MIDWAY METHODIST CHURCH

This church, located about 7 miles north west of Lincönton was organized in the summer of 1906. This section had not been served by a Methodist Church since the abandonment of Goshen Church many years before. In the meantime several Methodists families had moved into the community, and these with those who were already attached to this faith, made the field inviting. Dr. W. A. Burch, E. H. Albee, W. R. Barrett, M. E. Smith, Mrs. T. C. Ward, and others invited Rev. A. D. Escols, of the Lincönton charge, to hold services in the community with a view of establishing a church. At first these services were held in the homes, but the interest was so great and the attendance so large they were transferred to a brush arbor, which had been built for that purpose on an acre of land donated by R. C. Norman. A church was established and called Midway, after the community which was Midway between Lincönton, and Danburg. In the fall, the present building was erected though it was not completed until the following year. Mr. Dave Danner of Metasville was hired to supervise the building, the members, the Baptist in the community, and those who were not affiliated with any other church co-operated in the work. W. A. Burch was made steward and W. R. Barrett, W. E. Smith, and W. A. Burch trustees. Until 1908 the ministers of the Lincönton charge served this church, but during that year it was incorporated in the South Lincoln charge and has since been served by the ministers of that Circuit.
These early years were not easy ones for the infant church. Finances were tight in the farming community and the church needed many things. In 1908 Cleavy Ward purchased an organ for the church and at times the installments on the organ were less than ten dollars. The first piano was purchased from Julia Powell and was later sold to Ben Smith. After this the present piano was purchased.

The church has not always been as comfortable as it is now. It was originally heated by a wood burning, pot-bellied stove, with the wood being furnished by the congregation. On especially cold Sundays the congregation would pull their benches close around the heater and have services. Later the stove was replaced by gas space heaters and in the fall of 1972 central heating and air-conditioning was installed.

For a short period in 1969 the church was air-conditioned by window units; unfortunately they were stolen after having been in use only a few months. Kerosene lamps hung from the side of the walls provided the first lights later these were supplemented by an Aladdin lamp. These lamps were in service until 1941 when electricity was brought into the community.

In 1951 the altar was moved forward and three Sunday School rooms were formed directly behind it. 1967 brought the addition of the porch and columns. In 1970 a well was bored and shortly thereafter the pump was also stolen. The pump was soon replaced and in 1971 the church annex was constructed, containing two new Sunday School rooms, restrooms, and a basement social hall. In the fall of 1972 the original pews were replaced by the beautiful new pews we are now using.

Though church finances have never been an easy matter
there were times when they were extremely difficult. A copy of the church report for April, 1930 shows that after a less than entitled "Giving Up All for the Kingdom," the collection plate returned empty. The following Sunday the collection increased to five cents and the service was closed with the song, "Showers of Blessings." During these times, when funds were low, it was the job of the church trustees to raise the money needed to meet the church's debts. The trustees would go door to door soliciting donations. Often the members did not have cash to give and produce and live chickens were given to the trustees as offerings. These contributions were taken to Lincolnton where they were purchased by Mr. Eugene Reese for resale in his store. The money was then used to pay the pastor.

Mrs. Noble Norman, a former trustee, recalls that at times they were told by a farmer that he was very busy; however, if they would gather the corn or some other vegetable themselves, they were welcome to it for his donation. One resident of the community complained about giving a portion of his crops to pay the pastor—he contended that a man called to preach by the Lord did not want payment for his work.

Presently our collections are supplemented by suppers, bake sales, rummage sales and the generous contributions of former members and friends.

The church is in a thriving condition and has a membership of 66. The present trustees are Hoyt Norman, Thomas Poss, Arlin Walker, and J. B. Bentley.

When the church was established a Sunday School was organized with A. N. Glaze, a Baptist, as Superintendent. In the following year T. C. Ward, who had recently been converted and united with this church succeeded Mr. Glaze. Later W. T.
Norman became superintendent and served in this capacity for many years. The present superintendent is Thomas Pess.

We, the present membership, feel truly blessed to have had a part in the advancement of Midway Church. We are very proud of our church and we extend its hospitality to each of you and we hope you will return to be with us often.

Pasters of Midway Church

Elton Lawson  Lloyd Jackson  G. H. Bailey
Bill Lee  E. W. Dunagan  H. B. Greene
Lee Downing  W. A. Woodruff  Hosea David
Guy Kent  H. G. Garrett  R. F. Elrod
J. C. Powell  Allen Phillips  John Franklin
Jerry Dehn  Carl Stanley  A. M. Smith
Charles Gardner  Rev. Locket  Rev. J. Spur
Richard Scott  Rev. Bowman  W. S. Singleton
B. C. Mattison  V. O. Gentry  A. D. Echols
Al Key  J. O. Brand
Bernard Henry  Henry Pace
Barrett Lamb  I. J. Louern
Robert Stewart  J. E. Stathan
T. W. Taylor  M. C. Allen
L. M. McDuffie  H. G. Garrett

Graves in Midway Cemetery

John Cahnson Albea 1848 - 1937  George Tillman Albea 1888 - 1956
Elsie Leneir Albea 1919-1920, Mary Louise Albea 1916-1931
Lenise Norman Albea 1890-1971

Infant Son of Mr. & Mrs. Allen Bunch 1952

Charles C. Henderson 1879-1941  Gertrude Henderson 1885-
Bessie D. Matthews 1932-1935

William T. Norman 1879-1964  Nobie S. Norman 1887-
Carlton L. Norman 1894-1964  Della W. Norman 1889-1952

Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Norman 1955

Ruby Norman 1914-1935

R. Maynard Parks 1910-  Margaret N. Parks 1924-

Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. T. F. Pess 1956

Hubert M. Wright 1943-1944

Harvey G. Norman 1913-1973  Mattie W. Norman 1922-
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