becky Price on  
Father's Day 1981**



**Midway's Youth Group, was raising money thru a Yard Sale for Mission Money.**



**Midway received new siding and many other improvements**



**Homecoming and Dinner on the Grounds May 1982**





**Youth Class  
Old Timers Day 1983  
Dugan Dimsdale, Susan Corn,  
Dan Corn, Jennifer Thompson,  
Tim and Dennis Corn**



**Dinner on the ground; was a great  
time for building family relationships  
and friendships**



**Jack & Patsy Mills**



**Midway added a Fellowship Hall  
May 23, 1984- it was approved**

After several years of hard work and dedication, Rev. Wesley Price resigned on October 15<sup>th</sup>, effective November 9, 1986.

November 13<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Victor Hinson began as a Supply Pastor and on December 28, 1986 was elected as Midway's Pastor.



**Victor Hinson came as Supply Pastor and on December 28, 1986. He was elected as the Pastor. Pictured above with Victor is his Wife Peggy, and two sons.**

With Rev. Victor Hinson as pastor, there were some new classes and programs started and the children of the church continued to be very involved with church activities. In May of 1987, the church was able to purchase a .43 acre piece of land which adjoined the creek for \$3000.00. As the 80's were coming to an end, the church celebrated all that it had accomplished in the previous years with a Note Burning Service on April 2, 1989. The members of the church ended the 80's on a wonderful note by deciding to have a live Nativity scene across the creek to celebrate the birth of the One who had made all things possible for Midway.

pastor on September 12<sup>th</sup> effective on September 30, 1990.

The 1990's started with a dedication and rededication of its members with a challenge made by Rev. Victor Hinson and with an overwhelming altar response. Rev. Victor Hinson resigned as Midway's



**Live Nativity  
December, 1989**



**Rev. Carl Sizemore  
Pastor December '90  
to November '92—presenting  
Kristy Atkins Tipton  
with a Graduation award**

In October, the church voted to have Rev. Carl Sizemore as a Supply Pastor and then voted him as Pastor on December 16, 1990.

During the early 90's Midway took time to consider the challenge made by Rev. Hinson and to grow in Christ. Midway was able to learn several very important lessons during this time.

During May 1991, the church installed a burglar system after experiencing several break-ins. The Rev. Carl Sizemore resigned as Pastor on November 29, 1992.

In the months after Rev. Sizemore resigned, the church called Rev. Dillard Davidson as Interim Pastor.

Rev. Davidson was a blessing to Midway with all of his years of experience. While Rev. Dillard was interim, the church took the time to review and renew their purpose. Rev. Davidson was very encouraging and supportive to the members of Midway while they were in the search for a Pastor.



**Rev. William Swink  
Was elected Pastor  
May 2, 1993 until  
March 21 1999.  
Sandra Swink, wife**

On May 2, 1993, the church elected Rev. William Swink as Pastor. During Rev. Swink’s ministry at Midway, he brought life and laughter, tears and joy to the folks at Midway. Rev. Swink’s reputation in our community was one that everyone came to love and appreciate. The church decided in August 1993 to start a church van fund. A telephone was installed in the fellowship hall in November 1993. During April 1994, the church purchased a van. In November 1994, the church purchased new hymnals.

On March 8, 1995, the church voted to change Homecoming from Mother’s Day to the first Sunday in May. April 1995, the church had the van lettered and in June decided to build a double parking shed for the van.



**First Church Van was  
Purchased in April 1994**

In March 1996, the church voted to start paying for the Pastor a spot on WJFJ Radio, in Columbus. As the church continued to grow in their love for



each other and their love and appreciation for the Lord Jesus Christ, they decided to “Pursue a Building Program” on August 14, 1996. As 1996 came and went, the discussion of what to build, when and where to build it was the topic of many church conferences. In June 1997, the Church decided to build a deck onto the Parsonage,

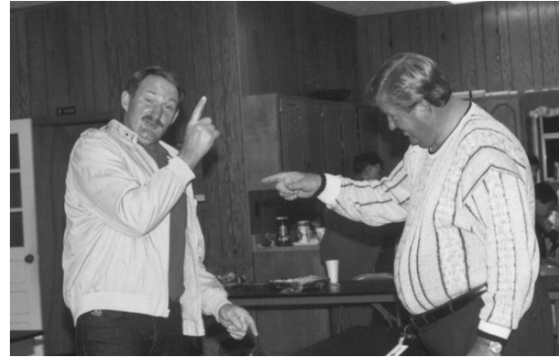
while details of the church buildings and necessary steps were being taken.



Bill Burnette volunteered in July 1997 to move the old little house which was located on the right corner of the Church's property due to the construction of the house becoming dangerous.

**July 1997- old house was moved by Bill Burnette in preparation for the construction, which was being scheduled to begin soon.**

Near the end of 1997, the Church had decided that the best thing to build was a new fellowship hall which could serve as a Sanctuary until the new Sanctuary could be built. The Fellowship Hall which was proposed was to be a 40X70 construction and the men of the church would do the work.



**Ronald Bradley and Rev. William Swink, who knows what this conversation was about?!**

As 1998 began and things were in the works to build a fellowship hall, the Church decided to move the Building Fund Offering from the fourth Sunday of the month to the first Sunday of the month. At a Church conference in February, the church decided to enlarge the new fellowship hall plans from a 40x70 to a 50x80 building. As Spring began the men of the Church went to work building a fellowship hall.



**End of 1997- Decided to build a Fellowship Hall to be used as church When construction started on Church.**





**Summer through September 1999  
Men and Women worked very hard  
to construct the Fellowship hall**

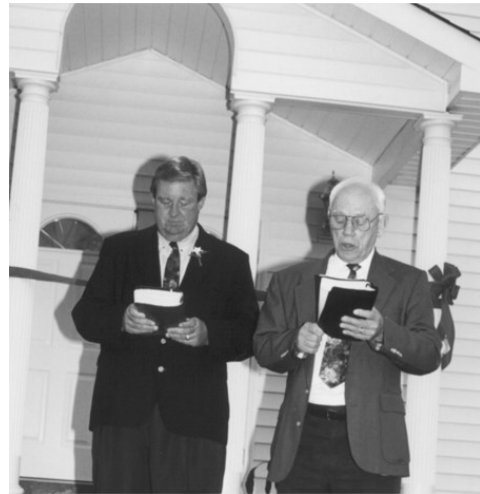
In March, Rev. William Swink made the church aware of his resignation and his last date as Pastor was March 21, 1999. On April 14, 1999, the church called Rev. Harold Wilson as Interim Pastor and he began on Easter Sunday, with the Sunrise Service.

In May 1999, the church decided to hire an Accountant to handle the finances of the church. The accountant hired was Eugene Mills of Mills Accounting Services. In May, 1999, the church began preparing for Y-2K with some old fashion revival services conducted by Rev. Danny Seigfried.

The members of the church rededicated themselves to the cause of "Winning Souls for Christ".

In June 1999, the church voted to start a "Watch Care Program" for new members.

During the summer months and through September, the men of the church worked very hard on the new fellowship hall. On November 13, 1999, Midway dedicated its New Fellowship Hall with the Rev. William Swink bringing the message and Rev. Harold Wilson asking the Prayer of Dedication. The ceremony was followed by a Ribbon Cutting with the Deacons, Building and Ground Committee, and Pastors as the members looked on. As the church celebrated being debt free, it had a need for a Pastor. In December 1999, the church decided to start work on the old Fellowship hall soon, turning it into classrooms.



**Rev. William Swink-Former Pastor  
and  
Rev. Harold Wilson-Interim Pastor  
Brought Message and Prayer at  
the Dedication Service**



Also, in December, the members of Midway decided to start Y2K off right with a Watch Night Service and to begin the New Year at the altar in prayer, thanking God for all he had done for them over the years and to promise to always make God first in whatever they decided to do.

Y2K brought nothing but the best for Midway as they prayed their way into it. In January, Midway decided to call Rev. Mark Garner for another trial sermon and elected him as Pastor on January 9, 2000. On February 6, 2000 Rev. Mark Garner preached his first sermon as Pastor of Midway. Rev. Garner's first few months at Midway were a time of adjustment and hard work. As Rev. Garner joined Midway as their Pastor, Midway was in full swing of turning the Old Fellowship Hall into Sunday School Classrooms and planning to start construction on a new sanctuary. In March, Midway voted that due to the construction currently going on, that they would have a joint VBS with Columbus Baptist Church.



**Rev. Mark Garner was elected  
Pastor on January 9, 2000  
Wife Tracy**

On May 7, 2000 Midway was blessed to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church with a Homecoming Service that

would be the last service to be held in the original sanctuary. Midway took time during this service to thank God for all that He has allowed Midway to accomplish over the years. They also took time to remember all of the hard working, dedicated Christians who over the years has supported Midway with their prayers and efforts. As the congregation looked into the future, they agreed together to continue to support the efforts of the original 53 Members, who had a dream to be a Light-



house to a lost and dying world.



May 15, 2000 a group gathered of members, community members and others to watch the demolition of the church sanctuary. Although some shed tears, some were filled with the excitement of what God had in store next for Midway.



**Men and Women  
Gave their time  
And talents to work  
On getting ready for  
The new church  
Sanctuary. It was an  
Amazing time for  
Midway  
As they watched the  
Pieces fall in place.**





In just 6 short, but long months, another dream had become a reality as the completion of the New Sanctuary was complete in November, 2000.

January 20, 2001 was the date the New Sanctuary and education wings were dedicated to the Lord for whatever he had in store next, with a Ribbon Cutting Service. On February 21, 2001 the church voted to donate the old organ to Rock Springs Baptist Church, since the original organ was donated to Midway, and since Midway had been

blessed with a donation of a new organ by Steve and Dixie Toth, it was the only right thing to do. On September 11, 2001, the country as a whole experienced a terrible awakening with the Terrorist attack on the Twin Towers and the lives of innocent people. The church had a prayer service to pray for the families of those affected by this awful event. The nation as a



whole saw the turning back to God and the community support of each other. Midway took this time to try to bring the community together through starting a recognition service of the fire department, police department, EMS, Veterans and others who serve our community, country and nation. There was a lot of activity in churches of people coming back to the basics and Midway decided to do the same.



**Covered Bridge was added in 2002**

In the year 2002, Midway continued to grow and prosper, due to the Lord's generous blessings. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, it was voted to clear, grade and gravel 40 additional parking spaces across the creek. The cost for this project would be approximately \$8,000. May 15<sup>th</sup>, Midway was privileged to be able to recommend that two of its members become Fruitland Bible Institute enrollees. Mike Conner and Joe Foster were the two, recommended. In June, the church voted to add a covered bridge and new sign at the road. After many months of working on projects at the church and building, Midway congregation decided to have a Family Night at Harmon Field to have some time to get to know

each other in a personal relationship and to share the Spirit of love with each other. On September 29, 2002, Rev. Mark Garner announced his resignation, effective October 27, 2002. In Octo-



**A new road sign was added in 2002**

ber, Mike Conner surrendered to the Call of the Lord on his life to do Full Time Ministry work and was licensed to preach. In November, the church voted to have Rev. Gary Locke as Interim Pastor. December rolled around just like every other year and Midway was very excited and praising God again, when the financial report was given that showed the church was once again debt free! Praise the Lord!!

In 2003, Rev. Gary Locke accepted the position of Pastor of Midway Baptist Church and the church continued to grow and prosper. The church once again was blessed with a donation of \$10,000 from Steve Toth in memory of his wife Dixie and a donation from the Woodmen of the World to purchase a new piano, which they did a Upright Grand. It was a beautiful addition to the new church. As summer approached, Midway voted in June to replace the air units in the old Sunday School Wing and to upgrade the playground for the kids by putting in a ball court, swings, slide and making it a family friendly area. As the church increased in membership and children, it was decided that they needed to look for someone who could plan and assist the Pastor with activities for children/ youth and general membership, so a committee was formed to prepare for this. In November,



**Rev. Gary Locke,  
Interim 2002,  
Pastor 2003**

a job description was presented for the congregation to approve for the new Children/ Youth/ Associate Pastor and the committee began its search for the right person.



**July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005  
A Memorial Service  
Was held to recognize our  
Veterans, Volunteers, and most  
of all Jesus Christ a cookout followed**

As Midway entered the year of 2004, they called Mike Conner on February 18, to be the Children/ Youth/ Associate Pastor. The additional parking spaces were added and in April, an "Upper Room" was added for the growing Youth group and its additional need for space. The church had several other changes in 2004 as it made a move to become better know in the community and to concentrate more on reaching the lost,

which was the original goal of the church. A website was started, Sunday school assembly was changed from 10 am to 9:45 and Adam Cantrell was recommended to the Fruitland Bible



**Ground Breaking for the Family Life Center  
August 2005**

pantry in the unused parsonage to help people in the community who needed help, in April. At the April 26<sup>th</sup> business meeting the plans were shown to the congregation for the proposed new Family Life Center, this would be the largest building project Midway had experienced with an initial estimate to build of \$425K. It was approved at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and a ground breaking was scheduled for

Institute. A second Van was added to give two church vans, which would be used for VBS, Van Ministry and transportation of church members to events.

2005 Midway continued to remodel the old Fellowship Hall into Sunday school rooms and began looking at where to place a new fellowship hall. Midway's Youth group started a clothes closet and food



**Fourth of July Celebration  
and Family Cookout**



**4th of July Family Cook-  
out and Celebration  
2005. A time to reflect  
and Honor and share lov-  
ing memories of our Po-  
lice, Fire, and many other  
volunteers.**

approximately eight weeks later. The Church also voted on May 4<sup>th</sup> to proceed with getting the church to become Incorporated. A church cookout was scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup> to have some family fun and to continue to build that special fellowship bond among the church members.

Midway also continued to up-  
date the facilities  
with the latest elec-  
tronic devices by  
adding cordless mi-  
crophones, a pro-  
jector, internet ser-





**Lloyd & Joan Howard**

vice and a hearing aid system. July 13, the final church business meeting was held as Midway Baptist Church. Immediately following this meeting, another meeting was held by the Midway Baptist Church of North Carolina, Inc. This was another milestone in the operation of the Church; it was a protection for the members, the church facilities and the next step into the future for Midway. It was recommended at the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to recommend Lloyd Howard as a good candidate to attend Gardner Webb College. During 2005 Midway was still well known in the community

for being a praying, loving church and Midway supported several benefits for people in the community.

As 2006 began, Midway's theme was, "Whatever is Necessary" and one of Midway's own and co-owner of WJFJ Radio Joe Foster was approved in February to be licensed to preach. 40 days of Prayer was taken very seriously at Midway from February 4<sup>th</sup> until March 15<sup>th</sup>. May 2006, Midway was again blessed to be able to start a special Sunday school class for the special guest; from the Pavilion, in Mill Spring, in order to allow them to attend Sunday school; they were also blessed that Barbara Simpson, had agreed to teach this special class. In May,



**Family Life Center Dedication Services Sept. 10th, 2006 Deacons & Charter Members**



**Keith Rimer and Rev. Gary Locke at the Dedication of the Family Life Center Sept 2006**

Midway was beginning to realize that the growth it had been experiencing over the past years was wonderful; however it was bringing on more and more challenges. Keith Rimer, Chairman of the Deacons presented to the church the "Vision of Growth", which included a handbook for the future. On June 20<sup>th</sup> the church approved the Policy and Guidelines booklet at the church Business meeting. In August, the church voted to hire a professional cleaning service to take care of the weekly needs of the church. **Yes! God is Faithful!!** September 10<sup>th</sup> – God allowed Midway to reach another goal with the completion and Dedication of the Family Life Center. What seemed like a dream, that might not come true, God had His

hand on it all the way. There was a construction worker's life lost, man's design plans changed, rocks blasted, tears shed, more money needed, and ladies praying at midnight for the Lord to guide and He did just that! Wow! What an awesome God we have! September 17<sup>th</sup>, a Deacon Ordination Service was performed for Kevin Fisher. An ordination service was



**Rev. Gary Lockee and Mike Conner, being Ordained, November 12, 2006**

set for November 12<sup>th</sup> for Mike Conner. In November, it was reported that the building debt was under \$200K.

January 2007 started with an announcement that the building debt was currently \$150K. The theme for this year, was "Sharing the Way to Heaven in 2007." The children's department was in full swing in the first quarter and the upgrades were looking great. Midway continued to support the community and its own



**Rev. Mike and Tammy Conner at the Ordination Service of Mike Conner, Nov. 12, 2006**

church members who needed help. It also helped out a sister church (Tryon Second Baptist) to put a new roof on. Midway's goal was to reach people one step at a time, by meeting them where they needed to be met.

Midway's other goal towards the end of the year was to again be debt free, by having the new Family Life Center paid off. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Mike Conner gave his resignation effective two weeks later.



**Midway displays it's name and information at the PCHS Ball field, to show our support for our Youth.**

Midway started off 2008 with the theme of **Ministering to Others, Instructing the Saints, Doing God's Will, Worshipping God, Accomplishing God's Work, Yielding to the Holy Spirit**—the acrostic for MIDWAY.

A special conference was held on January 2, 2008 to elect a Children/Youth/Associate Pastor Search Committee. In February, the church received a special



**Patti Craddock, Nursing Graduate, gets some vital information from Rev. Gary Lockee.. Don't know what it was, but it must have been good!!**

donation to purchase a sound system and projector for the new Family Life Center. Unfortunately, even the church is not exempt of crime, the church had been broken into in the past two years twice and as it continued to grow and prosper, of course there was a concern, that it would happen again, so in June, the church voted to purchase a security system. Another sign of how much the Lord was





**Rev. Sean Gallagher, elected Associate, Children. Youth Pastor on November 11, 2008.**

blessing Midway was when they decided to hire a part-time secretary in August. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the church voted to hire Rev. Sean Gallagher as the Children/ Youth/ Associate Pastor. Although the buildings have changed, the Word of God and the message of Midway Baptist Church still remains the same, to save the lost through the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Another sign of this was that the church voted in the Budget for the year of 2008-2009 to give back 10% to local community missions, like Steps of Hope, Hospice, Thermal Belt Outreach and others in our local area.



**Some of our Youth on a visit to the Broyhill Children's Shelter**

The nation as a whole was in an economic downfall, people were losing jobs, companies were closing, etc. So Midway realized that every bit of help they could provide local agencies would be a greatly appreciated.



**Is that the Deacon's and their wives on stage singing?**

2009's theme was, "That we increasingly know and love Jesus Christ and to continually make Him known." And it started off wonderful again with one of our own, Lloyd Howard being ordained into the Ministry. In April,



**Ladies Day is a great outreach to our ladies in the church and in the community. Decorating tables and enjoying time together is really special.**

some minor changes were made to the Bi-Laws of the church, nothing was changed on the beliefs of the church, just some processes were updated, to keep up with the growth of Midway. Easter is always a special celebration of our Lord and Savior at Midway, we start with Sunrise Service, have breakfast provided by our men, then usually enjoy a powerful choral presentation by our adult choir. May is always a wonderful month at Midway, we have Homecoming, Ladies Day and Mother's Day, there is always lots to do.



**Betty Fortner, Director of the Library shows off the new rack, which were installed to prepare for the Church Library which is fully operational as of June 7th, 2009.**

June 7<sup>th</sup>, Midway had a ribbon cutting and grand opening of its new church library

June 22<sup>nd</sup>- June 29<sup>th</sup> the Youth group and several adult chaperones went on a Mission Trip to Honduras. August 22, Midway participated in the Day of Prayer for Polk County Schools, Midway had the largest turn out of any church! September 20<sup>th</sup>, Midway ordained two new Deacons, Robby Byrd and Morris Ruff. A Sunday School Blitz was held for a whole week, in October, to get the word out to the community how important Sunday school is and how much Midway would like to have them to be a part. The economic conditions of the nation continued downwards, but the member's of Midway continued to look

upward for God's guidance and to supply their needs. During some of the worse economic times, since the Great Depression, God showed that if you give it to Him, things would be o.k. Midway experienced this by see that offerings didn't drop off, attendance didn't drop off, and many miracles were performed in the lives of members, family members and friends.



**The Lord's Supper is a very sacred time for Midway, it gives us a time to reflect on what the Lord has done for us and what we can and should do for him. A Free Gift, with no strings attached.**



**The Hallelujah Festival is a wonderful time to reach out to our community. It doesn't have to be the traditional ways, but it's still the same message as what was preached and taught 70 years ago!**

Midway's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary would be celebrated in 2010...WOW, it's hard to believe it has

been that long. As we started the year off, we started to look at where we have come from and where we are headed. Midway was started by a band of just 53 people, who truly had a vision and a love for the Lord. Over the years, Midway has grown and prospered with the Lord's steady hand upon it. In the first few months of 2010, Midway has purchased a 15 passenger people mover.



**Midway's newest addition, a people mover.**

The Children/Youth/Associate Pastor, Rev. Sean Gallagher resigned on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The biggest question Midway has to answer in the months and years to come, is where is Midway going? Midway now has the facilities, the members, the love of the Lord and the hand of the Lord upon it; now what is the next step(s)?



**Train them up in the way, that they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart! It's our job to tell them the right and wrong way!**



**Ok, sometimes, you have to show people that some things never change— you can use biblical characters, but your daily character is what will really tell the story.**

**How have you shared God's love with someone?**



**These kids have the right answer.. GPS.. God's Plan of Salvation. YES! That's it and it's that easy and it's our duty to share it!**



**Midway's Youth Drama Team, performs at PCHS for the FCA Program. They are learning to share their stories through drama and song.**

Midway has lots of opportunities in the future to be the Lighthouse of the Lord in Polk County!

It's now up to the Membership to band together as those 53 did originally and find their dream and not to stop until they have reached it.

What would those original 53 members think of where the church is today?



**Midways Band: Pianist- Robby Byrd, Drummer- Robert Williamson, Bass Guitarist- Tony Grigg, Lead Guitarist- Mitch Steadman**

Do you have a part? Are you doing all you can to fulfill your part of the dream?



**Rev. Gary Lockee, baptized John Maynard on Sunday, May 30th. John has the right Spirit!**

What will people be saying in another 70 years about Midway? Will it still be reaching the lost and saving souls for Christ?

It's time that we stand together and pledge to, "Move Midway into the future with the Lord Jesus Christ as the center of attention, with all members working together for a common goal!"



## Midway's Pastors and Dates of Service

Rev. Harold Liner: July, 28, 1940 to December 15, 1940

Rev. Malcolm Ross: December 24, 1940 to August 20. 1944

Rev. Robert Owens: August 20. 1944 to July 2, 1947

Rev. Clarence C. Tucker: September 28, 1947to August 2, 1953

Rev. Lewis Griswald: August 2, 1953 to September 15, 1957

Rev. Perry Whisenant: October 6, 1957 to February 8, 1959

Rev. W. T. Luckadoo: April 12, 1959 to November 29, 1964

Rev. Clarence C. Tucker: March 7, 1965 to February 25, 1968

Rev. Tom Frady: June 16, 1968 to May 16, 1976

\*Rev. Lawrence Jackson: June 27, 1976 to June 12, 1977

Rev. Alvin Jackson: June 12, 1977 to August 31, 1980

Rev. Wesley Price: May 3, 1981 to November 8, 1986

\*Rev. Victor Hinson: December 28, 1986 to September 30, 1990

\*Rev. Carl Sizemore: December 16, 1990 to November 29, 1992

\*Rev. Dillard Davidson: December 13, 1992 to June 6, 1993

Rev. William Swink: May 2, 1993 to March 21, 1999

\*Rev. Harold Wilson: April 14, 1999 to January 5, 2000

Rev. Mark Garner: January 9, 2000 to October 27, 2002

\*Rev. Gary Lockee: November 2002 to Present

## Children/Youth/ Assoc. Pastors & Service Dates:

Rev. Mike Conner: February 18, 2004 to September 30, 2007

Rev. Sean Gallagher: November 11, 2008 to May 5, 2010

*\*Please note, that most of the information contained in the previous pages of history were taken from the actual minutes of the Church's records. Therefore, there may be names which are not spelled correctly. The \* next to the Pastor's names above represent Pastors who were either strictly Interim Pastors or who were Interims before being elected as officially the Pastor. If the above mentioned names were Supply Pastors first, their dates of service show only when they were officially Midway's Pastors and not interim dates.*



**Ariel View of  
Midway Baptist  
Church taken  
May 31, 2008**

# Midway Photo Album



**Gordon & Evelyn Tate, Connie Mills, Jim Tate, Sank & Neil Tate.**



**(L-R) Evelyn Ritchey Hart– mother of Patsy Hart Bunch, and daughter of Carrie Scoggins Ritchey– hosted original services in her yard.**



**Neil Mills and Joe Mills in the church's graveyard.**



**Mr. Arthur & Eva Tate, donated land. Grandparents of Jack Mills.**



**Children of Midway love Easter!**



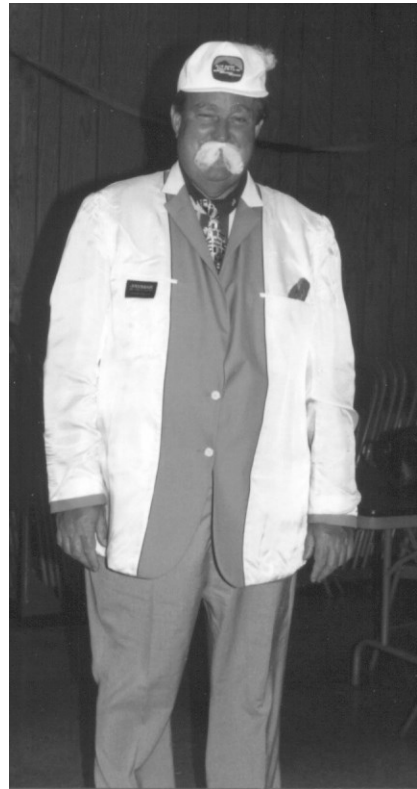
**Scott Edwards, Brownie  
Mills and Jack Mills**



**Dugan Dimsdale, Tommy Burns and Johnny Womack  
at Lake Adger**



**Connie Mills and Blanche Arledge**



**Dr. Rev. William Swink**





**Keith Rimer with Harrison Fisher, Wil Rimer and Jonathon Anderson**



**Jeni Evans with the Girls**



**Ladies Days are so much fun! Joan Howard, Deborah Bradley, Anna Gibbs, Dot Burnette and Virginia Mills**



**Jenelle Satterfield**



**Steven Haynes enjoys Homecoming lunch**



**Wil Rimer and Jonathon Anderson have a serious discussion.**



**(Above)- Rev. Gary Lockee enjoying VBS spaghetti dinner.**



**(l-r) Jane Atkins, Deena Dimsdale, Reagan Waddell and JJ Waddell- Candy Making is fun!**

**(Left) Nancy Byrd serving popcorn and Patsy Mills speaking with a customer.**



**(Below)- Charlie Fisher assist with the Nursery**



**(L-R) Nancy Byrd, Jonathon Anderson, and Pat Bunch 4th of July Bake sale**



**Mrs. Barbara Simpson**



**Midway's Kitchen Band**



**Hot dog, is that a Lion or Joe Foster?**



**This is some strange Indian head dress— Rev. Lockee? Are you sure that's right?**



**Art for the Soul (L-R) Debi Williamson, Host, Darrell Henson, Artist fundraiser for Missions**



**Patrick Rimer at Camp Caraway**



**Youth at Screamin Eagle Outfitters Camp**

**Girls Choir performs at Ladies Day 2010**



**William Morse— Camp Caraway**



**Friends and Family are fun to play with on the playground**

SUNDAY SCHOOL	
ENROLLMENT	129
ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	133
ATTENDANCE TODAY	190
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	4634
OFFERING TODAY	10118
BROUGHT BIBLE	134



Susan Anderson is learning early. Remember, there's a job for everyone!



Raphael Foy, what's that on your chin? It's not time for the Hallelujah Festival— it's Easter Time.



Jonathon Anderson and Chad Richards, run the Sound Room for the Easter Program

Mackenzie White, really wanted to be baptized the old fashioned way, actually, she was just getting cleaned up from the Slip and Slide back to school party.





**Ah, you must be kddin' it can't be my Birthday!  
(L-R) Evelyn Lockee and Gary Lockee**



**Dugan Dimsdale, we're not sure, but that might not be the right style for you.**



**Preacher, What was the title for your Sermon?**



**It's great to have Friends to lean on Nancy Byrd and Gloria share some girl time.**



Where is the group going? Oh, it's Nancy Byrd's Birthday PJ Party— they actually went to eat like this at Denny's in Landrum!!



Shea, what are you reaching for? The Stars?



Amber Bradley and Bailey Lowman show off their outfits at the Hallelujah Festival.



Pat Foy, tries to keep the workers on a schedule , but with these two, it might be hard, Keith Rimer on steps, Jack Mills on landing.



**Faithful Workers are what we always need—  
Dorene Byars, Ann Jolley, Gloria Fisher and  
Virginia Denton are always willing to do  
whatever it takes!**



**The Story is still the same from  
1940 to 2010**



**Our Senior Men and Women are very knowledgeable and deserve our Respect,  
Love and Appreciation for all of the years of service they have put in and con-  
tinue to put in! Thank you, and let's keep working together and telling the story  
until the Lord comes to take us all home! GOD IS FAITHFUL!!**